

# BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR FOR ESL STUDENTS

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Shayna Oliveira  
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# Welcome!

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These lessons will help you learn essential English grammar. When you have a good strong foundation of basic grammar, then you can avoid simple mistakes and progress to higher levels of English.

The topics we will cover include:

- The main verb tenses used in English
- Important words like articles, possessives, and helping verbs
- Adjectives and adverbs
- Sentence structure

Try to do one lesson every day, and make sure to do the quizzes so that you can review and practice what you are learning.

I hope these lessons will help make basic English grammar clear to you, so that you can understand it easily and speak English more confidently.

Now go ahead and start Lesson 1!



**Shayna Oliveira**

[EspressoEnglish.net](http://EspressoEnglish.net)

# Present Simple: Be

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Let's learn how to use the verb BE in the present simple tense. I'll teach you how to form sentences with it, and then show you examples of when we use this verb most frequently.

## Positive:

<b>I am</b>	<b>I'm</b>	from Japan.
<b>you / we / they are</b>	<b>you're / we're / they're</b>	from Brazil.
<b>he / she / it is</b>	<b>he's / she's / it's</b>	from India.

## Negative:

<b>I am not</b>	<b>I'm not</b>	married.
<b>you / we / they are not</b>	<b>You're not / You aren't</b> <b>We're not / We aren't</b> <b>They're not / They aren't</b>	happy.
<b>he / she / it is not</b>	<b>He isn't / He's not</b> <b>She isn't / She's not</b> <b>It isn't / It's not</b>	a student.

## Question:

<b>Am</b>	I	beautiful?
<b>Are</b>	you / we / they	a teacher?
<b>Is</b>	he / she / it	tall?

Here are 5 situations where we often use the verb BE:

### Name:

- I'm Joanna.
- He's Paulo.
- They're Aki and Yuta.

### Country / Nationality:

- I'm from the U.S. I'm American.
- My husband is from Italy. He's Italian.
- She's not Korean, she's Vietnamese.
- Are they from Australia?

### Age:

- I'm 27 years old.
- How old are you?

- She's 15.
- My mother is 65 years old.

### Emotions:

- I'm sad.
- She's excited.
- You're angry.
- We're happy.

### Jobs:

- I'm not a student. I'm a teacher.
- Are you a doctor?
- He's a journalist.
- They're artists.

Now try the quiz to put this lesson into practice.

# Quiz – Present Simple: Be

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1) We \_\_\_\_\_ from Canada.

- A. am
- B. isn't
- C. aren't

2) My parents \_\_\_\_\_ divorced.

- A. am
- B. are
- C. is

3) I \_\_\_\_\_ tired.

- A. 'm
- B. 're
- C. 's

4) Where \_\_\_\_\_ you from?

- A. is
- B. am
- C. are

5) \_\_\_\_\_ your brother tall?

- A. Am
- B. Are
- C. Is

6) Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ married.



- A. 'm not
- B. 're not
- C. 's not

**7) Bob and Tony \_\_\_\_\_ my cousins.**

- A. am
- B. are
- C. is

**8) \_\_\_\_\_ the food at this restaurant good?**

- A. Am
- B. Is
- C. Are

**9) My apartment \_\_\_\_\_ very small.**

- A. is
- B. am
- C. are

**10) Kate: "Are you thirsty?"**

**Joe: "No, \_\_\_\_\_."**

- A. I aren't
- B. I'm not
- C. you're not

**11) He's \_\_\_\_\_ a good student.**

- A. aren't
- B. isn't

C. not

**12) You \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful.**

A. is

B. not

C. 're

**13) How old \_\_\_\_\_ you?**

A. are

B. is

C. am

**14) She \_\_\_\_\_ 29 years old.**

A. 'm

B. 're

C. 's

**15) Jennifer and I \_\_\_\_\_ students.**

A. am not

B. aren't

C. isn't

## Quiz Answers: Present Simple: BE

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- 1) C - aren't
- 2) B - are
- 3) A - 'm
- 4) C - are
- 5) C - is
- 6) C - 's not
- 7) B - are
- 8) B - is
- 9) A - is
- 10) B - I'm not
- 11) C - not
- 12) C - 're
- 13) A - are
- 14) C - 's
- 15) B - aren't

# There is / There are

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We use there is and there are to talk about things that exist, and where things are located. Use “there is” for one thing, and “there are” for multiple things.

Let’s look at some examples:

	Singular	Plural
(+)	<b>There is</b> a bed in the room. <b>There’s</b> a bed in the room.	<b>There are</b> two pillows on the bed.
(-)	<b>There isn’t</b> a mirror in the bathroom.	<b>There aren’t</b> any windows in the bedroom.
(?)	<b>Is there</b> a table?  Yes, there is. / No, there isn’t.	<b>Are there</b> any chairs?  Yes, there are. / No, there aren’t.



- **There's** a bed in the room.
- **There are** two pillows on the bed.
- **Is there** a window?
- No, **there isn't**.



- **Is there** a table?
- Yes, **there is**.
- **Are there** any chairs?
- Yes, **there are**.
- **Are there** any plates?
- No, **there aren't**.

Try putting it into practice by describing the things in your room: make one sentence with there is, and one sentence with there are. Make one sentence with there isn't, and one sentence with there aren't.

One important note: When we have a list of multiple things in the sentence, we use “there is” when the first item in the list is singular, and “there are” when the first item in the list is plural. For example:

- **There is** a banana, an apple, and an orange in the bowl.
- **There is** a banana and two apples in the bowl.
- **There are** two apples and a banana in the bowl.
- **There are** three oranges and an apple in the bowl.

# Quiz – There is / There are

---

Complete each sentence with **There is** or **There are**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of trees behind my house.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ many famous universities in that city.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ a park, a cafe, and several supermarkets near the hotel.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ some people playing soccer on the grass.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ already some furniture in the apartment.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ an interesting article in today's newspaper.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ forks and spoons in the drawer next to the sink.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ information about our company on the website.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ a white car parked on the corner.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ not enough worksheets for all the students - we need to make more copies.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ shampoo and conditioner in the bathroom.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ a few bus stops in our neighborhood.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ three things you need to know before starting this job.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ too much salt in this soup.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ a pair of shoes next to the door.

## Quiz Answers – There is / There are

---

1. There are
2. There are
3. There is
4. There are
5. There is
6. There is
7. There are
8. There is
9. There is
10. There are
11. There is
12. There are
13. There are
14. There is
15. There is



# Present Simple: Positive

---

Use the **present simple** for things that happen regularly or things that are generally true. Today we'll focus on the positive form of the present simple.

I, you, we, they	<b>work</b>
he, she, it	<b>works</b>

Examples:

- I **work** in a bank.
- He **works** at the university.
- We **work** every day.
- My sister **works** at the hospital.

## Special Case #1

For verbs that end in consonant + -y, we remove the -y and add -ies:

- I **study** English at school.
- Dana **studies** English at school.
- ~~Bill **studys** English at school~~

Other verbs like this include: **cry, try, fly, carry** – when the subject is he, she, or it, then we remove the Y and add -ies to form the present simple of these verbs:

- The baby **cries** a lot.
- She often **tries** new types of food.
- The airplane **flies** fast.
- She **carries** the bags into the house.

## Special Case #2

For verbs that end in -o, -sh, -s, -ss, -ch, -x, we add -es.

- They **go** to English class on Wednesday.
- She **goes** to cooking class on Saturday.
- ~~She **gos** to cooking class on Saturday.~~

Other verbs like this include: **watch, kiss, teach, fix** – when the subject is he, she, or it, then we add -es to form the present simple of these verbs.

- He **watches** a lot of movies.
- She **kisses** her children every morning.
- This book **teaches** you English grammar.
- My mechanic **fixes** my car.

# Quiz: Present Simple Positive

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1) My brother \_\_\_\_\_ to college in New York.

- A. go
- B. goes
- C. gos

2) I \_\_\_\_\_ to play tennis.

- A. like
- B. likes
- C. like's

3) My friends \_\_\_\_\_ to school every day.

- A. walk
- B. walks
- C. walkes

4) Peter \_\_\_\_\_ to the news on the radio.

- A. listen
- B. listens
- C. listen's

5) Clara and Robert \_\_\_\_\_ English at night.

- A. studies
- B. study
- C. studys

6) The baby \_\_\_\_\_ when he is hungry.

- A. cries
- B. cry
- C. cries

**7) Their apartment \_\_\_\_\_ very nice!**

- A. look
- B. look's
- C. looks

**8) We \_\_\_\_\_ our house every Sunday.**

- A. clean
- B. cleans
- C. cleanes

**9) Joe \_\_\_\_\_ two big black dogs.**

- A. has
- B. have
- C. haves

**10) Susan \_\_\_\_\_ lots of TV.**

- A. watch
- B. watchs
- C. watches

**11) I always \_\_\_\_\_ tired when I first wake up.**

- A. feel
- B. feels
- C. feeles

12) Both Clara and Marina \_\_\_\_\_ long hair.

- A. has
- B. have
- C. haves

# Quiz Answers: Present Simple Positive

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- 1) B - goes
- 2) A - like
- 3) A - walk
- 4) B - listens
- 5) B - study
- 6) A - cries
- 7) C - looks
- 8) A - clean
- 9) A - has
- 10) C - watches
- 11) A - feel
- 12) B - have

# Present Simple: Negative

---

Use the **present simple negative** for things that are not generally true.

To form it, add **do not (don't)** or **does not (doesn't)** before the main verb.

I, you, we, they	<b>don't</b>	like
he, she, it	<b>doesn't</b>	like

## Examples:

- I **don't like** coffee.
- John **doesn't like** pizza.
- John and David **don't like** milk.
- My mother **doesn't like** to travel.

## Common Errors

1) In the present simple negative, do not add -s:

- ~~Martha **doesn't likes** to dance.~~
- Martha **doesn't like** to dance.

2) It's not correct to use only the word "no" or "not" – you need "don't" or "doesn't":

● ~~I no like vegetables.~~

● I **don't like** vegetables.

● ~~Pete not like bananas.~~

● Pete **doesn't like** bananas.



# Quiz: Present Simple: Negative

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1) I \_\_\_\_\_ this movie.

- A. doesn't understand
- B. don't understand
- C. no understand

2) Jackson \_\_\_\_\_ how to cook.

- A. doesn't know
- B. don't know
- C. not know

3) My aunt and uncle \_\_\_\_\_ any children.

- A. don't has
- B. don't have
- C. doesn't have

4) Martin \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese.

- A. doesn't speak
- B. don't speak
- C. no speaks

5) We \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe.

- A. doesn't lives
- B. doesn't live
- C. don't live

6) My sister \_\_\_\_\_ happy.

- A. doesn't be
- B. isn't
- C. not

**7) Carla \_\_\_\_\_ early.**

- A. doesn't wake up
- B. don't wake up
- C. doesn't wakes up

**8) Bill and Diane \_\_\_\_\_ to the dentist often.**

- A. isn't go
- B. not go
- C. don't go

**9) You \_\_\_\_\_ every day.**

- A. does studies
- B. don't studies
- C. don't study

**10) My son \_\_\_\_\_ TV.**

- A. doesn't watches
- B. doesn't watch
- C. isn't watch

**11) They \_\_\_\_\_ that's a good idea.**

- A. not think
- B. doesn't thinks
- C. don't think

12) My boyfriend and I \_\_\_\_\_; we take the bus.

- A. doesn't drive
- B. don't drives
- C. don't drive

## Quiz Answers: Present Simple Negative

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- 1) B - don't understand
- 2) A - doesn't know
- 3) B - don't have
- 4) A - doesn't speak
- 5) C - don't live
- 6) B - isn't
- 7) A - doesn't wake up
- 8) C - don't go
- 9) C - don't study
- 10) B - doesn't watch
- 11) C - don't think
- 12) C - don't drive

# Present Simple: Questions

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Now let's learn how to form **present simple questions**. We use these to ask about things that happen regularly or ask whether something is generally true.

<b>Do</b>	I, you, we, they	live in a city?
<b>Does</b>	he, she, it	live in a city?

Examples:

- **Do** you **live** in Brazil?
- **Does** Adam **live** in England?
- **Do** they **live** in a big house?
- **Does** she **live** near the beach?

We can also add a question word before **do/does**:

<b>Where</b>	do	you	live?
<b>When</b>	does	the library	close?
<b>How</b>	do	these machines	work?
<b>What</b>	does	he	think?

## Common Errors

1) In questions, never use -s in the main verb:

● ~~Does she **lives** close to the beach?~~

● Does she **live** close to the beach?

● ~~What does he **thinks**?~~

● What does he **think**?

2) Don't forget DO or DOES:

● ~~Where she **lives**?~~

● Where **does** she live?

● ~~Why you want to quit your job?~~

● Why **do** you want to quit your job?

# Quiz: Present Simple Questions

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Complete each sentence with **DO** or **DOES**.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ you have any brothers and sisters?
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ we watch too much TV?
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ they do any exercise?
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Larissa play a musical instrument?
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ he work in an office?
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ your children talk on the phone a lot?
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ your mother know how to use a computer?
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ she have a car?
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ Tom and Larry play baseball?
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_ she listen to classical music?
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_ I need to pay for the extra class?
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_ your friends like to swim?
- 13) \_\_\_\_\_ Joan watch TV at night?
- 14) \_\_\_\_\_ your father work on weekends?

# Quiz Answers: Present Simple Questions

---

- 1) Do
- 2) Do
- 3) Do
- 4) Does
- 5) Does
- 6) Do
- 7) Does
- 8) Does
- 9) Do
- 10)     Does
- 11)     Do
- 12)     Do
- 13)     Does
- 14)     Does



# Present Simple: Answering Yes/No Questions

---

Let's also learn how to answer yes/no questions in the present simple.

We usually use a short answer like this:

- Do you like rock music?
- Yes, I **do**. / No, I **don't**.
- Don't say: ~~Yes, I like~~ / ~~No, I don't like~~

Here are more examples:

- Do I look fat in these jeans?
- **No, you don't!**
- Does John speak Italian?
- **Yes, he does. / No, he doesn't.**
- Does she like rock music?
- **Yes, she does. / No, she doesn't.**
- Do we watch too much TV?
- **Yes, we do. / No, we don't.**
- Do they understand English?
- **Yes, they do. / No, they don't.**

Instead of a quiz, this time the practice exercise includes some questions for you to answer using these short answers.

## Exercise – Answering Yes/No Questions

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Write short answers that are true for you – ex. Yes, I do / No, I don't, Yes, it does / No, it doesn't, etc.

1. Do you like sports?
2. Do you have any brothers or sisters?
3. Do you travel a lot?
4. Does your house have a garage?
5. Does your country have a lot of crime?
6. Does your city have good public transportation?
7. Do your friends live nearby?
8. Do people in your country learn English in school?

There is no answer key because the answers will be different for each person!

# Present Continuous: Positive

---

The **present continuous** verb tense is used for things that are happening **now, at the moment**. Here's how we form positive sentences in the present continuous:

I	<b>am</b>	watching
you, we, they	<b>are</b>	watching
he, she, it	<b>is</b>	watching

## Examples:

- I **am watching TV** right now.
- He **is studying** at the moment.
- It **is raining** today.
- We **are thinking** about you.
- They **are playing** baseball.
- Jack and Jill **are talking**.

It's very common to use the short form:

- **I'm** watching TV right now.
- **He's** studying at the moment.
- **It's** raining today.
- **We're** thinking about you.
- **They're** playing baseball.

Avoid this common error: forgetting to put the verb in the -ING form.

• ~~I'm **listen** to music.~~

• I'm **listening** to music.

• ~~She's **take** a nap.~~

• She's **taking** a nap.

Some verbs are never used in the present continuous, such as **like, want, need, believe.**

• ~~I'm **believing** in God.~~

• I **believe** in God.

• ~~She's **wanting** a soda.~~

• She **wants** a soda.

# Quiz: Present Continuous Positive

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Mark each sentence **correct** or **incorrect**

1. Billy and Mark are driving to the airport at the moment.
2. Clara and Jill is reading the newspaper.
3. He's running to work because he's late.
4. I learning English in school.
5. James is listen to the radio.
6. My children are doing their homework.
7. She wearing a white T-shirt and jeans.
8. Stop opening all the packages - you're making a mess!
9. My friend are talking with the teacher.
10. I'm sitting next to my brother.

# Quiz Answers: Present Continuous Positive

---

- 1) Correct
- 2) Incorrect (should be "are reading")
- 3) Correct
- 4) Incorrect (should be "I'm learning")
- 5) Incorrect (should be "is listening")
- 6) Correct
- 7) Incorrect (should be "She's wearing")
- 8) Correct
- 9) Incorrect "should be "is talking")
- 10) Correct

# Present Continuous: Negative

---

Now let's look at negative sentences in the present continuous:

I	<b>am not</b> <b>(I'm not)</b>	listening
you, we, they	<b>are not</b> <b>(aren't)</b>	listening
he, she, it	<b>is not</b> <b>(isn't)</b>	listening

## Examples:

- I **am not working** at the moment.
- She **is not wearing** a hat today.
- You **are not listening** to the teacher.
- Pete and Jan **are not watching** TV.

There are two ways to use contractions here:

- **She's not** wearing a hat today.
- **She isn't** wearing a hat today.
- **You're not** listening to the teacher.
- **You aren't** listening to the teacher.

Both forms are OK!

Avoid the common error of forgetting am/is/are:

- ~~I not living there anymore.~~
- **I'm** not living there anymore.
- ~~He not doing his homework.~~
- **He's** not doing his homework.
- ~~We not traveling right now.~~
- **We're** not traveling right now.



# Quiz: Present Continuous Negative

---

Mark each sentence **correct** or **incorrect**:

1. Brian isn't eat anything because he just had lunch.
2. He no making dinner.
3. I not reading any books at the moment.
4. My team isn't playing very well in this game.
5. Paula's not wearing sunglasses.
6. They're at the party, but they're not dancing.
7. Tom and Tiffany isn't playing video games now.
8. We're not drinking wine because we have to drive home soon.
9. You're not listen to me.
10. I'm not feeling well. I think it was something I ate.

# Quiz Answers: Present Continuous Negative

---

1. Incorrect (should be "isn't eating")
2. Incorrect (should be "He's not making" or "He isn't making")
3. Incorrect (should be "I'm not reading")
4. Correct
5. Correct
6. Correct
7. Incorrect (should be "aren't playing")
8. Correct
9. Incorrect (should be "not listening")
10. Correct

# Present Continuous: Questions

---

Finally, we'll learn how to form questions in the present continuous:

## Yes/No Questions:

Am	I	working?
Are	you, we, they	working?
Is	he, she, it	working?

## Questions with a question word:

Why	am	I	bleeding?
What	are	you, we, they	doing?
Where	is	he, she, it	going?

## Examples:

- Are you **writing** a letter?
- Is Pedro **sleeping** right now?
- Are the children **playing** a game or **reading** a book?
- Is the computer **working**?
- What are you **eating**?

- I'm eating sushi.
- **How is Sarah feeling?**
- She's feeling better today.
- **Why is he running?**
- Because he's late for work.

Remember, in questions, am/is/are goes BEFORE the subject:

- ~~Why you are learning English?~~
- Why **are you** learning English?
- ~~What he is doing?~~
- What **is he** doing?

# Quiz: Present Continuous Questions

---

Mark each sentence **correct** or **incorrect**:

1. Are the children sleeping?
2. How are you feeling today?
3. How many T-shirts you are buying?
4. Is it raining now?
5. What are they try to do?
6. What magazine are you reading?
7. Which hotel he is staying at?
8. Who is she wait for?
9. Why is he leaving school early?
10. What you thinking about?

# Quiz Answers: Present Continuous Questions

---

1. Correct
2. Correct
3. Incorrect (should be "are you buying")
4. Correct
5. Incorrect (should be "are they trying")
6. Correct
7. Incorrect (should be "is he staying")
8. Incorrect (should be "is she waiting")
9. Correct
10. Incorrect (should be "What are you")

# Present Simple or Continuous?

---

What's the difference between present simple (I work) and present continuous (I'm working)? This lesson will help you understand it.

Use **present simple** for things that happen **in general** or **regularly**.

Use **present continuous** for things happening **now, at the moment**, or **current/temporary projects**.

PRESENT SIMPLE	PRESENT CONTINUOUS
I <b>work</b> from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM every day.	I'm currently <b>working</b> on a new project.
Mark <b>studies</b> English every Tuesday night.	Mark <b>is studying</b> the present continuous this week.
We usually <b>go</b> to Europe in the summer.	Right now, <b>we're going</b> to the supermarket.
They always <b>talk</b> to their boss in the morning.	It's 9:00 AM. <b>They're talking</b> to him now.
Does it usually <b>rain</b> in the winter?	No, but <b>it's raining</b> at the moment. Take an umbrella.

Words that are often used with the present simple or continuous:

- With **present simple**: always, usually, often, sometimes, never, every (day/night/Monday/summer/year)
- With **present continuous**: now, right now, at the moment, currently, this week/month/year, today



# Quiz: Present Simple or Continuous

---

**Select the correct option:**

1. They always are going / go to the gym after work.
2. He normally works / is working every weekday, but today he works / isn't working because it's a holiday.
3. "Where are you going / do you go?"
4. "To my grandmother's house - see you later!"
5. How often are you cleaning / do you clean your house?
6. Jane is cold because she doesn't wear / she's not wearing a jacket.
7. My colleagues normally are eating / eat lunch in the office.
8. How many children are you having / do you have?
9. My husband is playing / plays tennis three times a week.
10. Please turn down the music; I try / I'm trying to study.
11. Watch out! Your son is running / runs into the street!
12. "What does she do / is she doing?"
13. "She's baking a cake."
14. Rita doesn't know / isn't knowing how to ride a bike.
15. "Where's mom?"
16. "She takes / She's taking a shower."
17. Yes, I can talk now. I don't drive / I'm not driving.
18. My cousin never gives / is giving me a birthday present.

# Quiz Answers: Present Simple or Continuous?

---

1. go
2. works / isn't working
3. are you going
4. do you clean
5. she's not wearing
6. eat
7. do you have
8. plays
9. I'm trying
10. is running
11. is she doing
12. doesn't know
13. She's taking
14. I'm not driving
15. gives

# Past Simple: Be

---

Now let's learn how to make sentences with the verb **BE** in the simple past.

## Positive:

I, he, she, it	<b>was</b>	born in 1982.
you, we, they	<b>were</b>	born in 1982.

## Negative:

I, he, she, it	<b>was not (wasn't)</b>	born in Europe.
you, we, they	<b>were not (weren't)</b>	born in Europe.

## Yes/No Questions:

<b>Was</b>	I, he, she, it	famous?
<b>Were</b>	you, we, they	famous?

## Questions with a question word:

<b>How</b>	was	the movie?	
<b>Where</b>	were	you	last night?
<b>Why</b>	was	he	sad yesterday?
<b>What</b>	were	your favorite toys	when you were a child?

### Common words used to talk about the past:

- Yesterday  
I **was** at the park **yesterday**.
- Last Sunday / last week / last month / last November / last year  
They **were** on vacation last week.
- 1 hour ago / 5 days ago / 3 months ago / 10 years ago  
She **was** still in school 10 years ago.
- When I was a child... / When we were in college...  
When I was a child, I **was** very shy.

# Quiz: Past Simple: Be

---

1) Where \_\_\_\_\_ you yesterday afternoon?

- A. was
- B. wasn't
- C. were
- D. weren't

2) Where \_\_\_\_\_ your grandfather born?

- A. was
- B. wasn't
- C. were
- D. weren't

3) Pablo Picasso \_\_\_\_\_ a writer. He was a painter.

- A. was
- B. wasn't
- C. were
- D. weren't

4) My friends \_\_\_\_\_ at school yesterday because they were sick.

- A. was
- B. wasn't
- C. were
- D. weren't

5) "Where were you this morning? You \_\_\_\_\_ at the meeting."

**"I \_\_\_\_\_ at the dentist's."**

- A. weren't / was
- B. wasn't / was
- C. weren't / were
- D. were / was

**6) Darlene is 27 years old. Ten years ago, she \_\_\_\_\_ in high school.**

- A. was
- B. were
- C. wasn't
- D. weren't

**7) "Did you like the movie?"**

**"The special effects \_\_\_\_\_ great, but the story \_\_\_\_\_ very good."**

- A. wasn't / was
- B. weren't / were
- C. was / weren't
- D. were / wasn't

**8) Barcelona is a beautiful city! We \_\_\_\_\_ there for a conference last month.**

- A. was
- B. wasn't
- C. were
- D. weren't

**9) "Were your colleagues happy about the surprise party?"**

**"David \_\_\_\_\_, but Janet and Tim \_\_\_\_\_ - they hate surprises."**

- A. were / wasn't
- B. was / weren't
- C. wasn't / were
- D. weren't / was

**10) "Were you shy when you were a child?"**

**"No, I \_\_\_\_\_. I talked to everyone!"**

- A. was
- B. wasn't
- C. were
- D. weren't

## Quiz Answers: Past Simple: To Be

---

1. C - were
2. A - was
3. B - wasn't
4. D - weren't
5. A - weren't / was
6. A - was
7. D - were / wasn't
8. C - were
9. B - was / weren't
10. B - wasn't



# Past Simple: Regular Verbs

---

Here's how to put regular verbs in the past – in positive sentences, negative sentences, and questions:

## Positive:

I, you, he, she, it, we, they	<b>worked</b>	yesterday
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## Negative:

I, you, he, she, it, we, they	<b>didn't work</b>	yesterday
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## Yes/No Questions:

<b>Did</b>	I, you, he, she, it, we, they	<b>work</b>	yesterday?
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## Questions with a question word:

<b>Why</b>	<b>did</b>	I, you, he, she, it, we, they	<b>decide</b>	to study English?
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In past simple negative and questions, do not add -ed to the main verb:

● ~~Mary didn't liked the movie.~~

- Mary **didn't like** the movie.
- ~~Did you **studied** for the test?~~
- **Did you study** for the test?

We only add -ed to the main verb in past simple positive sentences:

- Mary **liked** the movie.
- I **studied** for the test.

### How to form the past simple for regular verbs:

VERB	PAST	SPELLING
listen	<b>listened</b>	Add -ed
play	<b>played</b>	
like	<b>liked</b>	Add -d
decide	<b>decided</b>	
stop	<b>stopped</b>	One vowel + one consonant = double the final consonant and add -ed
study	<b>studied</b>	One consonant + y →
try	<b>tried</b>	-ied

### Examples:

- I **talked** with my mother last night.
- We **enjoyed** the party on Saturday.
- She **finished** the test early.
- He **didn't listen** to the instructions.
- They **didn't want** to join us for coffee.
- Jill **didn't stay** in a hotel last summer.
- **Did you watch** the news yesterday?
- **Did they remember** to turn off the lights?
- What time **did** your father **arrive**?

# Quiz: Past Simple Regular Verbs

---

Mark each past simple sentence as **correct** or **incorrect**

1. Did the teacher ask you any questions in class this morning?
2. We tried to talk to the manager, but he was busy.
3. Did you remembered to pay the electric bill?
4. Gabi and Sandy didn't walk to the beach because it was too far.
5. How long you waited for the bus last night?
6. I did start piano lessons last week.
7. What time did the plane land?
8. My brother didn't helped me carry my books.
9. She no called me yesterday.
10. We rented an apartment on our vacation last year.
11. I didn't need to use a calculator for my math homework.
12. Were you want to be a dancer when you were a child?
13. When they arrived at the airport, they checked their bags.
14. Where did you lived when you were a child?
15. "Did you pass the test?"

"No, I didn't."

# Quiz Answers: Past Simple

---

1. Correct
2. Incorrect (should be "tried")
3. Incorrect (should be "Did you remember")
4. Correct
5. Incorrect (should be "How long did you wait")
6. Incorrect (should be "I started")
7. Correct
8. Incorrect (should be "didn't help")
9. Incorrect (should be "She didn't call")
10. Correct
11. Correct
12. Incorrect (should be "Did you want")
13. Correct
14. Incorrect (should be "Where did you live")
15. Correct

# Past Simple: Irregular Verbs

---

Many verbs in English are **irregular**, meaning we don't form the past simple tense by adding -ED. Instead, you need to memorize these.

Here are some common irregular verbs:

<b>BASE FORM OF THE VERB</b>	<b>POSITIVE PAST SIMPLE</b>	<b>NEGATIVE PAST SIMPLE</b>
be	<b>was / were</b>	<b>wasn't / weren't</b>
buy	<b>bought</b>	didn't buy
can	<b>could</b>	<b>couldn't</b>
eat	<b>ate</b>	didn't eat
get	<b>got</b>	didn't get
go	<b>went</b>	didn't go
have	<b>had</b>	didn't have
leave	<b>left</b>	didn't leave
make	<b>made</b>	didn't make
meet	<b>met</b>	didn't meet
say	<b>said</b>	didn't say

see	<b>saw</b>	didn't see
take	<b>took</b>	didn't take
think	<b>thought</b>	didn't think
understand	<b>understood</b>	didn't understand
wear	<b>wore</b>	didn't wear
write	<b>wrote</b>	didn't write

The verb **be** changes depending on the subject:

- I / he / she / it **was** at school yesterday.
- You / we / they **were** at school yesterday.

But the other verbs do not change – they are the same with all subjects:

- I / you / he / she / it / you / we / they **ate** pizza last night.

Remember that the negative form is **didn't + base form of the verb**, not didn't + past form:

- ~~I **didn't saw** her last night.~~
- I **didn't see** her last night.
- ~~They **didn't went** to the party.~~
- They **didn't go** to the party.

**Examples:**

- Where **were** you last month?  
I **was** in France.
- What **did** your sister **buy** at the mall?  
She **bought** new shoes.
- What time **did** he **eat** breakfast today?  
He **ate** breakfast at 6:00 AM.
- When **did** you **get** married?  
We **got** married in July.
- Why **did** she **go** to London?  
She **went** to London to study English.
- **Did** you **have** any pets when you were a child?  
Yes, I **had** a dog.
- When **did** he **leave** the meeting?  
He **left** the meeting an hour before it finished.
- What **did** you **make** for dinner?  
I **made** some vegetable soup.
- When **did** you **meet** your best friend?  
I **met** my best friend 20 years ago.
- What **did** the teacher **say**?  
The teacher **said** that she loved our class.
- **Did** you **see** Brad at the football game?  
No, but we **saw** Peter and Henry.
- What **did** he **wear** to the wedding?  
He **wore** a suit.
- **Did** he **write** a new book last year?



No, he only **wrote** a few magazine articles.

For a lot more irregular verbs, take this lesson:

<https://www.espressoenglish.net/tips-for-learning-irregular-verbs-in-english/>

# Quiz: Past Simple Irregular Verbs

---

1) Jimmy and Sean \_\_\_\_\_ a window while playing baseball inside the house.

- A. bought
- B. broke
- C. built

2) We \_\_\_\_\_ really late yesterday.

- A. slept
- B. slept
- C. slipt

3) Mrs. Johnson \_\_\_\_\_ us about World War II in history class.

- A. learned
- B. taught
- C. thought

4) My boss \_\_\_\_\_ me an important e-mail this morning.

- A. said
- B. sent
- C. spent

5) My favorite team \_\_\_\_\_ the championship last year.

- A. wan
- B. wore
- C. won

6) Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ cake at Harold's birthday party on Saturday.

- A. ate
- B. eat
- C. eated

7) I \_\_\_\_\_ the eggs and milk in the refrigerator.

- A. did
- B. put
- C. went

8) We \_\_\_\_\_ tickets to the show.

- A. didn't get
- B. didn't got
- C. weren't get

9) I \_\_\_\_\_ understand the movie we watched in English class.

- A. wasn't
- B. didn't can
- C. couldn't

10) Aaron and Barbara \_\_\_\_\_ out after work yesterday.

- A. didn't go
- B. didn't gone
- C. didn't went

11) I \_\_\_\_\_ enough time to finish the project.

- A. didn't had
- B. didn't have

C. hadn't

**12) The students \_\_\_\_\_ their homework.**

A. didn't

B. didn't did

C. didn't do

**13) When I was young, my parents \_\_\_\_\_ me drive their car.**

A. didn't let

B. didn't letted

C. weren't let

**14. What \_\_\_\_\_ at the store?**

A. did you buy

B. you bought

C. you did buy

**15) When \_\_\_\_\_ their house?**

A. was they sell

B. did they sell

C. did they sold

**16) \_\_\_\_\_ your father happy when he \_\_\_\_\_ the news?**

A. Wasn't / did hear

B. Were / hear

C. Was / heard

**17) How long \_\_\_\_\_ you to read the book?**

A. did it take

- B. did it told
- C. did it took

**18) What \_\_\_\_\_ your girlfriend for her birthday last year?**

- A. gave you
- B. did you give
- C. you gave

**19) Where \_\_\_\_\_ last Saturday night at 10 PM?**

- A. was you
- B. were you
- C. did you

**20) I \_\_\_\_\_ the president at a conference in 2007.**

- A. did meet
- B. met
- C. was met

# Quiz Answers: Past Simple Irregular Verbs

---

1. B - broke
2. B - slept
3. B - taught
4. B - sent
5. C - won
6. A - ate
7. B - put
8. A - didn't get
9. C - couldn't
- 10.A - didn't go
- 11.B - didn't have
- 12.C - didn't do
- 13.A - didn't let
- 14.A - did you buy
- 15.B - did they sell
- 16.C - Was / heard
- 17.A - did it take
- 18.B - did you give
- 19.B - were you
- 20.B - met

# Future with Going To

---

Use **going to** to talk about future events, plans and predictions.



*She's **going to** have a baby soon.*

Let's learn how to form positive sentences, negative sentences, and questions.

## Positive:

Full Form	Short Form	
I am	I'm	
You are	You're	<b>going to</b> take a test tomorrow.
He / she / it is	He's / She's / It's	
We are	We're	
They are	They're	

In fast spoken English, **going to** often sounds like *gonna*:

“We’re gonna take a test tomorrow.”

### Negative:

Full Form	Short Form 1	Short Form 2	
I am <b>not</b>	I’m <b>not</b>	---	
You are <b>not</b>	You’re <b>not</b>	You <b>aren’t</b>	<b>going to</b> take a test tomorrow.
He / she is <b>not</b>	He’s / She’s <b>not</b>	He / she <b>isn’t</b>	
It is <b>not</b>	It’s <b>not</b>	It <b>isn’t</b>	
We are <b>not</b>	We’re <b>not</b>	We <b>aren’t</b>	
They are <b>not</b>	They’re <b>not</b>	They <b>aren’t</b>	

### Yes/No Questions:

<b>Am</b>	I	<b>going to</b> take a test tomorrow?
<b>Are</b>	you	
<b>Is</b>	he / she / it	
<b>Are</b>	we	
<b>Are</b>	they	



## Questions with a question word:

When	am	I	going to finish the work?
	are	you	
	is	he / she / it	
	are	we	
	are	they	

Avoid this common mistake: don't forget "am/is/are"!

- ~~I going to buy some new shoes next week.~~
- I'm going to buy some new shoes next week.
- ~~She not going to watch TV.~~
- She's not going to watch TV.
- ~~They going to get married in June.~~
- They're going to get married in June.

Another common mistake is forgetting "to":

- ~~We're going have a picnic tomorrow.~~
- We're going to have a picnic tomorrow.
- ~~He's not going clean his room.~~
- He's not going to clean his room.

## Quiz: Future with “Going to”

---

Mark each sentence as **correct** or **incorrect**:

1. Is you going to start any new projects this year?
2. Barbara and Adrian is going to start studying English next semester.
3. I going to buy flowers for my girlfriend's birthday.
4. Laura's not going to stay in a hotel during her next vacation.
5. Is Martha going make a lot of money in her new job?
6. Marty's going to meet John for lunch at 12:30.
7. My father not going to come home until 9:00.
8. They're not going to win the game.
9. Tim and Janet are going cook dinner on Friday.
10. We're going to visit our friends in Rio de Janeiro in December.
11. What movie are you going to see tonight?
12. I'm not going to eat any dessert after dinner.

## Quiz Answers: Future with "Going to"

---

1. Incorrect (should be "are you")
2. Incorrect (should be "are going")
3. Incorrect (should be "I'm going")
4. Correct
5. Incorrect (should be "going to make")
6. Correct
7. Incorrect (should be "father is not going")
8. Correct
9. Incorrect (should be "going to cook")
10. Correct
11. Correct
12. Correct

# Future: Will / Won't

---

Use **will / won't** to make promises, offers, and decisions.

## Positive:

I, you, he, she, it, we, they	<b>will</b>	be late.
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It's very common to use the contraction in the positive form:

- I'll be late.
- You'll be late.
- He'll be late.
- She'll be late.
- It'll be late.
- We'll be late.
- They'll be late.

## Negative:

I, you, he, she, it, we, they	<b>won't</b>	be late.
-------------------------------	--------------	----------

## Question:

<b>Will</b>	I, you, he, she, it, we, they	be late?
-------------	-------------------------------	----------

Never use “to” with will or won’t:

- ~~I’ll to make dinner.~~
- I’ll make dinner.
- ~~He won’t to get the job.~~
- He won’t get the job.
- ~~Will they to come back later?~~
- Will they come back later?

There’s no quiz today – instead, try making your own complete sentences using “will” and “won’t”:

- What are some things you WILL do... tomorrow? This week? This year?
- What are some things you WON’T do in the future?

# Will or Going to?

---

There are two ways to talk about the future in English: **will/won't** and **going to**.

Use **going to** for plans and arrangements:

- On my next vacation, I'm **going to** stay in a nice hotel in Paris.
- Her current contract ends in December, so she's **going to** look for a new job.
- David's **going to** meet me at the airport. He said he would be there at 8:00.
- We're **going to** get married in July. We're already sending out invitations!
- They're **going to** visit Amy next week. They made plans to meet up on Monday.
- Peter and Paul are **going to** share an apartment when they move to New York.

Use **will/won't** for promises:

- I'll send you an e-mail.
- I **won't** tell anyone your secret.
- **He'll** pay you back tomorrow.
- We **won't** forget your birthday.

Use **will** for offers:

- I'll buy you a drink.
- My secretary **will** help you with the paperwork.

Use **will** for decisions made in that moment:

- “Would you like potatoes or rice?”  
“I’ll have the rice.”
- “Which shirt do you like?”  
“Well, the red one is cheaper, but I prefer the color blue. I’ll take the blue one.”

Use **will/won’t** or **going to** for predictions or statements about the future:

- My company’s **going to** move its headquarters overseas next year.
- Your wife **will** love those flowers – they’re beautiful!  
= Your wife **is going to** love those flowers – they’re beautiful!
- The economy **isn’t going to** improve much this year.  
= The economy **won’t** improve much this year.
- He **won’t** pass the test. He hasn’t studied at all.

Use **I think... will** and **I don’t think... will** to express thoughts about the future.

Don’t use **I think... won’t**. (it doesn’t sound natural).

- ~~I think you **won’t** like this movie. It’s very violent.~~
- **I don’t think you’ll** like this movie. It’s very violent.

There’s no quiz today – instead, try making your own complete sentences using “going to” for things you have already planned:

- What are some things you are going to do in the near future?

# Permission, Obligation, Prohibition

---

We use these words for permission and obligation.

<b>Can</b>	= It's OK
<b>Can't / Mustn't</b>	= It's not OK
<b>Have to / Need to / Must</b>	= It's necessary / obligatory
<b>Don't have to</b>	= It's not necessary / obligatory
<b>Don't need to</b>	(it's optional)

*(must / mustn't are more formal than have to / doesn't have to)*



You **can** ride your bike here.



You **can't** smoke here. / You **mustn't** smoke here.





You **have to** / **need to** stop here. / You **must** stop here.



You **don't have to** / **don't need to** pay for the food.

Note that we never use "to" after "must/mustn't or can/can't."

- You **have to** stop.
- You **need to** stop.
- You **must** stop.
- ~~You **must to** stop.~~
- You **can't** / **mustn't** smoke here.
- ~~You **can't** / **mustn't to** smoke here.~~

# Exercise – Permission, Obligation, Prohibition

---

For today's practice exercises, answer these questions using complete sentences:

What are some things that you **CAN / CAN'T** do at your job/school?

*Ex) We can eat lunch at our desks.*

*We can't use Facebook during work hours.*

What are some things that you **HAVE TO / NEED TO / MUST** do in your job/school/family?

*Ex) I need to drive the kids to school.*

*I have to go shopping every week.*

What are some things that you are glad you **DON'T HAVE TO** do?

*Ex) I don't have a car, so I don't have to pay for gas.*

# Present Perfect

---

The **present perfect** is another very common verb tense in English.

It's formed by using **have/has + past participle** of the verb. For example:

- I **have been** a teacher for ten years.
- He **has lived** here since he was a child.
- We **have eaten** lunch already.

Don't worry, you'll see a lot more examples and I'll explain exactly when to use it and how to form it. We'll start with the verb BE (have been / has been) and then learn other verbs as well.

We use the **present perfect** in two situations:

1) To talk about experiences in the past, when we don't know or don't say exactly when the experience happened.

- **Have you been** to Italy?
  - Yes, **I've been** there three times.
- **Have you been** to Rio de Janeiro?
  - No, **I haven't**. I don't like hot weather.
- **Has Diana been** to a rock concert?
  - Yes, many times!
- **Has your brother been** to a big sports event?
  - **No, he hasn't**. He hates sports.

2) To talk about an action or state that started in the past and continues to the present.

- How long **have you been** married?
  - **I've been** married for five years.
- How long **has John been** a teacher?
  - **He's been** a teacher since last January.

Let's learn how to form the present perfect with the verb BE.

### Positive

I <b>have</b>	I've		
You <b>have</b>	You've		<b>been</b> to Paris.
We <b>have</b>	We've		
They <b>have</b>	They've		
he <b>has</b>	he's	<b>been</b> to Paris.	
she <b>has</b>	she's		
it <b>has</b>	it's		

### Negative

I <b>have not</b>	I <b>haven't</b>	
-------------------	------------------	--

You <b>have not</b>	You <b>haven't</b>	<b>been</b> to Paris.
We <b>have not</b>	We <b>haven't</b>	
They <b>have not</b>	They <b>haven't</b>	
he <b>has not</b>	he <b>hasn't</b>	<b>been</b> to Paris.
she <b>has not</b>	she <b>hasn't</b>	
it <b>has not</b>	it <b>hasn't</b>	

## Question

Auxiliary Verb	Subject	
<b>Have</b>	I / you / we / they	<b>been</b> to Paris?
<b>Has</b>	he / she / it	<b>been</b> to Paris?

Now let's look at how to form the present perfect with other verbs:

## Regular verbs

The past participle is the same as the simple past, with -ED:

Verb	Past Participle	Example
travel	traveled	I've <b>traveled</b> to 15 countries in my life.

watch	watched	She <b>hasn't watched</b> the movie yet.
pass	passed	<b>We've passed</b> our English test.
try	tried	<b>Have you tried</b> restarting the computer?
stop	stopped	They've recently <b>stopped</b> smoking.

## Irregular verbs

The past participle is often different from the simple past form, and does not use -ED:

Verb	Simple past	Past participle
break	broke	broken
buy	bought	bought
do	did	done
eat	ate	eaten
get	got	gotten
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
know	knew	known

leave	left	left
make	made	made
meet	met	met
see	saw	seen
take	took	taken
tell	told	told

### Examples:

- I can't find my car keys. **Have** you **seen** them? ~~Have you saw them?~~  
No, I **haven't seen** them. Sorry.
- We've **written** more than 100 e-mails in the past week.
- My cousin **has met** a lot of famous people in her life.
- **Have** you ever **broken** a bone?  
Yes, I **have**.
- **Has** she ever **eaten** Vietnamese food?  
No, she **hasn't**.
- **Have** you ever **thought** about moving to another country?  
We've **thought** about it, but we **haven't told** our kids.
- The teacher **hasn't given** us any homework yet.
- Camilo **has made** a lot of mistakes in his life.
- **Have** you ever **gotten** lost while driving?  
No, I **haven't** – but my mother **has**!

- Kristin **has** never **taken** singing classes.

To review:

- The present perfect is formed by **have/has + past participle of the verb**
- For **regular verbs**, the past participle is the same as the simple past: verb + ED (finished, cooked, traveled)
- For **irregular verbs**, the past participle is often different from the simple past and does not use -ED (gone, eaten, told) – you just need to remember these!
- We use the present perfect to talk about things that happened **in the past at a time that's not specifically said**
- We use the present perfect to talk about **actions that started in the past and continue to the present.**



# Quiz: Present Perfect

---

Mark each sentence **correct** or **incorrect**:

1. Have you ever driven a Ferrari?
2. Gary is known Darla for a long time.
3. Has he ever eaten Brazilian food?
4. She's recently wrote a book.
5. Have you heard the new song by Adele?
6. He hasn't woken up yet.
7. Help, police! That man's just stolen my wallet!
8. I haven't take the test yet.
9. I've lived in Orlando for three years.
10. Laura have sold her car.
11. No, they hasn't eaten lunch yet.
12. She's been to Berlin twice.
13. They already given me the money.
14. Has you ever met my brother?
15. I haven't read the newspaper in the past week.

# Quiz Answers: Present Perfect

---

1. Incorrect (should be "driven")
2. Incorrect (should be "has known")
3. Correct
4. Incorrect (should be "written")
5. Correct
6. Correct
7. Correct
8. Incorrect (should be "taken")
9. Correct
10. Incorrect (should be "has sold")
11. Incorrect (should be "haven't eaten")
12. Correct
13. Incorrect (should be "They've already given")
14. Incorrect (should be "Have you met")
15. Correct

# Present Perfect or Past Simple?

---

There are two differences between the present perfect and the past simple.

Here's the first one:

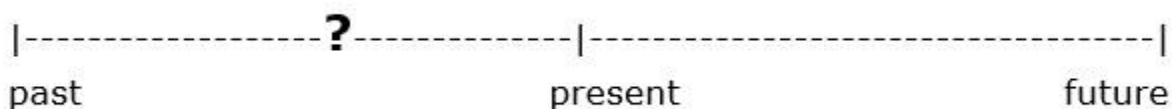
- Use the **present perfect** to talk about a **general experience** that happened at a non-specific time the past.
- Use the **past simple** to talk about a **specific moment** in the past.

Let's look at an example:

- “**Have** you **seen** the new *Mission Impossible* film?”  
“Yes, I **have**.”
- “When **did** you **see** it?”  
“I **saw** it last week.”

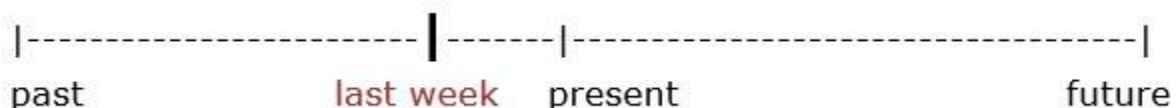
Use the **present perfect** for “unspecified” time:

- **I've seen** the new Mission Impossible film.



Use the **past simple** for “specified” time:

- **I saw** the new Mission Impossible film **last week**.



Here are more examples of non-specific time vs. specific time:

- Present perfect: I've **been** to Europe several times.
- Past simple: I **went** to Europe a few weeks ago.
- Present perfect: He's **eaten** lunch already.
- Past simple: He **ate** lunch at 11:30.
- Present perfect: We've never **bought** a car.
- Past simple: We **didn't buy** the car we saw yesterday.

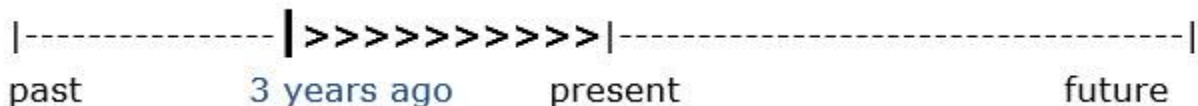
There's another difference:

- Use the **present perfect** to talk about an action that started in the past and continues to the present.
- Use the **past simple** to talk about an action that started and finished in the past.

Let's look at an example:

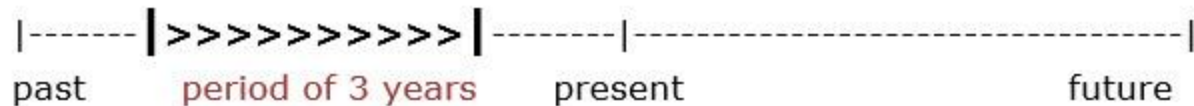
Use the **present perfect** for "unfinished" time:

- "I've **lived** in Brazil for three years." (and I live in Brazil now)



Use the **past simple** for "finished" time:

- "I **lived** in Brazil for three years." (and I don't live in Brazil now)



Here are some more examples of this difference:

- He's **worked** at the company since 2002.
- He **worked** at the company from 2002-2005.
- They've **taken** care of the kids all day.
- They **took** care of the kids this morning.
- She's **gone** to the store (and hasn't come back yet).
- She **went** to the store earlier today (and she came back).

In today's quiz you'll have to choose the correct option in each sentence – present perfect or past simple. Just remember:

- Present perfect for “unspecified” time and “unfinished” time (continuing to the present)
- Past simple for “specific” time and “finished” time (ended in the past)

# Quiz: Present Perfect or Past Simple?

---

Choose the correct option to complete each sentence:

1. I didn't see / haven't seen you at the meeting last Monday.
2. Joel had / has had a lot of interesting jobs in his life.  
(Joel is still alive)
3. He knew / 's known his best friend since 1990.
4. Dana called / 's called me an hour ago.
5. I 've never gone / never went skiing.
6. My parents have lived / lived in the same house for 30 years.  
(and they still live there)
7. Did / Have you like / liked the movie we saw yesterday?
8. The first man has walked / walked on the moon in 1969.
9. Richard didn't meet / hasn't met the new teacher yet.
10. They didn't visit / haven't visited Martha when they visited Los Angeles last summer.
11. My brother and I didn't speak / haven't spoken to each other since January.
12. Did / Have you ever fall / fallen asleep in class?
13. You're late. The meeting has started / started fifteen minutes ago
14. What airline did you fly / have you flown with on your last vacation?
15. Did / Has Laurie ever ridden / ride a motorcycle?
16. She had / has had her first child when she was 21.

# Quiz Answers: Present Perfect or Past Simple?

---

1. didn't see
2. has had
3. 's known
4. called
5. 've never gone
6. have lived
7. Did / like
8. walked
9. hasn't met
10. didn't visit
11. haven't spoken
12. Have / fallen
13. started
14. did you fly
15. Has / ridden
16. had

# Basic Helping Verbs

---

Helping verbs, also called “auxiliary verbs,” are verbs that don’t have a specific definition by themselves, but instead “help” the main verb of the sentence.

A lot of students make mistakes with helping verbs in English, so here’s a complete guide to using this type of verb!

We’ve already learned them in this course, so this lesson will help you review with lots of examples as well as understand the differences between do, have, and be.

## Helping Verb #1 – DO

Use a form of the word “DO” to ask questions:

- **Do** you like ice cream?
- Where **do** they live?
- What time **does** the bank open?
- **Does** Bill have a dog?
- **Did** you go to the party?
- Why **did** she go home early yesterday?

Use **DO** with I, you, we, and they (in the present).

Use **DOES** with he, she, and it (in the present).

Use **DID** for all forms in the past.

When asking questions in the past with WHY, WHERE, and HOW + DID, we often shorten the word “did” in fast spoken English.



- **Why'd** she go home early yesterday?
- **Where'd** you buy that T-shirt?
- **How'd** he finish his homework so fast?

Use DON'T, DOESN'T, and DIDN'T to form negative statements:

- I **don't** like ice cream.
- They **don't** live in this neighborhood.
- The bank **doesn't** open on Saturdays.
- Bill **doesn't** have a dog.
- We **didn't** go to the party.
- She **didn't** have any more work to do, so she went home.

Avoid this common error: Using NO or NOT as the helping verb.

- ~~I **no** like ice cream.~~
- ~~I **not** like ice cream.~~
- I **don't** like ice cream.
- ~~We **no** go to the party.~~
- ~~We **not** go to the party.~~
- We **didn't** go to the party.

## Helping Verb #2 – BE

Use a form of the word BE to make continuous tenses:

Present Continuous: AM, IS, ARE + -ing form

- **I'm** studying English.

- **He's** talking on the phone.
- **We're** having dinner right now.

Past Continuous: WAS, WERE + -ing form

- He **was** singing in the shower.
- We **were** driving home from work.

Future Continuous: WILL BE + -ing form

- Tomorrow morning **I'll be** teaching an English class.
- Next month **we'll be** traveling to Europe.
- Ted **will be** speaking at the conference in July.

When you ask a question in the present or past continuous, the word order changes and the helping verb comes BEFORE the subject:

- **Is he** talking on the phone?
  - **He's** talking on the phone.
- **Were you** driving home from work?
  - **We were** driving home from work.

## Helping Verb #3 – HAVE

Use a form of the verb HAVE to make perfect tenses:

Present perfect: Use HAVE (with I, you, we, they) and HAS (with he, she, it)

- **I've** finished my homework.
- She **has** just left the office.
- Bob and Karen **have** already spoken to me.

In spoken English, we often shorten “he has” and “she has” to “he’s” and “she’s”:

- **She’s** (she has) just left the office.
- **He’s** (he has) borrowed my textbook.

## **Forming questions with helping verbs**

Again, when you ask a question with HAVE, the word order changes and the helping verb comes BEFORE the subject:

- **Have** you finished your homework?
- I **have** finished my homework.
- **Has she** left the office?
- **She has** just left the office.
- **Have Bob and Karen** spoken to you?
- **Bob and Karen have** spoken to me.

# Quiz – Basic Helping Verbs

---

Complete each sentence with **do / does / did**:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ your friends speak English?
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ he have any children?
- 3) How \_\_\_\_\_ this machine work?
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ you go anywhere last weekend?
- 5) What \_\_\_\_\_ she buy at the store yesterday?
- 6) What kind of music \_\_\_\_\_ you like?

Complete each sentence with **am / is / are / was / were / will be**:

- 7) My teacher \_\_\_\_\_ explaining the lesson.
- 8) The dogs \_\_\_\_\_ playing in the park.
- 9) I can't talk right now - I \_\_\_\_\_ busy.
- 10) Next week we \_\_\_\_\_ moving to a new house.
- 11) The restaurant \_\_\_\_\_ open yesterday, but it's closed today.
- 12) When I got home last night, my kids \_\_\_\_\_ already asleep.

Complete each sentence with **have / has**:

- 13) All the students \_\_\_\_\_ taken the test.
- 14) I \_\_\_\_\_ just heard some good news.
- 15) Maria \_\_\_\_\_ joined a hiking club.
- 16) My father \_\_\_\_\_ started exercising more.
- 17) We \_\_\_\_\_ recently painted our house.
- 18) \_\_\_\_\_ you ever been to Florida?

19) The milk \_\_\_\_\_ gone bad.

## Quiz Answers – Basic Helping Verbs

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- 1) Do
- 2) Does
- 3) does
- 4) Did
- 5) did
- 6) do
- 7) is
- 8) are
- 9) am
- 10) will be
- 11) was
- 12) were
- 13) have
- 14) have
- 15) has
- 16) has
- 17) have
- 18) Have
- 19) Has

# Modal Helping Verbs

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Now let's learn the modal helping verbs. Modal helping verbs modify the main verb by expressing necessity or possibility.

## USE "CAN / COULD" TO EXPRESS ABILITY / POSSIBILITY:

- I **can** swim.  
*(I have the ability to swim)*
- We **could** go to the movies tonight.  
*(It's possible for us to go to the movies tonight)*
- You **can't** enter the restricted area.  
*(It's not possible for you to enter that area)*
- He tried to call me, but he **couldn't** get through.  
*(It wasn't possible for him to speak to me)*

## USE "MAY / MIGHT" TO EXPRESS "MAYBE"

- We **might** go camping this weekend, depending on the weather.  
*(Maybe we will go camping, maybe we won't)*
- I **may** go to the gym later, if I get off from work early.  
*(Maybe I will go, maybe I won't)*

## USE "SHOULD" TO EXPRESS A RECOMMENDATION / SUGGESTION

- If your head hurts, you **should** go to the doctor.

*(I suggest that you go to the doctor)*

- He **should** see that movie – he'd like it.

*(I recommend that he see the movie)*

## USE “MUST” TO EXPRESS NECESSITY (SOMETHING THAT IS REQUIRED)

- You **must** arrive on time for the exam, otherwise they won't let you take it.

*(It is necessary to arrive on time)*

In spoken English, it's much more common to use “need to” and “have to” and “got to” (informal) for requirements instead of MUST.

- You **have to** arrive on time for the exam.
- You **need to** arrive on time for the exam.
- You **gotta (got to)** arrive on time for the exam.

*(informal spoken English only!)*

## USE “WILL / WON'T” TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE

- I'll help you write the report.

*(I promise to help you write it)*

- That software **won't** work – it's not compatible with the computer.

*(It's certain that the software will not work)*

SHALL is similar to WILL, but it is typically only used in very formal English.

## USE “WOULD” TO EXPRESS A HYPOTHETICAL / IMAGINARY SITUATION

- If I were a millionaire, I **would** give away a lot of my money to charity.
- Dana **would** study English if she had more free time.

In spoken English, WOULD is often shortened to ‘d.

## ASKING QUESTIONS WITH MODAL HELPING VERBS

When you ask a question, the word order changes and the helping verb comes BEFORE the subject:

- I **can** swim.
- **Can you** swim?
- **Could we** go to a movie tonight?
- Yes, **we could**.
- **You should** see that movie.
- **Should I** see that movie?
- I’ll help you.
- **Will you** help me?
- I **would** give away a lot of my money.
- What **would you** do?



## Exercise – Modal helping verbs

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Write complete sentences that are true for you:

- What is something you CAN do? (have the ability)  
*Ex. I can sing very well.*
- What is something you CAN'T do? (don't have the ability)
- What is something you COULD do this weekend? (a possibility)
- What is something you COULDN'T do in the past? (wasn't possible)
- What is something you MIGHT do next year?
- What is something a person SHOULD do in order to be successful?
- What is something a person SHOULDN'T do in order to be successful?
- What is something you MUST do often?
- What is something you WILL do to help someone?
- What is something you WON'T do tomorrow?
- What is something you WOULD do if you were the leader of your country?

# Verbs + TO or -ING?

---

When we have two verbs in a row, many students want to know what form the second verb should take – should we say “hope to see” or “hope seeing”?

Unfortunately there is no clear rule for this – you just need to remember which verbs are followed by the infinitive (to + verb) and which verbs are followed by the -ING form.

## Verbs + TO

Here are some common verbs in English that are followed by the TO form of the next verb:

- **decide** - She **decided to study** biology, not physics.
- **help** - Can you **help me to carry** these boxes?

*It's very common to remove the word “to”:*

Can you **help me carry** these boxes?

- **hope** - We **hope to hear** from you soon.
- **learn** - She's **learning to swim**.

*It's very common to add the word “how” if you are learning a new skill:*

I'm **learning how to cook**.

- **need** - I **need to go** to the supermarket. We don't have any eggs.
- **offer** - My friend **offered to take** me to the airport.
- **plan** - We're **planning to have** a big party when our son graduates from college.
- **pretend** - He **pretended to be** sick so that he didn't have to take the test.

- **promise** - He **promised to call** me back as soon as possible.
- **try** - I'm **trying to read** this book, but it's too difficult.
- **want** - I **want to learn** English so that I can study in the U.S.
- **would like** - I'd **like to travel** to France someday.

With all these verbs, the second verb is always in the “to” form – it doesn't matter which form the first verb is in:

- I **plan to go** to college next year.
- I was **planning to clean** the house yesterday, but I didn't.
- Everyone **planned to meet** up at 8:00 last night.

## **SPECIAL CASE #1: REMEMBER / FORGET**

We use **remember + infinitive** and **forget + infinitive** to talk about the future, to give a reminder:

- **Remember to bring** your dictionary tomorrow!
- **Don't forget to pay** the rent next week.

We can also say we “**forgot to do**” something when we didn't do it in the past:

- Oops – I **forgot to bring** my jacket, and now I'm cold.

## **Verbs + -ING**

Here are some common verbs in English that are followed by -ing.

- **avoid** - You should **avoid eating** after 10 PM.  
~~You should **avoid to eat** after 10 PM.~~  
~~You should **avoid eat** after 10 PM.~~
- **enjoy** - I **enjoy skiing**, surfing, and playing tennis.
- **finish** - Have you **finished reading** the newspaper yet?
- **can't stand** - I **can't stand going** to parties where I don't know anyone.
- **don't mind** - I **don't mind working** overtime.
- **look forward to** - I **look forward to seeing** you next week.
- **practice** - I need to **practice speaking** English more often.
- **spend (time)** - My roommate **spends hours watching** TV.
- **stop** - He **stopped smoking** ten years ago.
- **suggest** - I **suggest taking** some time off.

Again, the second verb takes the -ING form, regardless of the first verb's form:

- You should **practice playing** the piano if you want to get better.
- I've been **practicing standing** on one foot to improve my balance.
- The soccer player **practiced taking** penalty kicks.

## SPECIAL CASE #1: REMEMBER / FORGET

We use **remember + -ing** and **will never forget / won't forget + -ing** to talk about the past, to talk about a memory:

- I **remember having** dinner with my grandparents every Sunday when I was a child.
- I'll never **forget eating** lobster for the first time – it was delicious!

## SPECIAL CASE #2: START / LIKE / LOVE / HATE

Start, like, love, and hate can be used with the infinitive or -ing.

Both are correct!

- The baby **started to cry**.  
= The baby **started crying**.
- I **like to run**.  
= I **like running**.
- I **hate doing** laundry. (*this form is probably more common*)  
= I **hate to do** laundry.
- We **love reading**.  
= We **love to read**.

## Quiz: Verbs + TO or -ING

---

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb:

1. My son decided stopping / to stop his piano lessons.
2. I promised cleaning / to clean the apartment.
3. Would you mind turning / to turn down the music a little?
4. He learned how to drive / driving when he was just 14.
5. I enjoy spending / to spend time with my family.
6. I'm really looking forward to start / starting dance classes next month.
7. Would you like to join / joining us for lunch?
8. I couldn't take any pictures because I forgot bringing / to bring my camera.
9. We need borrowing / to borrow a tent for our camping trip.
10. When are you going to finish to use / using the computer?
11. I've always avoided getting / to get into credit card debt.
12. I'd been planning asking / to ask her out to dinner, but then I found out she already has a boyfriend.
13. I can't stand driving / to drive long distances by myself. It's so boring.
14. Stop trying to call / calling him - he obviously doesn't want to talk / talking to you.
15. Let's stop to waste / wasting time and get some work done.

## Quiz Answers: Verbs + TO or -ING

---

1. My son decided to stop his piano lessons.
2. I promised to clean the apartment.
3. Would you mind turning down the music a little?
4. He learned how to drive when he was just 14.
5. I enjoy spending time with my family.
6. I'm really looking forward to starting dance classes next month.
7. Would you like to join us for lunch?
8. I couldn't take any pictures because I forgot to bring my camera.
9. We need to borrow a tent for our camping trip.
10. When are you going to finish using the computer?
11. I've always avoided getting into credit card debt.
12. I'd been planning to ask her out to dinner, but then I found out she already has a boyfriend.
13. I can't stand driving long distances by myself. It's so boring.
14. Stop trying to call him - he obviously doesn't want to talk to you.
15. Let's stop wasting time and get some work done.

# Direct & Indirect Objects

---

Can you find the mistakes in these sentences? They are all incorrect. They don't sound natural.

- "I bought yesterday a new t-shirt."
- "Please finish quickly the report."
- "I'll put on the table the dishes."

What's wrong with these sentences?

Well, each sentence has a verb – **bought**, **finish**, and **put** – and each sentence also has a direct object. A direct object is the object that is acted upon by the verb.

So, the direct object in the first sentence is, "a new t-shirt." In the second sentence, the direct object is, "the report." And in the third sentence, the direct object is, "the dishes."

It doesn't sound natural when we have a word in the middle between the verb and its direct object. That's why these sentences sound strange.

Here's the correct way to say them:

- "I **bought a new t-shirt** yesterday."
- "Please **finish the report** quickly."
- "I'll **put the dishes** on the table."

So, whenever we have a verb with a direct object, keep the verb and direct object together, and don't put any words in the middle.

**Now, there's one exception and that is indirect objects.**



An indirect object is the person who receives the action, or receives the direct object. In these sentences the indirect objects are capitalized:

- “I gave JOHN the books.”  
gave = verb; John = indirect object; the books = direct object
- “Please send ME the report.”  
send = verb; me = indirect object; the report = direct object
- “I’ll lend YOU my car.”  
lend = verb; you = indirect object; my car = direct object

It’s okay to have an indirect object in the middle between the verb and the direct object.

Here’s one more mistake. Sometimes students say,

- “I gave to John the books.”
- “Please send to me the report.”
- “I’ll lend to you my car.”

These sentences are also incorrect. If you want to use the word “to,” then you should put the indirect object at the *end of the sentence*:

- “I gave the books **to John.**”
- “Please send the report **to me.**”
- “I’ll lend my car **to you.**”

These sentences are the same as when we have the indirect object in the middle:

- “I gave the books **to John.**”
- = “I gave **John** the books.”

Both versions are correct.

Let's review. When a verb has a direct object, keep the direct object immediately after the verb:

- "Please **finish the report** quickly."

It is possible for an indirect object to come in the middle:

- "Please **send ME the report.**"

The indirect object can also be at the end with "to."

- "Please **send the report to ME.**"

But you can't put it in the middle with "to." Don't say, "Please send to me the report." That's not correct.

We often put the indirect object at the end of the sentence with "to" if the indirect object is a long phrase.

- "Please send the report **to the managing editor of the newspaper.**"

"The managing editor of the newspaper," is quite a long phrase, so it's best to put it at the end of the sentence after "to," and not in the middle between the verb and the direct object.

# Quiz - Direct and Indirect Objects

---

*Mark these sentences correct or incorrect, and fix any mistakes with the objects.*

- 1) He will get some gifts for Christmas.
- 2) I made breakfast very early.
- 3) I saved for you a slice of pizza.
- 4) I showed the pictures to my friends.
- 5) Let me give to you some advice.
- 6) My friend offered me a ride home.
- 7) She wants to sell makeup to you.
- 8) The waiter will bring to you a beer.
- 9) They told me an amazing story.
- 10)       We got for you two tickets to the concert.
- 11)       We'll carry upstairs the boxes.
- 12)       You took without asking my camera.

## Quiz Answers – Direct and Indirect Objects

---

- 1) Correct
- 2) Correct
- 3) Incorrect - Should be: I saved you a slice of pizza / I saved a slice of pizza for you.
- 4) Correct
- 5) Incorrect - Should be: Let me give you some advice / Let me give some advice to you.
- 6) Correct
- 7) Correct
- 8) Incorrect - Should be: The waiter will bring you a beer (best, most natural way) / The waiter will bring a beer to you.
- 9) Correct
- 10) Incorrect - Should be: We got you two tickets to the concert / We got two tickets to the concert for you.
- 11) Incorrect - Should be: We'll carry the boxes upstairs.
- 12) Incorrect - Should be: You took my camera without asking.

# Countable and Uncountable Nouns

---

**Countable nouns** are things we can count – for example, cats:

- My brother has **a cat**.
- My sister has **two cats**.
- My friend has **three cats**.

Other examples of countable nouns:

- **Things** - books, tables, computers, bananas, shirts, televisions, houses.
- **People** - men, women, children, friends, uncles, teachers, bosses.

**Uncountable nouns** are words that we can't count, or can't divide into separate parts:

- **Liquids and some foods** - water, butter, rice, flour, milk
- **Ideas and concepts** - love, fun, work, money, peace, safety
- **Information** - advice, information, news, knowledge
- **Categories** - music, furniture, equipment, jewelry, meat

COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE
dollar / dollars	money
song / songs	music
table / tables	furniture
bottle / bottles	wine, water

report / reports	information
job / jobs	work

Never add -s to uncountable nouns:

- ~~I need some **informations** about the course.~~
- I need some **information** about the course.

Instead, you can use other words to help quantify uncountable nouns:

- She bought **three bottles of wine** and five boxes of rice.
- He gave me **two pieces of advice**: eat less and exercise more.

With **countable nouns**, we use **many**, **few**, and **a lot of**:

- How **many glasses** of water do you drink every day?
- There are too **many people** in the room.
- I have a **few questions** about the lesson.
- I eat **a lot of vegetables**.

With **uncountable nouns**, we use **much**, **little** and **a lot of**:

- How **much water** do you drink every day?
- He put too **much salt** in the soup.
- We have too **little information** to make a decision.
- She has **a lot of experience** in this type of work.

We can use **some**, **any**, and **no** with both uncountable nouns and **plural** countable nouns:

- Can I borrow **some** of your books?
- Would you like to listen to **some** music?
- I don't have **any** ideas.
- I don't have **any** money.
- There are **no** chairs in the living room.
- There's **no** furniture in the living room.

With **singular** countable nouns, we use **a / an**. We never use these with uncountable nouns.

- I listened to **a song**.
- I listened to **music**.
- ~~I listened to **a music**.~~
- I need **a suggestion**.
- I need **advice**.
- ~~I need **an advice**.~~

For more advanced information, take this lesson on [nouns that are both countable and uncountable](#).

# Quiz: Countable / Uncountable Nouns

---

1) I didn't understand the lesson, so I asked \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a lot of questions.
- B. many question.
- C. a little question.

2) \_\_\_\_\_ think English grammar is difficult.

- A. A lot of person
- B. Many people
- C. Much people

3) \_\_\_\_\_ of books were delivered to the school yesterday.

- A. A few boxes
- B. Any boxes
- C. Some box

4) Their relationship has \_\_\_\_\_. They argue almost every day.

- A. a lot of problems
- B. many problem
- C. much problems

5) There are \_\_\_\_\_ in the classroom.

- A. some desk
- B. so much desks
- C. twenty desks

6) How \_\_\_\_\_ do you drink?

- A. lots of tea
- B. many tea
- C. much tea



**7) He has \_\_\_\_\_ to do over the weekend.**

- A. a lot of works
- B. many work
- C. some work

**8) My father's going on \_\_\_\_\_ next month.**

- A. two business trips
- B. two business travels
- C. much business trips

**9) I like \_\_\_\_\_ by Lady Gaga.**

- A. a few songs
- B. some musics
- C. many music

**10. Don't go to that part of the city at night - there's \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. a few violence
- B. a lot of violence
- C. many violences

# Quiz Answers: Countable & Uncountable Nouns

---

1. A - a lot of questions
2. B - Many people
3. A - A few boxes
4. A - a lot of problems
5. C - twenty desks
6. C - much tea
7. C - some work
8. A - two business trips
9. A - a few songs
10. B - a lot of violence

# Forming Plurals of Nouns

---

To form regular plural nouns, **add -S**:

wall	<b>walls</b>
ski	<b>skis</b>
cat	<b>cats</b>

With nouns ending in -CH, -SH, -X, and -S sounds, **add -ES**:

switch	<b>switches</b>
brush	<b>brushes</b>
box	<b>boxes</b>
address	<b>addresses</b>

**Exception:** When -CH is pronounced like K (stomach → **stomachs**)

With nouns ending in -Y, the plurals end with -IES:

baby	<b>babies</b>
army	<b>armies</b>
puppy	<b>puppies</b>

Nouns that end in an -F sound change to -VES in the plural form:

knife	<b>knives</b>
-------	---------------

wife	<b>wives</b>
half	<b>halves</b>
self	<b>selves</b>
wolf	<b>wolves</b>
leaf	<b>leaves</b>

There are some exceptions, such as ***chef/chefs & roof/roofs***

Nouns ending in -O can be made plural with -S or -ES – it depends on the word!

Here are some that always end in -ES:

potato/tomato	<b>potatoes/tomatoes</b>
hero	<b>heroes</b>
torpedo	<b>torpedoes</b>
echo	<b>echoes</b>

And these always end in -S:

stereo	<b>stereos</b>
memo	<b>memos</b>
solo	<b>solos</b>
zoo	<b>zoos</b>
studio	<b>studios</b>

Some nouns ending in -O can be made plural either way!

ghetto	<b>ghettos</b>	<b>ghettoes</b>
--------	----------------	-----------------

mango	<b>mangos</b>	<b>mangoes</b>
motto	<b>mottos</b>	<b>mottoes</b>
tornado	<b>tornados</b>	<b>tornadoes</b>
tuxedo	<b>tuxedos</b>	<b>tuxedoes</b>
volcano	<b>volcanos</b>	<b>volcanoes</b>

We also have some nouns that *look* plural because they end in -S, but they actually take a *singular* verb:

- **news** – The news **was** so depressing.  
*(not “the news were”)*
- **gymnastics** – Gymnastics **is** great for getting in shape.
- **economics/mathematics** – Economics **is** quite difficult.

And these nouns are single objects, but take a plural verb:

- **pants** – These pants **are** too small.  
*(not “This pants is too small”)*
- **scissors** – Where **are** the scissors?
- **glasses** – When I last saw your glasses, **they were** on the table.

Finally, we have some VERY irregular nouns – you just need to memorize these plural forms!

man	<b>men</b>
woman	<b>women</b>
child	<b>children</b>
person	<b>people</b>

tooth	<b>teeth</b>
foot	<b>feet</b>
vertebra	<b>vertebrae</b>
mouse	<b>mice</b>
goose	<b>geese</b>

And there are also a few nouns that are the same in singular and plural form:

one sheep	<b>two sheep</b>
one deer	<b>two deer</b>
one fish	<b>two fish</b>
one series	<b>two series</b>
one species	<b>two species</b>

# Quiz – Forming Plurals of Nouns

---

Write the plural form of each noun:

- 1) Do you want some fresh \_\_\_\_\_ (strawberry)?
- 2) He dated several \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) before meeting his wife.
- 3) I put the spices on \_\_\_\_\_ (shelf) in the kitchen).
- 4) I've been watching three great TV \_\_\_\_\_ (series) lately.
- 5) Lots of \_\_\_\_\_ (bus) leave the station every hour.
- 6) Many \_\_\_\_\_ (child) love that playground.
- 7) Our cat has caught a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ (mouse).
- 8) Please turn off all the \_\_\_\_\_ (light) when you leave.
- 9) The dentist will check your \_\_\_\_\_ (tooth)
- 10) The police haven't caught the \_\_\_\_\_ (thief) yet.
- 11) The students' \_\_\_\_\_ (family) came to the graduation.
- 12) There are lots of \_\_\_\_\_ (fish) in the lake.
- 13) There are only a few \_\_\_\_\_ (house) on our street.
- 14) They visited several \_\_\_\_\_ (church) on the tour.
- 15) Those soldiers were \_\_\_\_\_ (hero) in battle.
- 16) Three \_\_\_\_\_ (car) got into an accident.
- 17) We added \_\_\_\_\_ (potato) to the stew.
- 18) We need to wash the \_\_\_\_\_ (dish) after dinner.

## Quiz Answers – Forming Plurals of Nouns

---

- 1) strawberries
- 2) women
- 3) shelves
- 4) series
- 5) buses
- 6) children
- 7) mice
- 8) lights
- 9) teeth
- 10) thieves
- 11) families
- 12) fish
- 13) houses
- 14) churches
- 15) heroes
- 16) cars
- 17) potatoes
- 18) dishes



# This, That, These, Those

---

<b>This</b>	1 thing – near
<b>That</b>	1 thing – far
<b>These</b>	2+ things – near
<b>Those</b>	2+ things – far



**This** apple is green.



**That** apple is red.



**These** books are new.



**Those** books are old.

We can also use **this/that/these/those** before a number, when the noun was recently mentioned or is understood from the context:

- I need to read all the books, starting with **this one**. (= *this book*)
- What delicious-looking cakes! I'll take **that one**. (= *that cake*)
- Most of these plates are clean, but **these two** are dirty. (= *these two plates*)
- Do you like any of the paintings?

I like **those three**. (= *those three paintings*)

In a similar way, we can also use **this/that/these/those** by themselves – again, when what we are referring to is understood from the context.

- Thank you so much for your help. I'll never forget **this**. (= *this situation, this help you gave me*)
- I heard the English school is closing permanently!  
Hmm, I don't know anything about **that**. (= *that situation*)
- (*Waiter brings a plate of French fries to the table*)  
I didn't order **these**. (= *these French fries*)
- (*Pointing to some flowers*) Wow, look at **those!** (= *those flowers*)

There's no quiz today – instead, look around and try to make sentences using **this/that/these/those** about objects that are near or far from you, for example:

- **This** computer is very fast.
- **That** dog is really cute.
- **These** are my favorite sunglasses.
- I might get one of **those** muffins.

# Articles: A, An, The

---

We use **a/an** to talk about one non-specific thing.

We use **the** to talk about a specific thing.



I'm going to eat **an** apple.



I'm going to eat **the** green apple.

Here are more examples:

<b>a / an</b>	<b>general</b>	I want to buy <u>a</u> car.
	(one of many)	He's eating <u>an</u> apple.
		Do you have <u>a</u> bike?

		<p>She is <u>an</u> old woman.</p> <p>I'm reading <u>a</u> book.</p>
<b>the</b>	<p><b>specific</b></p> <p>(one specific)</p>	<p>Tokyo is <u>the</u> capital of Japan.</p> <p><u>The</u> new Chinese restaurant is very good.</p> <p>We like <u>the</u> blue car.</p> <p><u>The</u> girl in the red dress is beautiful.</p> <p>I'm reading <u>the</u> new book by J.K. Rowling.</p>

Use “an” if the word starts with the sound of a, e, i, o, u:

- an apple
- an egg
- an ice cream shop
- an open door
- an umbrella
- an hour (*the “h” is silent*)

Use “a” if the word starts with any other sound:

- a ball
- a jacket
- a hat

- a tree
- a uniform (*the “u” is pronounced like “yu”*)
- a water bottle
- a yellow shirt

Do not use “the” with countries or cities:

- ~~I live in **the** China.~~
- I live in China.

There are a few exceptions: the United States, the United Kingdom, the Philippines

Do not use “the” with things in general:

- ~~She likes **the** pizza.~~
- She likes pizza.
- She likes **the** pizza from Tony’s Restaurant. (specific)

For more advanced information, take this lesson on [Common Mistakes with A / AN / THE.](#)

# Quiz: A, An, The

---

Complete the sentences with A, AN, THE, or --- if no article is needed.

1) Leonardo is \_\_\_\_\_ actor.

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. ----

2) Jim plays \_\_\_\_\_ basketball after school.

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. ---

3) My new office has \_\_\_\_\_ window.

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. ---

4) There's \_\_\_\_\_ problem with the equipment.

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the

D. ---

5) \_\_\_\_\_ only light in the classroom isn't working.

A. a

B. an

C. the

D. ---

6) He has \_\_\_\_\_ interesting job.

A. a

B. an

C. the

D. ---

7) We've been to \_\_\_\_\_ France three times.

A. a

B. an

C. the

D. ---

8) \_\_\_\_\_ light blue jeans I bought yesterday are too small.

A. A

B. An

C. The

D. ---

9) Martha hates \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables.



- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. ---

**10) My friend said it was \_\_\_\_\_ best movie of the year.**

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. ---

**11) I have \_\_\_\_\_ idea!**

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. ---

**12) Bob has \_\_\_\_\_ great idea for a new product.**

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. ---

**13) I have \_\_\_\_\_ uncle who lives in Florida.**

- A. a
- B. an

C. the

D. ---

**14) Sally is \_\_\_\_\_ tallest girl in the class.**

A. a

B. an

C. the

D. ---

**15) They're going to see \_\_\_\_\_ show at \_\_\_\_\_ theater on Main Street.**

A. a / ---

B. the / a

C. a / the

D. the / ---

## Quiz Answers: A, An, The

---

1. B - an
2. D
3. A - a
4. A - a
5. C - the
6. B - an
7. D
8. C - the
9. D
10. C - the
11. B - an
12. A - a
13. B - an
14. C - the
15. C - a/the

# Possessives

---

Possessives are words like **my, your, his, her,** and **our**. We use these to show what belongs to a person. Let's look at some examples:

NOUN OR PRONOUN	POSSESSIVE	EXAMPLE
I	<b>my</b>	<b>My</b> name is Sandra.
you	<b>your</b>	What's <b>your</b> name?
he	<b>his</b>	<b>His</b> name is John.
she	<b>her</b>	<b>Her</b> computer is fast.
it	<b>its</b>	My car is old, so <b>its</b> engine isn't powerful.
we	<b>our</b>	<b>Our</b> apartment is in the city center.
they	<b>their</b>	My parents sold <b>their</b> house.

To form possessives with names and words, we add 's.

Mary	<b>Mary's</b>	<b>Mary's</b> phone number is 555-4321.
Joe	<b>Joe's</b>	<b>Joe's</b> favorite color is green.
the boy	<b>the boy's</b>	The <b>boy's</b> clothes are dirty.
cat	<b>cat's</b>	My <b>cat's</b> name is Ginger.
country	<b>country's</b>	My <b>country's</b> flag is red, white, and blue.

To form a possessive with a plural, we just add an apostrophe. The pronunciation doesn't change:

friends	<b>friends'</b>	My <b>friends'</b> names are Patrick and Gloria.
parents	<b>parents'</b>	Her <b>parents'</b> car is very big.

Don't confuse its (possessive) with it's (contraction for "it is")!

- ~~The cat ate **it's** food.~~
- The cat ate **its** food.
- ~~**Its** illegal for a 17-year-old to buy alcohol.~~
- **It's** illegal for a 17-year-old to buy alcohol.

Another important thing is that when the possessive occurs immediately *before* the noun, we use my/your/his/her/our/their. If the possessive occurs *after* the noun + to be, then we use mine/yours/his/hers/ours/theirs:

- This is **my** umbrella.
- This umbrella is **mine**.
- Here's **your** drink.
- This drink is **yours**.
- I went to **his** house.
- This house is **his**.
- That's **her** cat.
- That cat is **hers**.
- There's **our** car.

- That car is **ours**.
- Those are **their** children.
- Those children are **theirs**.

The possessive **its** can only be used *before* the noun, not after it.

- The dog wants **its** bone.
- ~~Here's my dog. That bone is **its**.~~
- That bone **belongs to my dog**.
- That's **my dog's bone**.

# Quiz – Possessives

---

1) Dan and Benny were late to \_\_\_\_\_ first high school class.

- A. his
- B. its
- C. their

2) "Do you know what \_\_\_\_\_ favorite band is?"

"I'm not sure, but I think she likes rock music."

- A. its
- B. Maria's
- C. John's

3) Good news! Brian passed \_\_\_\_\_ driving test!

- A. his
- B. her
- C. your

4) "Have you been to any of the restaurants on Main Street?"

"No. \_\_\_\_\_ prices are too high."

- A. my
- B. its

C. their

**5) I can't eat Thai food. \_\_\_\_\_ too spicy for me.**

A. Is

B. It's

C. Its

**6) I don't feel well. \_\_\_\_\_ stomach hurts.**

A. I'm

B. my

C. your

**7) My friend and I drive to work together because \_\_\_\_\_ offices are in the same neighborhood.**

A. its

B. our

C. their

**8) I think you'll love the new television - \_\_\_\_\_ screen is huge!**

A. its

B. his

C. your



9) Mary was \_\_\_\_\_ mother.

- A. Jesu's
- B. Jesus'
- C. Jesus's

10) My \_\_\_\_\_ toys are quite expensive.

- A. children's
- B. childrens'
- C. childrens's

11) We had a lot of cold days in January, but \_\_\_\_\_ weather should be warmer.

- A. Februarys
- B. Februaries
- C. February's

12) My sister lost \_\_\_\_\_ glasses. Now she can't see anything!

- A. his
- B. her
- C. your

13) These \_\_\_\_\_ keyboards are broken.

- A. computer's
- B. computers'
- C. computers's

**14) Where did you go on \_\_\_\_\_ last vacation?**

- A. you
- B. your
- C. you're

**15) My brothers and \_\_\_\_\_ wives live in Portland.**

- A. his
- B. our
- C. their

# Quiz Answers: Possessives

---

1. C - their
2. B - Maria's
3. A - his
4. C - their
5. B - It's
6. B - my
7. B - our
8. A - its
9. B - Jesus'
- 10.A - children's
- 11.C - February's
- 12.B - her
- 13.B - computers'
- 14.B - your
- 15.C – their

# Some, Any, No

---

Use **SOME** in positive statements:

- I've read **some** good books lately.

We can use "some" with uncountable nouns and with plural countable nouns.

- I need **some** information. (uncountable)
- I need **some** answers. (plural countable)

With singular countable nouns, just use a/an:

- I've read **a** good book lately.
- I need **an** answer.

Use **ANY** in negative statements (with don't, didn't, haven't, etc.)

- I **don't** like **any** of these books.

Use "any" with uncountable nouns and with plural countable nouns. With singular countable nouns, just use a/an:

- I don't have **any pencils**.  
(*pencils = plural countable noun*)

- I don't have **any paper**.  
(*paper = uncountable noun*)

- ~~I don't have **any dictionary**.~~

I don't have **a dictionary**.

(*dictionary = singular countable noun*)

Use **ANY** in questions:

- Did you read **any** of these articles?
- Do they have **any** children?

Exception: Always use **SOME** when **offering** something (would you like...?) or **asking** for something (can I have...?)

- Can I have some soda?
- Would you like some chicken?

## **ANY or NO?**

In sentences that begin with “There,“ you can say them two different ways:

- There **aren't any** books on the table.  
= There **are no** books on the table.
- There **isn't any** milk in the fridge.  
= There's **no** milk in the fridge.
- There **wasn't any** music at the party.  
= There **was no** music at the party.
- There **weren't any** cookies in the box.  
= There **were no** cookies in the box.

Both forms are correct! But never use “not” and “no” together:

- ~~There **aren't no** books on the table.~~
- ~~There **isn't no** milk in the fridge.~~
- ~~There **wasn't no** music at the party.~~

- ~~There weren't no cookies in the box.~~

The same rules apply to **something** (positive sentences), **anything** (negative sentences with don't, didn't, etc. and questions), and **nothing** (negative sentences without don't, didn't, etc.)

- I want to try **something** new this year.
- I **didn't** eat **anything** at the restaurant.
- **Are** you doing **anything** interesting this weekend?
- There's **nothing** to do in this town.
- ~~There isn't nothing to do in this town.~~
- There **isn't anything** to do in this town.

**Someone** and **somebody** are the same, as are **anyone** and **anybody** and **no one** and **nobody**.

- **Someone** forgot to turn the lights off before leaving.
- I **don't** know **anyone** who works from home.
- **Did** you meet **anyone** new at the conference?
- **Nobody** likes the new teacher.

**Somewhere / Anywhere / Nowhere**

- Let's go **somewhere** warm on our next vacation.
- I **can't** find my keys **anywhere**!
- **Did** you go **anywhere** else before coming home?
- The waiting room was so crowded that there was **nowhere** to sit down.

## Quiz: Some / Any / No

---

1. We bought any / some apples at the market.
2. They don't have any / some children.
3. I have anything / something to tell you.
4. We didn't understand anything / nothing the teacher said.
5. Anybody / Somebody ate the last piece of cake.
6. I rang the doorbell, but anyone / no one was home.
7. Do you know where Rachel is? I don't see her anywhere / somewhere in this room.
8. Fortunately, there were any / no problems with the software installation.

## Quiz Answers: Some / Any / No

---

1. some
2. any
3. something
4. anything
5. somebody
6. no one
7. anywhere
8. no



# Prepositions: In, On, At

---

English learners often have difficulty knowing which preposition to use.

The words **in**, **on**, and **at** are used in different ways when talking about time and place:

	TIME	PLACE
<b>IN</b>	<p><b>Months</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>In</u> January</li><li>• <u>In</u> October</li></ul> <p><b>Seasons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>In</u> the summer</li><li>• <u>In</u> the spring</li></ul> <p><b>Years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>In</u> 2004</li><li>• <u>In</u> 1986</li></ul> <p><b>Periods of the day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>In</u> the morning</li><li>• <u>In</u> the evening</li></ul> <p>(exception: <b>at night</b>)</p>	<p><b>Cities and countries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>In</u> Tokyo</li><li>• <u>In</u> Japan</li></ul> <p><b>Rooms and buildings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>In</u> the kitchen</li><li>• <u>In</u> the supermarket</li></ul> <p><b>Closed spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>In</u> the car</li><li>• <u>In</u> a park</li></ul>

	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PLACE</b>
<b>ON</b>	<b>Dates and days</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>On</u> Monday</li> <li>• <u>On</u> February 14<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <u>On</u> the fifth day of the month</li> <li>• <u>On</u> our anniversary</li> </ul>	<b>Transportation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>On</u> the bus</li> <li>• <u>On</u> a bike</li> <li>• <u>On</u> the train</li> </ul> (exception: <i>in a car</i> )  <b>Surfaces</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>On</u> the table</li> <li>• <u>On</u> the wall</li> <li>• <u>On</u> the floor / ground</li> </ul>

	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PLACE</b>
<b>AT</b>	<b>Times</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>At</u> 6:00</li> <li>• <u>At</u> half past three</li> <li>• <u>At</u> noon</li> </ul>	<b>Contexts / Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>At</u> school</li> <li>• <u>At</u> work</li> <li>• <u>At</u> a party</li> </ul>

For a quick review, here's how we talk about time:

- **At** 11:00 (time)
- **On** Monday (day)
- **In** June (month)

- **In** the fall (season)
- **In** 1998 (year)

And here's how we talk about location:

- **At** a sports game (context)
- **On** the field (surface)
- **In** the stadium (limited/enclosed space)
- **In** New York (city)
- **In** the U.S. (country)

# Quiz: IN, ON, AT

---

Complete each sentence with **in**, **on**, or **at**.

1. "Are you working right now?"  
"No, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ home."
2. "Where's my hairbrush?"  
"It's \_\_\_\_\_ the bathroom."
3. I like to go skiing \_\_\_\_\_ the winter.
4. My cousin lives \_\_\_\_\_ Australia.
5. I'll start my new job \_\_\_\_\_ March 1st.
6. My sister's arriving \_\_\_\_\_ the earliest train tomorrow morning.
7. My son is waiting for me to pick him up \_\_\_\_\_ the bus stop.
8. We're going to a baseball game \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday.
9. Why are your clothes \_\_\_\_\_ the floor? Please put them away!
10. My mother's birthday is \_\_\_\_\_ May.
11. I got lost because I got \_\_\_\_\_ the wrong bus.
12. It's a dangerous area; you shouldn't go there \_\_\_\_\_ night.
13. Living \_\_\_\_\_ New York City is very expensive.
14. My boyfriend and I met \_\_\_\_\_ the gym.
15. Our company was founded \_\_\_\_\_ 1972.
16. I have two classes \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.
17. The meeting ended \_\_\_\_\_ 4:45.
18. There's a bowl of fruit \_\_\_\_\_ the table.
19. We have a big family dinner \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Eve.
20. The books are \_\_\_\_\_ my backpack.

## Quiz Answers: In, On, At

---

1. at
2. in
3. in
4. in
5. on
6. on
7. at
8. on
9. on
- 10.in
- 11.on
- 12.at
- 13.in
- 14.at
- 15.in
- 16.in
- 17.at
- 18.on
- 19.on
- 20.in

# Prepositions: Of, From, To, and For

---

These prepositions are so common that it's impossible to cover ALL their uses in this short lesson, but today I'm going to explain the basic differences and the most common ways to use them.

Many other languages have just one word for both "of" and "from," but in English we use these two words in different ways.

**From** is used to talk about origins, sources, and starting points:

- I'm **from** the U.S.
- ~~I'm **of** the U.S.~~
- This scene is **from** an old movie.
- I borrowed a book **from** the library.
- We just got home **from** work.

**From** can be used to talk about distance:

- We live ten miles **from** the beach.
- The closet is three feet away **from** the desk.

**From** is sometimes used to express a reason:

- He died **from** dehydration.
- I'm sore **from** the workout I did yesterday.

We also use **from... to/till/until** to describe starting and ending times:

- I lived in Brazil **from** 2009 **to** 2016.
- I'll be out of the office **from** Wednesday **until** Friday.

We often use **of** when talking about a quality, aspect, or part of an object:

- the color **of** the sky
- the name **of** the movie
- the handle **of** the suitcase

Note: when talking about possession by people, animals, or groups, we usually use 's instead:

- ~~the husband **of** my friend~~
- my friend's husband

**Of** is also used for physical surfaces, with the words top/bottom/side/inside/outside:

- the top/bottom **of** the shoe
- the side **of** the car
- the inside **of** the jacket
- the outside **of** the box

**Of** is used with the quantity expressions all of, most/many of, both of, a few of, one of, none of:

- **All of** the students passed the test.
- I spend **most of** my time studying.
- **Both of** my parents are lawyers.
- He lent me **a few of** his books.
- **One of** my friends had a baby.
- **None of** these bananas are ripe.

What about **made of** and **made from**?

In general, we use **made of** when talking about the basic material of something:

- This table is **made of** wood.
- These earrings are **made of** silver.
- My shirt is **made of** cotton.

We use **made from** when there has been a transformation in the process of making the object:

- Wine is **made from** grapes.
- That new medicine was **made from** plants.
- Paper is **made from** trees.

The prepositions **to** and **for** are also very easy to confuse! Here are some rules:

Use **TO** in these cases:

- Destination – “We’re going **to** Paris.”
- Time until the next hour – “It’s a quarter **to** 2.”
- Distance – “It’s about ten miles from my house **to** the university.”
- Giving – “I gave the book **to** my sister.”
- Motive/Reason (with verb) “I came here **to** see you.”

Use **FOR** in these cases:

- Benefits – “Yogurt is good **for** your digestion.”
- Period of time – “We’ve lived here **for** 2 years.”
- Doing something to help someone – “Could you carry these books **for** me?”
- Motive/Reason (with noun) “Let’s go out **for** a drink.”



- Function – with verb (-ing form) – “A ladle is a big spoon used **for** serving soup.”

TO or FOR can be used for a motive/reason, but TO is always with a verb, and FOR is always with a noun. Here are some examples:

- I came to New York **to make money.** (verb)
- I came to New York **for a new job.** (noun)
- I bought this course **to help** me learn English. (verb)
- I’m studying English **for an exam.** (noun)

# Quiz – Of, From, To, For

---

Complete each sentence with **of** or **from**:

- 1) How far is it \_\_\_\_\_ here to the city center?
- 2) I got a gift \_\_\_\_\_ my grandparents.
- 3) I ran away \_\_\_\_\_ the angry dog.
- 4) I wrote my name at the top \_\_\_\_\_ the paper.
- 5) My family is originally \_\_\_\_\_ Argentina.
- 6) My favorite time \_\_\_\_\_ day is the early evening.
- 7) One leg \_\_\_\_\_ the table is broken.
- 8) Part \_\_\_\_\_ this banana is rotten.
- 9) The school year is \_\_\_\_\_ September to May.
- 10) These shoes are \_\_\_\_\_ the new store on Main Street.
- 11) This ornament is made \_\_\_\_\_ glass, so it's fragile.
- 12) This purse was made \_\_\_\_\_ recycled plastic bags.
- 13) You can see the sunset from that side \_\_\_\_\_ the building.

Complete each sentence with **to** or **for**:

- 14) Can we stop at the store \_\_\_\_\_ get some groceries?
- 15) Exercising every day is great \_\_\_\_\_ your health.
- 16) He's been looking for a job \_\_\_\_\_ several months.
- 17) I cooked dinner \_\_\_\_\_ my friend when she was sick.
- 18) I need to buy a notebook \_\_\_\_\_ class.
- 19) I'm studying \_\_\_\_\_ become a veterinarian.
- 20) Let's walk \_\_\_\_\_ the park.

- 21) My alarm went off at ten minutes \_\_\_\_\_ seven.
- 22) They went shopping \_\_\_\_\_ some new clothes.
- 23) We can take the train \_\_\_\_\_ New York.
- 24) We sent the package \_\_\_\_\_ your house.

## Quiz Answers – Of, From, To, For

---

- 1) from
- 2) from
- 3) from
- 4) of
- 5) from
- 6) of
- 7) of
- 8) of
- 9) from
- 10) from
- 11) of
- 12) from
- 13) of
- 14) to
- 15) for
- 16) for
- 17) for
- 18) for
- 19) to
- 20) to
- 21) to
- 22) for
- 23) to
- 24) to

# Too and Enough

---

Many students make mistakes with the words “too” and “enough” when talking about sufficient or excess amounts. Here are the correct ways to use these:

## STRUCTURES FOR USING “TOO”

<b>too</b> + adjective	This shirt is <b>too expensive</b> . It costs \$30 and I only have \$25. <i>(not “too much expensive”)</i>
<b>too much</b> + uncountable noun	I drank <b>too much water</b> ; now I really need to go to the bathroom!
<b>too many</b> + countable noun	She put <b>too many eggs</b> into the cake. The recipe said 3 and she used 5.
verb + <b>too much</b>	He <b>complains too much</b> . He has such a negative attitude.

## STRUCTURES FOR USING “ENOUGH”

<b>enough</b> + noun  (countable or uncountable)	We don’t have <b>enough people</b> for a soccer team. We have 8 people and a team needs at least 11.  <i>(not “people enough”)</i>
--------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	I think I have <b>enough information</b> to make a decision.
adjective + <b>enough</b>	Sorry kid, you're not <b>old enough</b> to buy alcohol. You're 19 and the minimum age is 21.
verb + <b>enough</b>	I don't <b>exercise enough</b> . I need to go to the gym more than once a month.

## Quiz – Too and Enough

---

- The computer was \_\_\_\_\_, so we didn't buy it.
  - expensive enough
  - enough expensive
  - too expensive
- This book is \_\_\_\_\_ to read; I don't understand it at all.
  - difficult enough
  - too difficult
  - enough difficult
- They didn't have \_\_\_\_\_ for all the people at the wedding reception.
  - enough food
  - food enough
  - too food

4. There were \_\_\_\_\_ students in the classroom and \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. enough / too much desks
  - B. too / not desks enough
  - C. too many / not enough desks
5. I wanted to catch the 9:00 train, but I arrived \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. enough late
  - B. too late
  - C. too much late
6. The test was \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone to pass.
- A. easy enough
  - B. too much easy
  - C. enough easy
7. Do we have \_\_\_\_\_ to buy a house?
- A. enough money
  - B. money enough
  - C. too many money
8. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ to drive because I didn't get \_\_\_\_\_ last night.
- A. enough tired / sleep enough
  - B. tired enough / too sleep
  - C. too tired / enough sleep
9. This dress is \_\_\_\_\_. I need a smaller size.

- A. too big
- B. too much big
- C. too many big

10. I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ at breakfast this morning, and now I'm hungry!

- A. eat enough
- B. too much eat
- C. eat too many



## Quiz Answers: Too and Enough

---

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. A
8. C
9. A
- 10.A

# Either and Neither

---

## How to use EITHER

When we have two options, the word **either** means only one of the two (but not the other):

- You can have **either** chocolate ice cream or vanilla – which one would you like?
- Come visit on **either** Monday or Wednesday.
- If he's not in his office, he's **either** in the bathroom or out to lunch.

When someone offers you a choice between two things, and you don't care which one is chosen, you can respond with "Either one."

- "Would you like coffee or tea?"
- "**Either one.** Whatever everyone else is having."
- "We have these two photos, which one do you want to use in the brochure?"
- "**Either one.** They both look good to me."

## How to use NEITHER

**Not either** and **neither** both mean NOT one thing, and NOT the other thing:

- I don't speak **either** French **or** Spanish.  
= I speak **neither** French **nor** Spanish.
- I don't speak **either** of those languages.

= I speak **neither** of those languages.

As you can see in the example sentences, we use:

- **not – either – or** and **neither – nor** when *naming the two items specifically*
- **not – either of** and **neither of** when *saying the two items together as a group*

Here are more examples:

- **Neither** my mother **nor** my father like to travel.  
= **Neither of** my parents like to travel.
- **Neither** the first book **nor** the second book was very good.  
= **Neither of** the books was very good.  
= **Neither** book was very good.

When the two things are of the same type – as in two books – we can say **neither of the books** or **neither book**.

When someone offers you a choice between two things, and you dislike both or you don't want the first thing or the second thing, you can respond with "Neither" or "Neither one."

- "Do you want a sandwich or a piece of pizza?"  
"Neither. I'm actually not hungry at all."
- "Which of these two candidates do you think is better for the job?"  
"Neither one. We need somebody more experienced."

## **NOT EITHER and NEITHER for "also not"**

When somebody makes a negative statement (a statement with the word “not” in it), you can use not either / neither to say “also not.”

The structure of the reply is a little different, depending on which one you use:

- “I can’t swim.”  
“I can’t **either**.” = “**Neither** can I.” = “Me **neither**” (informal)
- “Kate didn’t come to class today.”  
“Bob didn’t **either**.” = “**Neither** did Bob.”
- “We haven’t booked our tickets yet.”  
“We haven’t **either**.” = “**Neither** have we.”

## Pronunciation

Both either and neither have two possible pronunciations:

- Pronunciation #1 – EITHER (“ei” pronounced like the “ee” in “see”)
- Pronunciation #2 – EITHER (“ei” pronounced like the “i” in “like”)
- Pronunciation #1 – NEITHER (“ei” pronounced like the “ee” in “see”)
- Pronunciation #2 – NEITHER (“ei” pronounced like the “i” in “like”)

All forms are correct.

# Quiz – Either and Neither

---

Complete each sentence with **either** or **neither**:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ of these shirts fit me; do you have a larger size?
- 2) Do you want to take the bus or the train?  
\_\_\_\_\_ one is fine with me.
- 3) Have you called \_\_\_\_\_ of your parents lately?
- 4) I don't like this movie. I don't \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) I got two job offers, but I didn't want to work for \_\_\_\_\_ of those big companies.
- 6) I'm an introvert; I like \_\_\_\_\_ huge parties nor noisy crowds.
- 7) My boss offered me \_\_\_\_\_ an extra day off or a small bonus.
- 8) We called two babysitters, but \_\_\_\_\_ one was available, so we'll have to find someone else.
- 9) We could go to \_\_\_\_\_ the museum or the beach, but we don't have time to do both.
- 10) We're not doing anything special this weekend.  
\_\_\_\_\_ are we.

## Quiz Answers: Either and Neither

---

- 1) Neither
- 2) Either
- 3) either
- 4) either
- 5) either
- 6) neither
- 7) either
- 8) neither
- 9) either
- 10)       Neither

# Agreeing with So / Neither / Too

---



*“I love strawberry ice cream.” – “Me too!”*

## Me Too / Me Neither

The easiest way to express that the same thing is true for you is to say, **“Me too”** (to agree with a positive statement) or **“Me neither”** (to agree with a negative statement):

- “I love strawberry ice cream.”
  - **“Me too!”**
- “I don’t go to the gym very often.”
  - **“Me neither.”**

A **“negative statement”** is any sentence that uses a negative helping verb:

- don’t / doesn’t / didn’t
- can’t
- haven’t / hasn’t / hadn’t
- won’t / wouldn’t
- isn’t / aren’t / am not

- never

You can say “Me too” or “Me neither” in response to statements in any tense (present, past, future, present continuous, present perfect, past perfect, etc.)

Examples:

- “I’ve been traveling a lot for work lately.”
  - **“Me too.”**
- “I haven’t seen the new movie yet.”
  - **“Me neither.”**
- “I’m going to the beach tomorrow.”
  - **“Me too!”**
- “I can’t draw very well.”
  - **“Me neither.”**

**Note:** The phrase **“me either”** is not technically correct... but many people still say it in spoken English!

## **So do I / Neither do I**

You can say **“So do I”** and **“Neither do I”** to agree with **simple present sentences**.

- “I always sleep late on Saturday.”
  - **“So do I.”**
- “I don’t think that’s a good idea.”
  - **“Neither do I.”**

## **So am I / Neither am I**



You can say **“So am I”** and **“Neither am I”** to agree with **simple present sentences *with the verb “BE”*** or **present continuous sentences.**

- “I’m from Moscow.”
  - “So am I!”
- “I’m not very outgoing.”
  - “Neither am I.”
- “I’m studying for the test next week.”
  - “So am I.”

## **So did I / Neither did I**

You can say **“So did I”** and **“Neither did I”** to agree with **simple past sentences.**

- “I studied chemistry in college.”
  - “So did I.”
- “I didn’t like broccoli when I was a kid.”
  - “Neither did I.”

## **So was I / Neither was I**

You can say **“So was I”** and **“Neither was I”** to agree with **simple past sentences *with the verb BE*** or **past continuous sentences.**

- “I was very athletic when I was in high school.”
  - “So was I.”
- “I wasn’t happy about the new company policy.”
  - “Neither was I.”

## **So have I / Neither have I**

You can say **“So have I”** and **“Neither have I”** to respond to **present perfect sentences** and **present perfect continuous sentences**.

- “I’ve been married for over 20 years.”
  - **“So have I.”**
- “I haven’t had much free time this week.”
  - **“Neither have I.”**
- “I’ve been thinking about learning a new language.”
  - **“So have I.”**
- “I haven’t been feeling well lately.”
  - **“Neither have I.”**

## **So can I / Neither can I**

You can say **“So can I”** and **“Neither can I”** to agree with **sentences with “can”** and **“can’t.”**

- “I can run a mile in six minutes.”
  - **“So can I.”**
- “I can’t sing very well.”
  - **“Neither can I.”**

## **So will I / Neither will I**

You can say **“So will I”** and **“Neither will I”** to agree with **sentences with “will”** and **“won’t.”**

- “I’ll be in the office until 8 PM today.”
  - **“So will I.”**

- “I won’t be able to go on the trip.”
  - “Neither will I.”

## **So would I / Neither would I**

You can say “**So would I**” and “**Neither would I**” to agree with sentences with “**would**” and “**wouldn’t**.”

- “I’d like to learn how to cook.”
  - “**So would I.**”
- “I wouldn’t recommend that restaurant.”
  - “**Neither would I.**”

As you can see from the examples, the general rule for “**So... I**” and “**Neither... I**” is that the verb matches the verb tense used in the original sentence. Try the quiz below to test your understanding!

## Quiz: Agreeing with So / Neither / Too

---

1. "I'm not going to the conference."
  - A. "Me neither."
  - B. "Me too."
  - C. "Neither do I."
  - D. "So am I."
  
2. "I'm thirsty."
  - A. "I too."
  - B. "Me neither"
  - C. "Me too."
  - D. "So do I."
  
3. "I don't know anything about politics."
  - A. "Neither can I."
  - B. "Neither do I."
  - C. "Neither have I."
  - D. "So do I."
  
4. "I'm thinking about getting out of the city this weekend."
  - A. "So am I."
  - B. "So do I."
  - C. "So can I."
  - D. "So will I."

5. "I had long hair when I was younger."

- A. "So have I."
- B. "Neither did I."
- C. "So did I."
- D. "Neither had I."

6. "I wasn't interested in any of the new classes that were introduced this semester."

- A. "Neither did I."
- B. "Me too."
- C. "Neither was I."
- D. "Neither would I."

7. "I haven't met the new teacher yet."

- A. "Neither was I."
- B. "Neither had I."
- C. "I neither."
- D. "Neither have I."

8. "I'll be on vacation next week."

- A. "So am I."
- B. "So can I."
- C. "So will I."
- D. "So would I."

9. "It's too dark. I can't see anything."

- A. "Neither can I."
- B. "Neither can't I."
- C. "Neither do I."
- D. "Neither did I."

10. "I'd love to live near the ocean someday."

- A. "So will I."
- B. "So did I."
- C. "So do I."
- D. "So would I."

# Quiz Answers: Agreeing with So / Neither / Too

---

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. D
8. C
9. A
10. D

# Should / Could / Would

---

The difference between **should**, **could**, and **would** is difficult for many English learners – this lesson will help you understand when to use each one!

## Use **SHOULD** and **SHOULDN'T** for advice

Here are some examples of using **should** and **shouldn't** to ask for and give advice and suggestions:

- “I’ve had a really bad headache for the past week.”
  - “That’s not good – you **should** go to the doctor.”
- “I want to make more friends, but I don’t know how.”
  - “First of all, you **shouldn't** spend so much time on the computer. You **should** go out and join a club or start playing a sport instead!”
- “I had a fight with my best friend. What **should** I do?”
  - “Hmm... I think you **should** call her and tell her you’re sorry.”

## Use **COULD** and **COULDN'T** for ability in the past

**Could** and **couldn't** are the past forms of **can** and **can't**:

- When I was younger, I **could** run a mile in 7 minutes. Now it takes me 20 minutes!
- Yesterday, I **couldn't** find my wallet anywhere – but this morning I found it.
- Last year, he **couldn't** speak English very well, but now he **can**.

## Use **COULD** for possibilities in the future



Here's an example of **could** to talk about future possibilities:

- “Do you have any ideas for our publicity campaign?”
- “Yes, I’ve got a few ideas. I **could** put advertisements on Facebook and Google. We **could** also give out pamphlets in our neighborhood. Maybe John **could** even contact local TV stations.”

## Use **COULD** to make polite requests

- **Could** you please open the window? It’s hot in here.
- **Could** you turn the music down? Thanks.
- **Could** you make 10 copies of this report, please?

## Use **WOULD** to talk about unreal or unlikely situations

- If I were the president of my company, I **would** make a lot of changes.
- She **would** travel around the world if she had more vacation time.
- If people were more generous, there **wouldn’t** be so much poverty in the world today.

Note: In this case, **would** is often shortened to ‘d

- If I were the president of my company, I’d make a lot of changes.

## Use **WOULD YOU LIKE** to make polite offers

Here are some examples of using **would you like...?** to make polite offers:

- “**Would you like** anything to drink?”
- “A soda **would** be great. Thanks!”

- “**Would you like** to join us for dinner?”
- “I’d love to, but I actually have other plans tonight.”
- “**Would you like** to see some pictures from my vacation?”
- “Sure!”

Don’t use “to” after should, could, and would:

- ~~You **shouldn’t to** smoke.~~
- You **shouldn’t** smoke.
- ~~We **could to** order pizza tonight.~~
- We **could** order pizza tonight.
- ~~I **would to** buy a new car if I had the money.~~
- I **would** buy a new car if I had the money.

# Quiz: Should, Could, Would

---

1. Helen, \_\_\_\_\_ you come over here for a minute? I need to talk to you.
  - A. could
  - B. should
  - C. wouldn't
2. You \_\_\_\_\_ like my brother if you got to know him better.
  - A. couldn't
  - B. should
  - C. would
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ call you last night because I left my cell phone at home.
  - A. couldn't
  - B. shouldn't
  - C. wouldn't
4. When your father was a boy, he \_\_\_\_\_ play soccer for 5 hours straight without getting tired.
  - A. could
  - B. should
  - C. wouldn't
5. In my opinion, you \_\_\_\_\_ dye your hair blonde. You'd look great!
  - A. could
  - B. should

C. would

6. You really \_\_\_\_\_ stay up so late. I don't think you're getting enough sleep.

A. couldn't

B. shouldn't

C. wouldn't

7. I \_\_\_\_\_ touch that equipment if I were you. It looks dangerous.

A. shouldn't

B. couldn't

C. wouldn't

8. \_\_\_\_\_ I buy a DVD or a watch for my father's birthday? What do you think?

A. Could

B. Should

C. Would

9. Joanna, \_\_\_\_\_ you like some chicken?

A. could

B. would

C. should

10. If it rains on the date of the wedding, we \_\_\_\_\_ have the ceremony inside the church instead of in the park.

A. could

B. shouldn't

C. wouldn't

## Quiz Answers: Should, Could, Would

---

1. A

2. C

3. A

4. A

5. B

6. B

7. C

8. B

9. B

10.A

# Comparative Adjectives

---

Use **comparative adjectives** to compare two things:

For example, if Phil is 10 years old, and Ben is 8 years old, then...

- Phil is **older than** Ben.
- Ben is **younger than** Phil.

If the shirt costs \$12 and the pants cost \$25, then...

- The pants are **more expensive than** the shirt.
- The shirt is **less expensive than** the pants.
- The shirt is **cheaper than** the pants.

## Forming comparatives with one-syllable adjectives:

**Add -er**

Tall	<b>Taller</b>
Old	<b>Older</b>
Fast	<b>Faster</b>
Long	<b>Longer</b>
New	<b>Newer</b>

- My new car is **faster than** my old car.
- I'm **older than** my brother.
- Traveling by bike takes **longer than** traveling by motorcycle.

## Forming comparatives with words that end in a vowel + consonant

Double the last consonant and add –er

Big	<b>Bigger</b>
Hot	<b>Hotter</b>
Thin	<b>Thinner</b>

- An elephant is **bigger** than a cat.
- Brazil is **hotter** than Sweden.
- My sister is **thinner** than me.

## Forming comparatives with words that end in consonant + y

Remove -y and add -ier.

Easy	<b>Easier</b>
------	---------------



Happy	<b>Happier</b>
Busy	<b>Busier</b>

- Reading English is **easier than** listening.
- Maria is **happier than** Dave.
- People today are **busier than** in the past.

## Forming comparatives with adjectives with 3+ syllables

Add “more” or “less” before the adjective:

Expensive	<b>More expensive</b>
	<b>Less expensive</b>
Popular	<b>More popular</b>
	<b>Less popular</b>
Interesting	<b>More interesting</b>
	<b>Less interesting</b>

- A car is **more expensive than** a computer.
- Michael Jackson's music is **more popular than** country music.
- Watching a movie is **more interesting than** studying grammar.

## Some adjectives have irregular comparative forms:

Good	<b>Better</b>
Bad	<b>Worse</b>
Far	<b>Farther</b>

- Eating fruit is **better** for your health **than** eating hamburgers.
- Cancer is **worse than** the flu.
- One mile is **farther than** one kilometer

Never say **more better, more worse, more farther** – that’s a common mistake.

Only use “more” with the long adjectives (more generous, more appropriate, etc.)

# Quiz: Comparative Adjectives

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Mark each sentence **correct** or **incorrect**:

1. A book is longer a magazine.
2. American football is dangerouser than baseball.
3. This restaurant is more better than the one we ate at yesterday.
4. Ashley is prettier than Sandy.
5. Craig is more friendly than Paul.
6. I'm popular than her.
7. Listening to English is harder than reading English.
8. The couch is more comfortable than the chair.
9. An elephant is bigger of a mouse.
- 10.The new movie is more bad than the original movie.
- 11.The sun is hoter than the moon.
- 12.The weather in London is wetter than the weather in Cairo.
- 13.This test was easier than the last one.
- 14.Vegetables are better for your health than candy.
- 15.The movie was much more interesting than the book.

## Quiz Answers: Comparative Adjectives

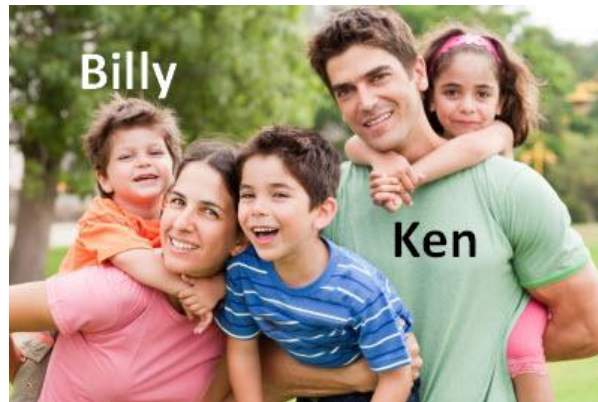
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1. Incorrect (should be "longer than a magazine")
2. Incorrect (should be "more dangerous")
3. Incorrect (should be "is better than")
4. Correct
5. Incorrect (should be "friendlier")
6. Incorrect (should be "more popular than")
7. Correct
8. Correct
9. Incorrect (should be "bigger than")
10. Incorrect (should be "worse")
11. Incorrect (should be "hotter")
12. Correct
13. Correct
14. Correct
15. Correct

# Superlative Adjectives

---

Use superlatives to compare three or more things:



Ken is **the oldest** person in the family.

Billy is **the youngest** person in the family.

Let's see how to form superlative adjectives:

ADJECTIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Short words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Old</li><li>• Big</li><li>• Easy</li><li>• Friendly</li></ul>	Add -est: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>the oldest</b></li><li>• <b>the biggest</b></li><li>• <b>the easiest</b></li><li>• <b>the friendliest</b></li></ul>
Long words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beautiful</li><li>• Expensive</li></ul>	Add "most" or "least": <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>the most/least beautiful</b></li><li>• <b>the most/least expensive</b></li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convenient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the most/least convenient</b></li> </ul>
<p>Irregular words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good</li> <li>• Bad</li> <li>• Far</li> </ul>	<p>Remember these forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the best</b></li> <li>• <b>the worst</b></li> <li>• <b>the farthest</b></li> </ul>

### Examples:

- My grandmother is **the oldest** person in my family.
- Russia is **the biggest** country in the world.
- This is **the easiest** test I've ever taken.
- Barry is **the friendliest** guy in the class.
- Donna is **the most beautiful** woman I've ever seen.
- **The most expensive** shoes in the world cost 1.5 million dollars.
- This is **the most convenient** software for managing social media.
- I like all sports, but I like soccer **the best**.
- Picking up garbage was **the worst** job I've ever had.
- Australia is **the farthest** I've ever traveled.

Don't forget "the"!

- ~~I read **newest** lesson from Espresso English.~~
- I read **the newest** lesson from Espresso English.

Superlatives are often used with the present perfect + ever:

- This is **the best** chocolate **I've ever eaten**.
- What's **the most expensive** car **you've ever driven**?
- **The longest book I've ever read** was 500 pages.
- Jan is **the friendliest person I've ever met**.

# Quiz: Superlative Adjectives

---

1) That's \_\_\_\_\_ movie I've ever seen!

- A. funniest
- B. the funnier
- C. the funniest

2) English is \_\_\_\_\_ subject for me, and math is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the easiest / the most difficult
- B. easiest / difficultest
- C. the most easy / the most difficult

3) Alaska is \_\_\_\_\_ place I've ever been to.

- A. coldest
- B. the coldest
- C. the most cold

4) War and Peace is \_\_\_\_\_ book I've ever read.

- A. the more long
- B. the most long
- C. the longest



5) That restaurant has \_\_\_\_\_ food I've ever eaten. I'll never go back there again.

A. the baddest

B. the worse

C. the worst

6) Paris is considered one of \_\_\_\_\_ cities in the world.

A. romanticest

B. more romantic

C. the most romantic

7) \_\_\_\_\_ class at the school starts at 7:00 AM.

A. The earlier

B. The earliest

C. The most early

8) \_\_\_\_\_ flight costs \$400.

A. The expensivest

B. The worst expensive

C. The least expensive

9) Jaina is \_\_\_\_\_ student in the class.

- A. the better
- B. the best
- C. the most good

**10) The world's \_\_\_\_\_ train has a top speed of 581 kilometers per hour.**

- A. fastest
- B. most fast
- C. faster

# Quiz Answers: Superlative Adjectives

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1. C - the funniest
2. A - the easiest / the most difficult
3. B - the coldest
4. C - the longest
5. C - the worst
6. C - the most romantic
7. B - The earliest
8. C - The least expensive
9. B - the best
- 10.A - fastest

# Adverbs

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Use **adjectives** to describe nouns (things or people).

Use **adverbs** to describe verbs (**how** a person does something):

- That was a **terrible** game.  
*(adjective – describes “game”)*
- The team played **terribly**.  
*(adverb – describes “played”)*

Adverbs can also describe **adjectives**:

- This coffee is **dangerously** hot.  
*(adverb – describes “hot”)*
- He’s an **incredibly productive** employee.  
*(adverb – describes “productive”)*

## Common adverbs:

Adjective	Adverb
slow	<b>slowly</b>
quiet	<b>quietly</b>
bad	<b>badly</b>
beautiful	<b>beautifully</b>
dangerous	<b>dangerously</b>

careful	<b>carefully</b>
easy	<b>easily</b>
healthy	<b>healthily</b>
good	<b>well</b>
fast	<b>fast</b>
hard	<b>hard</b>

### Examples:

- My grandfather drives **slowly**, but I drive **fast**.
- The teacher spoke so **quietly** that I couldn't hear her.
- I can read English **well**, but I speak **badly**.
- Evan lives **dangerously**. He loves radical sports.
- We wrote the letter **carefully** so as not to make a mistake.
- I opened the jar **easily**.
- Soccer players need to eat **healthily** to stay in good shape.
- Janet works very **hard**. She arrives at work early and leaves late.

Adjectives often go **before** the noun or **after** a form of the verb be.

- Ruth is a **quiet** person. ("quiet" describes "person")
- The machine is **quiet**. ("quiet" describes "machine")

Adverbs usually go **after** the main verb:

- Ruth speaks **quietly**. (“quietly” describes “speaks”)

They can also go **before** the main verb:

- I **quietly** shut the door.

If an adverb is describing an adjective, it goes **before** the adjective:

- That mansion is **ridiculously** expensive.

# Quiz: Adjective or Adverb?

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Choose the correct word to complete each sentence:

1. George gives **generous / generously** of his time to help poor children succeed in school.
2. Helen wears very **stylish / stylishly** clothes.
3. I got a **perfect / perfectly** score of 100% on my grammar test.
4. My husband learned to cook really **good / well** after taking a culinary course.
5. Peter thinks that buying a motorcycle is a **bad / badly** idea.
6. The music is too **loud / loudly**; I can't hear you.
7. Should I stay in my home country or live abroad? It's a **hard / hardly** decision.
8. That part of the city isn't very **safe / safely**.
9. Wanda dances **beautiful / beautifully**. I'm sure she'll be a professional ballerina someday.
10. Please carry that box **careful / carefully**. It has fragile electronic equipment inside.

## Quiz Answers: Adjective or Adverb?

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1. generously
2. stylish
3. perfect
4. well
5. bad
6. loud
7. hard
8. safe
9. beautifully
10. carefully



# Great job! Next steps for learning

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Congratulations on finishing the Basic English Grammar lessons!

You now have a good understanding of essential English grammar, and you're ready to continue to Intermediate English Grammar.

Remember – grammar isn't the only thing to learn! It's also important to **build your vocabulary** and **learn practical phrases** so that you can speak English well.

I also recommend joining:

- [Vocabulary Builder Level 1](#) – Learn 1000+ useful English words, so you can express yourself better in English without stopping to think of words.
- [Everyday English Speaking Level 1](#) – Learn real English phrases for daily life, so you'll know exactly what to say in many different situations.

These two courses will be a great addition to your studies, so that you can improve in all the areas of the English language 😊