

BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR FOR ESL STUDENTS

ESPRESSOENGLISH.NET

Shayna Oliveira

ESPRESSO ENGLISH | ESPRESSOENGLISH.NET

Lesson List

[Welcome!](#)

[Present Simple: Be](#)

[There is / There are](#)

[Present Simple: Positive](#)

[Present Simple: Negative](#)

[Present Simple: Questions](#)

[Present Simple: Answering Yes/No Questions](#)

[Present Continuous: Positive](#)

[Present Continuous: Negative](#)

[Present Continuous: Questions](#)

[Present Simple or Continuous?](#)

[Past Simple: Be](#)

[Past Simple: Regular Verbs](#)

[Past Simple: Irregular Verbs](#)

[Future with Going To](#)

[Future with Will / Won't](#)

[Will or Going to?](#)

[Permission, Obligation, Prohibition](#)

[Present Perfect](#)

[Present Perfect or Past Simple](#)

[Basic Helping Verbs](#)

[Modal Helping Verbs](#)

[Verbs + TO or -ING](#)

[Direct & Indirect Objects](#)

[Countable & Uncountable Nouns](#)

[Forming Plurals of Nouns](#)

[This, That, These, Those](#)

[A, An, The](#)

[Possessives](#)

[Some, Any, No](#)

[Prepositions: In, On, At](#)

[Prepositions: Of, From, To, For](#)

[Too and Enough](#)

[Either and Neither](#)

[Agreeing with So / Neither / Too](#)

[Should / Could / Would](#)

[Comparative Adjectives](#)

[Superlative Adjectives](#)

[Adverbs](#)

[Great job! Next steps for learning](#)

Welcome!

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

Teacher at EspressoEnglish.net



P.S. If you want to join one of my courses on speaking, vocabulary, phrasal verbs, business English, and more – you can use coupon code

TENOFF to **save \$10!**

[See all courses here](#)



Present Simple: Be

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:

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

Negative:

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

is not	She isn't / She's not It isn't / It's not	
--------	--	--

Question:

Am	I	beautiful?
Are	you / we / they	a teacher?
Is	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

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

- 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

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
(+)	There is a bed in the room. There’s a bed in the room.	There are two pillows on the bed.
(-)	There isn’t a mirror in the bathroom.	There aren’t any windows in the bedroom.
(?)	Is there a table? Yes, there is. / No, there isn’t.	Are there 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	work
he, she, it	works

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

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

- 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	don't	like
he, she, it	doesn't	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

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

- 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

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.

Do	I, you, we, they	live in a city?
Does	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**:

Where	do	you	live?
When	does	the library	close?
How	do	these machines	work?
What	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

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

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	am	watching
you, we, they	are	watching
he, she, it	is	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

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	am not (I'm not)	listening
you, we, they	are not (aren't)	listening
he, she, it	is not (isn't)	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 work from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM every day.	I'm currently working on a new project.
Mark studies English every Tuesday night.	Mark is studying the present continuous this week.
We usually go to Europe in the summer.	Right now, we're going to the supermarket.
They always talk to their boss in the morning.	It's 9:00 AM. They're talking to him now.
Does it usually rain in the winter?	No, but it's raining 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	was	born in 1982.
you, we, they	were	born in 1982.

Negative:

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

Yes/No Questions:

Was	I, he, she, it	famous?
Were	you, we, they	famous?

Questions with a question word:

How	was	the movie?	
Where	were	you	last night?
Why	was	he	sad yesterday?
What	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	worked	yesterday
-------------------------------	---------------	-----------

Negative:

I, you, he, she, it, we, they	didn't work	yesterday
-------------------------------	--------------------	-----------

Yes/No Questions:

Did	I, you, he, she, it, we, they	work	yesterday?
------------	-------------------------------	-------------	------------

Questions with a question word:

Why	did	I, you, he, she, it, we, they	decide	to study English?
------------	------------	-------------------------------	---------------	-------------------

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	listened	Add -ed
play	played	
like	liked	Add -d
decide	decided	
stop	stopped	One vowel + one consonant = double the final consonant and add -ed
study	studied	One consonant + y →
try	tried	-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 tryed 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:

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

see	saw	didn't see
take	took	didn't take
think	thought	didn't think
understand	understood	didn't understand
wear	wore	didn't wear
write	wrote	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	going to take a test tomorrow.
You are	You're	
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 not	I’m not	---	
You are not	You’re not	You aren’t	going to take a test tomorrow.
He / she is not	He’s / She’s not	He / she isn’t	
It is not	It’s not	It isn’t	
We are not	We’re not	We aren’t	
They are not	They’re not	They aren’t	

Yes/No Questions:

Am	I	
Are	you	going to take a test tomorrow?
Is	he / she / it	
Are	we	
Are	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	will	be late.
-------------------------------	-------------	----------

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	won't	be late.
-------------------------------	--------------	----------

Question:

Will	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.

Can	= It's OK
Can't / Mustn't	= It's not OK
Have to / Need to / Must	= It's necessary / obligatory
Don't have to	= It's not necessary / obligatory
Don't need to	(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 have	I've	been to Paris.
You have	You've	
We have	We've	
They have	They've	
he has	he's	been to Paris.
she has	she's	
it has	it's	

Negative

I have not	I haven't	
-------------------	------------------	--

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

Question

Auxiliary Verb	Subject	
Have	I / you / we / they	been to Paris?
Has	he / she / it	been 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 traveled to 15 countries in my life.

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

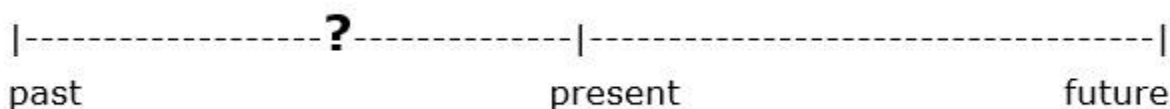
- Use the **present perfect** to talk about a **general experience** that happened at a non-specific time the past.
- Use the **past simple** to talk about a **specific moment** in the past.

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.”

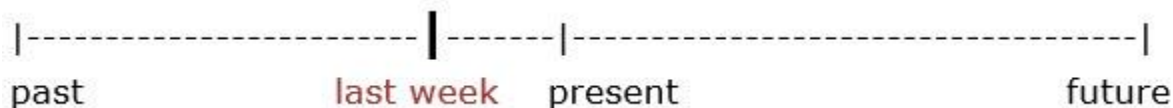
Use the **present perfect** for “unspecified” time:

- **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.

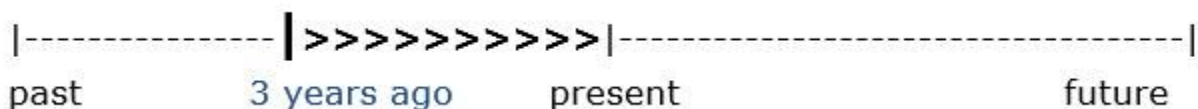
There's another difference:

- 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:

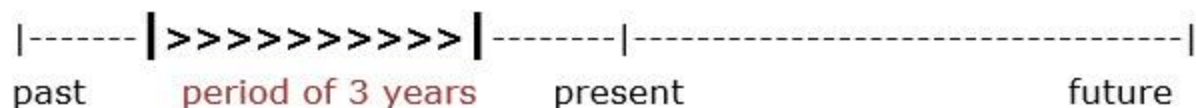
Use the **present perfect** for "unfinished" time:

- "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

- 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

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

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	walls
ski	skis
cat	cats

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

switch	switches
brush	brushes
box	boxes
address	addresses

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

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

baby	babies
army	armies
puppy	puppies

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

knife	knives
-------	---------------

wife	wives
half	halves
self	selves
wolf	wolves
leaf	leaves

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	potatoes/tomatoes
hero	heroes
torpedo	torpedoes
echo	echoes

And these always end in -S:

stereo	stereos
memo	memos
solo	solos
zoo	zoos
studio	studios

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

ghetto	ghettos	ghettoes
--------	----------------	-----------------

mango	mangos	mangoes
motto	mottos	mottoes
tornado	tornados	tornadoes
tuxedo	tuxedos	tuxedoes
volcano	volcanos	volcanoes

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	men
woman	women
child	children
person	people

tooth	teeth
foot	feet
vertebra	vertebrae
mouse	mice
goose	geese

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

one sheep	two sheep
one deer	two deer
one fish	two fish
one series	two series
one species	two species

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

This	1 thing – near
That	1 thing – far
These	2+ things – near
Those	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:

a / an	general (one of many)	I want to buy <u>a</u> car. 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>
the	<p>specific</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	my	My name is Sandra.
you	your	What's your name?
he	his	His name is John.
she	her	Her computer is fast.
it	its	My car is old, so its engine isn't powerful.
we	our	Our apartment is in the city center.
they	their	My parents sold their house.

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

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

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

friends	friends'	My friends' names are Patrick and Gloria.
parents	parents'	Her parents' 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
IN	<p>Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>In</u> January• <u>In</u> October <p>Seasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>In</u> the summer• <u>In</u> the spring <p>Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>In</u> 2004• <u>In</u> 1986 <p>Periods of the day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>In</u> the morning• <u>In</u> the evening <p>(exception: at night)</p>	<p>Cities and countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>In</u> Tokyo• <u>In</u> Japan <p>Rooms and buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>In</u> the kitchen• <u>In</u> the supermarket <p>Closed spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>In</u> the car• <u>In</u> a park

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

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

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”

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

STRUCTURES FOR USING “ENOUGH”

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

	I think I have enough information to make a decision.
adjective + enough	Sorry kid, you're not old enough to buy alcohol. You're 19 and the minimum age is 21.
verb + enough	I don't exercise enough . 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	Taller
Old	Older
Fast	Faster
Long	Longer
New	Newer

- 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	Bigger
Hot	Hotter
Thin	Thinner

- 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	Easier
------	---------------

Happy	Happier
Busy	Busier

- 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	More expensive
	Less expensive
Popular	More popular
	Less popular
Interesting	More interesting
	Less interesting

- 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	Better
Bad	Worse
Far	Farther

- 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

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

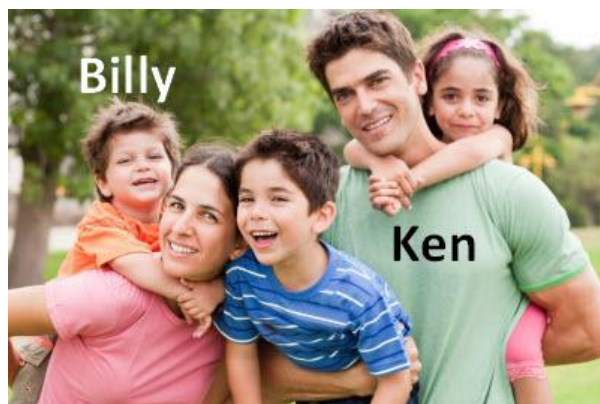
1. A book is longer a magazine.
2. American football is dangerouser than baseball.
3. This restaurant is more better than the one we ate at yesterday.
4. Ashley is prettier than Sandy.
5. Craig is more friendly than Paul.
6. I'm popular than her.
7. Listening to English is harder than reading English.
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

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">• Old• Big• Easy• Friendly	Add -est: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the oldest• the biggest• the easiest• the friendliest
Long words: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beautiful• Expensive	Add "most" or "least": <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the most/least beautiful• the most/least expensive

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convenient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the most/least convenient
Irregular words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Bad Far 	Remember these forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the best the worst the farthest

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

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

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	slowly
quiet	quietly
bad	badly
beautiful	beautifully
dangerous	dangerously

careful	carefully
easy	easily
healthy	healthily
good	well
fast	fast
hard	hard

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?

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?

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

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 😊

Make sure to use coupon code **TENOFF** to **save \$10!**

