

English Learners

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Adverb Placement | Past Simple |
| As vs. Since | Phrasal Verbs |
| Auxiliary Verbs | Present Continuous |
| Capitalization | Present Perfect |
| Colon Mistakes | Present Simple |
| Comma Splice | Pronoun Reference |
| Comments | Punctuation |
| Connectors | Reflexives |
| Dangling Modifier | Subject-Verb |
| Determiners | Sites for Beginners |
| Future Continuous | Sites for Topics |
| Future Perfect | Split Infinitives |
| Future Simple | Standard vs. Nonstandard |
| It/Indirect Object | That vs. Which |
| Me vs. Myself | To Be |
| Misc | To Do |
| More vs. Better | Verbs + Prepositions |
| Noun Phrases | Verb Tenses |
| Parallel Structure | Verb Tense Overview |
| Past Continuous | When vs. While |
| Past Perfect | Who vs. Whom |

Dashes

Dashes, like commas, semicolons, colons, ellipses, and parentheses, indicate added emphasis, an interruption, or an abrupt change of thought. Experienced writers know that these marks are not interchangeable. Note how dashes subtly change the tone of the following sentences:

Examples:

You are the friend, the only friend, who offered to help me.

You are the friend – the only friend – who offered to help me.

I pay the bills; she has all the fun.

I pay the bills – she has all the fun.

I wish you would ... oh, never mind.

I wish you would – oh, never mind.

Rule 1. Words and phrases between dashes are not generally part of the subject.

Example: Joe – and his trusty mutt – was always welcome.

Rule 2. Dashes replace otherwise mandatory punctuation, such as the commas after Iowa and 2013 in the following examples:

Without dash: The man from Ames, Iowa, arrived.

With dash: The man – he was from Ames, Iowa – arrived.

Without dash: The May 1, 2013, edition of the Ames Sentinel arrived in June.

With dash: The Ames Sentinel – dated May 1, 2013 – arrived in June.

Rule 3. Some writers and publishers prefer spaces around dashes.

Example: Joe – and his trusty mutt – was always welcome.

Hyphens

<http://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/hyphens.asp>

There are two commandments about this misunderstood punctuation mark. First, hyphens must never be used interchangeably with dashes (see the Dashes section), which are noticeably longer. Second, there should not be spaces around hyphens.

Incorrect: 300 – 325 people

Incorrect: 300 - 325 people

Correct: 300-325 people

Hyphens' main purpose is to glue words together. They notify the reader that two or more elements in a sentence are linked. Although there are rules and customs governing hyphens, there are also situations when writers must decide whether to add them for clarity.

The subject and verb of a sentence must agree with one another in number whether they are singular or plural. If the subject of the sentence is singular, its verb must also be singular; and if the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural.

Example 1:

Incorrect: An important part of my life have been the people who stood by me.

Correct: An important part of my life has been the people who stood by me.

Example 2:

Incorrect: The two best things about the party was the food and the music.

Correct: The two best things about the party were the food and the music.

Current vs. Recent

"Recent" is having happened a short while ago while "current" is existing or occurring at the moment.

Said vs. Told

Many learners are confused about when to use said – the past tense of the verb say – and told – the past tense of tell, because their meanings are so close. The main meaning of the verb tell is to "speak or write something to someone." The main meaning of say is to "use your voice to express something in words."

Who vs. Whom

If you can replace the word with "he" or "she," use who. If you can replace it with "him" or "her," use whom.

whom I met...I met him, sounds right, so it is "whom"
who helped me...he helped me, sounds right, so it is "who"

Who's vs. Whose

Whose and who's are commonly confused terms because they sound alike. Who's is a contraction of "who is" or "who has", and "whose" is a possessive pronoun.

Whose chair is this?

Who's going with me to the store?

Better refers to quality, whereas more refers to quantity.

I like him better now than I used to. (quality)

I like him more than he likes me. (quantity)

It's the same situation with Best vs. Most.

"I like him best" refers to the quality of my affections: I like him best when he is smiling.

"I like him most" refers to the quantity of my affections: Of all my cousins, I like him most.

Now here's a sentence that could go two different ways:

I like him more than Don.

Which of the following is meant?

I like him more than I like Don.

I like him more than Don likes him.

To remove any doubt, pick one of those two longer sentences and use that instead.

Here's another tough dilemma:

I like him better/more than she.

I like him better/more than her.

Which is correct? Well, that depends on what you really mean.

Again, use a longer sentence to clear up the fog.

I like him better than she does. The quality of my liking is higher than hers.

I like him more than I like her. The quantity of my liking him is greater.

How shall we remember this?

Good Better Best (adjectives, quality)

Some More Most (adverbs, quantity)

An infinitive is the word “to” with a verb. A split infinitive separates the word “to” and the verb with another word (often an adverb). There are no grammar rules that prohibit split infinitives, but many experts disapprove of them. If the sentence sounds awkward by correcting the split, our rule of thumb is to go with what makes the most sense in the context of your writing and for the ease of reading. (For example, “To boldly go where no man has gone before” would sound awkward and less powerful as, “To go boldly where no man has gone before.”)

Example 1:

Incorrect: She tried to quickly finish the book before she had to leave.

Correct: She tried to finish the book quickly before she had to leave.

Example 2:

Incorrect: He wanted to gradually improve his strength by increasing the weight.

Correct: He wanted to improve his strength gradually by increasing the weight.

As a serious author, you want to put your best foot forward with your writing. There are times and reasons to break some of the rules of grammar, but it’s wiser to break them knowing what they are and why you should stray.

Whenever you’re in doubt about a rule, take a brief moment to look it up. You’ll save yourself some embarrassment, and you’ll show your readers that you respect language and revere the art of writing well.

A colon is used after a complete sentence to introduce a word, phrase, clause, list, or quotation. The colon signals that what follows proves or explains the sentence preceding the colon.

Example 1:

Incorrect: People move to Florida for: the warmer weather, the beach, and the theme parks.

Correct: People move to Florida for three reasons: the warmer weather, the beach, and the theme parks.

A comma splice occurs when two separate sentences are joined with a comma rather than a period or semicolon. Writers often create comma splices when using transitional words, such as however, therefore, moreover, nevertheless, or furthermore.

Example 1:

Incorrect: My intention was to take her out to dinner, however I decided not to invite her after all.

Correct: My intention was to take her out to dinner; however, I decided not to invite her after all.

Example 2:

Incorrect: My sisters and I love to go shopping, we then have lunch together when we're done.

Correct: My sisters and I love to go shopping. We then have lunch together when we're done.

Faulty parallelism occurs when two or more parts of a sentence are similar in meaning but not parallel (or grammatically similar) in form. It often occurs with paired constructions and items in a series.

Example 1:

Incorrect: He wanted to learn more about careers in programming, engineering, biochemist, and research scientist.

Correct: He wanted to learn more about careers in programming, engineering, biochemistry, and research science.

Example 2:

Incorrect: The key directives of his boss were clear:

Meet monthly sales quotas.
Aggressive marketing techniques.
Reporting in every day.

Correct: The key directives of his boss were clear:

Meet monthly sales goals.
Practice aggressive marketing techniques.
Report in every day.

A pronoun can replace a noun, and its antecedent should be the person, place, or thing to which the pronoun refers. A vague pronoun reference (including words such as *it*, *that*, *this*, and *which*) can leave the reader confused about what or to whom the pronoun refers.

Example 1:

Incorrect: When Jonathan finally found his dog, he was so happy. (The dog or Jonathan?)

Correct: Jonathan was so happy when he finally found his dog.

Example 2:

Incorrect: Don felt a lot of anger and bitterness as a result of Marie's decision. This is what ended everything. (What ended everything? Don's anger and bitterness or Marie's decision?)

Correct: Don felt a lot of anger and bitterness as a result of Marie's decision. Her choice ended everything.

'Connectors' are used to link large groups of words: phrases and sentences. You can also use them to connect paragraphs to give them coherence. Sentence connectors are usually placed at the beginning of a sentence and may be categorized as follows:

CONTRAST

1. However - This restaurant has the best kitchen in town. However, their staff are quite rude.
2. In Contrast - House prices have gone up this year. In contrast, car prices seem to be stagnating.
3. Nevertheless - I was in so much pain I didn't want to get up in the morning. Nevertheless, I went to football practice as usual.
4. Nonetheless - I don't think Sean has serious behavioural problems. Nonetheless, I'll talk to him first thing in the morning.
5. Yet - I've asked you a thousand times not to leave your dirty socks on the floor. Yet, you keep doing it.
6. On the other hand - England has the best language schools. On the other hand, it has the worst weather.
7. By comparison - Going out with Jim has its risks. By comparison, being with Tim is as easy as falling off a log.
8. On the contrary - I don't hate Jim. On the contrary, I'm rather fond of him.
9. Instead - I didn't want to take a side in the argument. Instead, I put my headphones on and listened to some smooth jazz.
10. In any case - I was thinking of going round Jim's place. In any case, I haven't been invited.
11. All the same - Yes, he's very good-looking. All the same, I don't think you should go out with him.

Similarity

1. Likewise - You can't give your phone number to every man who asks for it. Likewise, you can't go out with everyone who fancies you.
2. Similarly - You're not allowed to use your phone here. Similarly, you have to switch it off when you're in the library.
3. Correspondingly - She's an excellent photographer. Correspondingly, her paintings are works of art.
4. In the same way - Cutting down on sugar will help you lose weight. In the same way, doing more exercise will help you get rid of a few kilos.
5. Also - I want to talk to prince harry when i'm in england. Also, i want to meet his sister-in-law.

Result

1. As a result - I've done a pranic healing course. As a result, i've been able to cure my neighbour's sick cat.
2. As a consequence - Zack has skipped school on many occasions. As a consequence, he's failed his french test.
3. Therefore - We're going to experience some meteor showers in the next few days. Therefore, the number of miraculous self-healings will rise.
4. Thus - You didn't tell me you wanted to come. Thus, we won't be taking you with us.
5. Accordingly - Plenty of tourists visit the area in summer. Accordingly, selling hand-made objects is the main source of income for locals.

Sequencing

1. First, firstly, first of all, in the first place - First of all, i'd like to talk about the benefits of having a pet pig.
2. To begin with - To begin with, pet pigs are cleaner than dogs.
3. For one thing - For one thing, they're completely loyal to their owners.
4. Second, secondly, in the second place - Secondly, their impressive numeracy skills must be mentioned.
5. For another thing - For another thing, you might want to consider how cute they look in pyjamas.
6. Third, thirdly, in the third place - In the third place, you can always count on your pet pig to perform some tricks for you when you'd like to impress a pretty girl.
7. Also - Also, they don't eat much.
8. Besides - Besides not eating much, they won't ever chew on your electric cords.
9. In addition - In addition, they can be taught to feed themselves if you allow them access to your pantry.
10. Furthermore - Furthermore, they make wonderful walking buddies.
11. Moreover - Moreover, they'll show you the way home when you're drunk.
12. Finally - Finally, pet pigs are fantastic guards. No burglar would ever have the heart to hurt a pet pig.
13. Last, lastly, last of all - Lastly, your reputation as an eccentric will rapidly grow in the neighbourhood if you're seen walking a pet pig on a leash every morning.

Order of importance

1. Most importantly - I'd like to talk to you about how to keep calm at your workplace. Most importantly, never go to the canteen while your boss is there.
2. Primarily - You'll have to focus on your immediate surroundings. Primarily, on your computer screen.
3. Above all - Above all, don't ever look up from your notes when people are around.
4. Most significantly - Most significantly, avoid eye-contact at all costs.
5. Essentially, basically (usually spoken) - How can i put this? Essentially, having an affair with one of your colleagues should be the last thing on your mind.

Particularization

1. In particular, particularly - Nearly a third of marriages end in divorce. In particular, it's middle-aged couples that yearn for much more from life.
2. More specifically - Couples tend to argue about financial issues. More specifically, they argue when one of them is out of work.

Exemplification

1. For example - To solve this problem, you might want to try making small gestures. For example, making your spouse's favourite meal for dinner or giving him a massage after a tiring day.
2. For instance - Appreciate the small things your spouse does for you. For instance, leave thank-you notes for them every now and then.

3. To illustrate - Misunderstandings can be highly destructive. To illustrate, if your spouse sees you with a friend of the opposite sex in a café, he might not understand why he hasn't been invited and demand an explanation.

Explanation

1. That is to say, that is - Keep romance alive. That is to say, don't let your lovelife fall into routine.

2. Namely - I have a very good reason for not trusting my ex. Namely, he's a convicted felon.

3. In other words - Don't be unsociable. In other words, go out and make some friends.

4. Put differently - John has managed to get over jane. Put differently, he's started seeing other women.

Emphasizing

1. As a matter of fact - I love sleeping with my pet pig. As a matter of fact, i can't fall asleep unless he's in my bed.

2. In fact - I told them not to invite rachel to the party. In fact, i was the only person who saw what a party pooper she really was.

3. Actually - I think it would be a good idea to send her some flowers. Actually, you should get her a hundred orchids.

4. Indeed - He may be the best-dressed man around. Indeed, he has a really good taste in fashion.

Focusing and linking

1. As for (often suggests disinterest or dislike) - I'm going to Janet's party at the weekend. As for Mary's, I think I'll pass.
2. With respect to - Starting your own IT company may be the one of the best things you can do right now. With respect to opening a pet shop, it's hard to say the same thing.
3. Regarding - Start your day with making the most important phone calls. Regarding emails, you might put them off until later.
4. With regard to - With regard to handling complaints, you might want to keep in mind that your customers are always right.
5. As regards - Working from home has many advantages. As regards disadvantages, it might be difficult to keep your cat off your keyboard.
6. Talking of - Talking of cats, you can't trust them to keep you company when you need it. They're quite selfish creatures.
7. As far as ... concerned - As far as dogs are concerned, they might give you a chance to get up from your desk and get some exercise during the day.

Conclusion

1. In conclusion - In conclusion, it may be said that pigs make the best pets.
2. In brief - Meeting my boss at the pub was an interesting experience. In brief, it was a disaster.
3. In summary - In summary, it may not be the best idea to frequent the same pubs as your boss.

4. To sum up - To sum up, some people are better suited to working from home than others.
5. All in all - All in all, you have to make sure both you and your customers are satisfied with your work.

Correction

1. Rather - I thought it was a good idea to get a ferret. Rather, it had always been my dream to get one.
2. To be more precise - You might want to change a few things. To be more precise, i think you should start again from scratch.

Time

1. At first - It wasn't a piece of cake to learn english. At first, i couldn't pronounce all the words correctly.
2. Then - Then, i couldn't spell all the words correctly.
3. Afterwards - Afterwards, i had a hard time understanding the tenses.
4. Later - Later, i couldn't memorize phrasal verbs and idioms.
5. In the meantime - In the meantime, i was getting some help from myenglishteacher.
6. Meanwhile - Meanwhile, i was enjoying my skype lessons more and more

A misplaced modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that is improperly separated from the word it modifies or describes. Sentences with this error can sound awkward, ridiculous, or confusing. A dangling modifier is a word or phrase that modifies a word not clearly stated in the sentence.

Example 1:

Incorrect: While walking on the sidewalk, Mary found a sparkly girl's bracelet.

Correct: While walking on the sidewalk, Mary found a girl's sparkly bracelet.

Example 2:

Incorrect: After finally setting off on the trail, the morning felt more exciting.

Correct: After finally setting off on the trail, he felt the morning was more exciting.

Used for an action that is currently happening. Example: Right now, I am eating breakfast.

The present continuous tense is formed by using the stem of the verb and adding -ing to the end, for example the verb "work" becomes "working". In some cases you need to alter the spelling a bit for example the verb "die" becomes "dying".

Sometimes, we use the Present Continuous to say that we are in the process of doing a longer action which is in progress; however, we might not be doing it at this exact second.

I am studying to become a doctor.

I am not studying to become a dentist.

I am reading the book Tom Sawyer.

I am not reading any books right now.

Are you working on any special projects at work?

Aren't you teaching at the university now?

Sometimes, speakers use the Present Continuous to indicate that something will or will not happen in the near future.

I am meeting some friends after work.

I am not going to the party tonight.

Is he visiting his parents next weekend?

Isn't he coming with us tonight?

The Present Continuous with words such as "always" or "constantly" expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happens. Notice that the meaning is like Simple Present, but with negative emotion. Remember to put the words "always" or "constantly" between "be" and "verb+ing."

She is always coming to class late.

He is constantly talking. I wish he would shut up.

I don't like them because they are always complaining.

The Present Continuous can be used in active and passive situations:

Right now, Tom is writing the letter. (Active)

Right now, the letter is being written by Tom. (Passive)

We form the present perfect simple by using the auxiliary verb have/has and the -ed form of the regular verb (the past participle). Formation of irregular verb forms have to be learned.

The present perfect simple tense is used to talk about a past time, which has very strong meaning for the present. [has/have + past participle]

You have seen that movie many times.
Have you seen that movie many times?
You have not seen that movie many times.

The present perfect simple is used to discuss events that have just been completed at the moment of speaking.

I have seen that movie twenty times.

I think I have met him once before.

There have been many earthquakes in California.

People have traveled to the Moon.

People have not traveled to Mars.

Have you read the book yet?

Nobody has ever climbed that mountain.

A: Has there ever been a war in the United States?

B: Yes, there has been a war in the United States.

You can use the Present Perfect to describe your experience. It is like saying, "I have the experience of..." You can also use this tense to say that you have never had a certain experience. The Present Perfect is NOT used to describe a specific event.

I have been to France.

I have been to France three times.

I have never been to France.

I think I have seen that movie before.

He has never traveled by train.

Joan has studied two foreign languages.

A: Have you ever met him? B: No, I have not met him.

We often use the Present Perfect to talk about change that has happened over a period of time.

You have grown since the last time I saw you.

The government has become more interested in arts education.

Japanese has become one of the most popular courses.

My English has really improved since I moved to Australia.

We often use the Present Perfect to list the accomplishments of individuals and humanity. You cannot mention a specific time.

Man has walked on the Moon.

Our son has learned how to read.

Doctors have cured many deadly diseases.

Scientists have split the atom.

We often use the Present Perfect to say that an action which we expected has not happened. Using the Present Perfect suggests that we are still waiting for the action to happen.

James has not finished his homework yet.

The rain hasn't stopped.

We also use the Present Perfect to talk about several different actions which have occurred in the past at different times. Present Perfect suggests the process is not complete and more actions are possible.

The army has attacked that city five times.

I have had four quizzes and five tests so far this semester.

We have had many major problems while working on this project.

When we use the Present Perfect it means that something has happened at some point in our lives before now. Remember, the exact time the action happened is not important.

Sometimes, we want to limit the time we are looking in for an experience. We can do this with expressions such as: in the last week, in the last year, this week, this month, so far, up to now, etc.

Have you been to Mexico in the last year?
I have seen that movie six times in the last month.
They have had three tests in the last week.
She graduated from university less than three years ago.
She has worked for three different companies so far.
My car has broken down three times this week.

NOTICE: "Last year" and "in the last year" are very different in meaning. "Last year" means the year before now, and it is considered a specific time which requires Simple Past. "In the last year" means from 365 days ago until now. It is not considered a specific time, so it requires Present Perfect.

With Non-Continuous Verbs and non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, we use the Present Perfect to show that something started in the past and has continued up until now. "For five minutes," "for two weeks," and "since Tuesday" are all durations which can be used with the Present Perfect.

I have had a cold for two weeks.
She has been in England for six months.
Mary has loved chocolate since she was a little girl.

Use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, a scheduled event or something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do.

I play tennis.

She does not play tennis.

Does he play tennis?

She always forgets her purse.

The train leaves every morning at 8 AM.

He never forgets his wallet.

The train does not leave at 9 AM.

When does the train usually leave?

Every twelve months, the Earth circles the Sun.

Does the Sun circle the Earth?

The Simple Present can also indicate the speaker believes that a fact was true before, is true now, and will be true in the future. It is not important if the speaker is correct about the fact. It is also used to make generalizations about people or things.

Cats like milk.

Birds do not like milk.

Do pigs like milk?

California is in America.

California is not in the United Kingdom.

Windows are made of glass.

Windows are not made of wood.

In the third person singular the verb always ends in -s: he wants, she needs, he gives, she thinks.

Negative and question forms use DOES (= the third person of the auxiliary 'DO') + the infinitive of the verb.

He wants ice cream.

Does he want strawberry?

He does not want vanilla.

Speakers occasionally use Simple Present to talk about scheduled events in the near future. This is most commonly done when talking about public transportation, but it can be used with other scheduled events as well.

The train leaves tonight at 6 PM.

When do we board the plane?

When does class begin tomorrow?

The party starts at 8 o'clock.

The bus does not arrive at 11 AM, it arrives at 11 PM.

Speakers sometimes use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is happening or is not happening now. This can only be done with Non-Continuous Verbs and certain Mixed Verbs.

I am here now.

She is not here now.

He needs help right now.

He does not need help now.

Do you have your passport with you?

He has his passport in his hand.

Verbs ending in -y : the third person changes the -y to -ies: fly --> flies, cry --> cries

Exception: if there is a vowel before the -y: play --> plays, pray --> prays

Add -es to verbs ending in: -ss, -x, -sh, -ch: he passes, she catches, he fixes, it pushes

He goes to school every morning.

She understands English.

It mixes the sand and the water.

He tries very hard.

She enjoys playing the piano.

Formed by [was/were + present participle]

You were studying when she called.
Were you studying when she called?
You were not studying when she called.

Use the Past Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually a shorter action in the Simple Past. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

I was watching TV when she called.
When the phone rang, she was writing a letter.
While we were having the picnic, it started to rain.
What were you doing when the earthquake started?
I was listening to my iPod, so I didn't hear the fire alarm.
You were not listening to me when I told you to turn the oven off.
While John was sleeping last night, someone stole his car.
Sammy was waiting for us when we got off the plane.
While I was writing the email, the computer suddenly went off.
A: What were you doing when you broke your leg?
B: I was snowboarding.

You can also use a specific time as an interruption.

Last night at 6 PM, I was eating dinner.
At midnight, we were still driving through the desert.
Yesterday at this time, I was sitting at my desk at work.

In the Simple Past, a specific time is used to show when an action began or finished. In the Past Continuous, a specific time only interrupts the action.

Last night at 6 PM, I ate dinner.
I started eating at 6 PM.
Last night at 6 PM, I was eating dinner.
I started earlier; and at 6 PM, I was in the process of eating dinner.

When you use the Past Continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions were happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.

I was studying while he was making dinner.
While Ellen was reading, Tim was watching television.
Were you listening while he was talking?
I wasn't paying attention while I was writing the letter, so I made several mistakes.

In English, we often use a series of parallel actions to describe the atmosphere at a particular time in the past.

When I walked into the office, several people were busily typing, some were talking on the phones, the boss was yelling directions, and customers were waiting to be helped.
One customer was yelling at a secretary and waving his hands.
Others were complaining to each other about the bad service.

The Past Continuous with words such as "always" or "constantly" expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happened in the past. The concept is very similar to the expression "used to" but with negative emotion. Remember to put the words "always" or "constantly" between "be" and "verb+ing."

She was always coming to class late.
He was constantly talking.
He annoyed everyone.
I didn't like them because they were always complaining.

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Past Continuous with these verbs, you must use Simple Past.

Jane was being at my house when you arrived. (Not Correct)
Jane was at my house when you arrived. (Correct)

We form the past perfect by using the auxiliary verb “had” and the -ed form of the regular verb (the past participle). The irregular verb forms have to be learned.

We use the past perfect simple to talk about what happened before a point in the past. It looks back from a point in the past to further in the past.

I hadn't known the bad news when I spoke to him.
I checked with the supplier and they still hadn't received the contract.
She had already told him before I got a chance to give him my version.

The past perfect simple is often used when we report what people had said/thought/believed.

He told me they had already paid the bill.
He said he believed that John had moved to Italy.
I thought we had already decided on a name for this product.

You form the simple past of a verb by adding -ed onto the end of a regular verb but, irregular verb forms have to be learned through use.

Use the Simple Past to express the idea that an action started and finished at a specific time in the past. Sometimes, the speaker may not actually mention the specific time, but they do have one specific time in mind.

I saw a movie yesterday.

I didn't see a play yesterday.

Last year, I traveled to Japan.

Last year, I didn't travel to Korea.

Did you have dinner last night?

She washed her car.

He didn't wash his car.

We use the Simple Past to list a series of completed actions in the past. These actions happen 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and so on.

I finished work, walked to the beach, and found a nice place to swim.

He arrived from the airport at 8:00, checked into the hotel at 9:00, and met the others at 10:00.

Did you add flour, pour in the milk, and then add the eggs?

The Simple Past can be used with a duration which starts and stops in the past. A duration is a longer action often indicated by expressions such as: for two years, for five minutes, all day, all year, etc.

I lived in Brazil for two years.

Shauna studied Japanese for five years.

They sat at the beach all day.

They did not stay at the party the entire time.

We talked on the phone for thirty minutes.

A: How long did you wait for them? B: We waited for one hour.

The Simple Past can also be used to describe a habit which stopped in the past. It can have the same meaning as "used to." To make it clear that we are talking about a habit, we often add expressions such as: always, often, usually, never, when I was a child, when I was younger, etc.

I studied French when I was a child. He played the violin.
He didn't play the piano.
Did you play a musical instrument when you were a kid?
She worked at the movie theater after school.
They never went to school, they always skipped class.

The Simple Past can also be used to describe past facts or generalizations which are no longer true. This use of the Simple Past is quite similar to the expression "used to."

She was shy as a child, but now she is very outgoing.
He didn't like tomatoes before.
Did you live in Texas when you were a kid?
People paid much more to make cell phone calls in the past.

Some verbs are irregular in the simple past. Here are the most common ones.

TO GO

He went to a club last night.
Did he go to the cinema last night?
He didn't go to bed early last night.

TO GIVE

We gave her a doll for her birthday.
They didn't give John their new address.
Did Barry give you my passport?

TO COME

My parents came to visit me last July.
We didn't come because it was raining.
Did he come to your party last week?

Simple Past vs. Present Perfect

The present perfect (has been/have been) is used when the time period has NOT finished: I have seen three movies this week. (This week has not finished yet.)

The simple past is used when the time period HAS finished: I saw three movies last week.

or in this case, It was a tricky situation last time in Mexico. The action completed in the past.

Future Continuous has two different forms: "will be doing " and "be going to be doing." Unlike Simple Future forms, Future Continuous forms are usually interchangeable.

FORM Future Continuous with "Will"
[will be + present participle]

You will be waiting for her when her plane arrives tonight.
Will you be waiting for her when her plane arrives tonight?
You will not be waiting for her when her plane arrives tonight.

FORM Future Continuous with "Be Going To "
[am/is/are + going to be + present participle]

You are going to be waiting for her when her plane arrives tonight.
Are you going to be waiting for her when her plane arrives tonight?
You are not going to be waiting for her when her plane arrives tonight.

REMEMBER: It is possible to use either "will" or "be going to" to create the Future Continuous with little difference in meaning.

Use the Future Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the future will be interrupted by a shorter action in the future. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

I will be watching TV when she arrives tonight.
I will be waiting for you when your bus arrives.
I am going to be staying at the Madison Hotel, if anything happens and you need to contact me.
He will be studying at the library tonight, so he will not see Jennifer when she arrives.

Notice in the examples above that the interruptions (marked in italics) are in Simple Present rather than Simple Future. This is because the interruptions are in time clauses, and you cannot use future tenses in time clauses. You can also use a specific time as an interruption.

Tonight at 6 PM, I am going to be eating dinner. I will be in the process of eating dinner.

At midnight tonight, we will still be driving through the desert. We will be in the process of driving through the desert.

In the Simple Future, a specific time is used to show the time an action will begin or end. In the Future Continuous, a specific time interrupts the action.

Tonight at 6 PM, I am going to eat dinner.

I am going to start eating at 6 PM.

Tonight at 6 PM, I am going to be eating dinner.

I am going to start earlier and I will be in the process of eating dinner at 6 PM.

When you use the Future Continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions will be happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.

I am going to be studying and he is going to be making dinner. Tonight, they will be eating dinner, discussing their plans, and having a good time.

While Ellen is reading, Tim will be watching television.

Notice "is reading" because of the time clause containing "while."

In English, we often use a series of Parallel Actions to describe atmosphere at a specific point in the future.

When I arrive at the party, everybody is going to be celebrating.
Some will be dancing.
Others are going to be talking.
A few people will be eating pizza, and several people are going to be drinking beer.

Like all future tenses, the Future Continuous cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Instead of Future Continuous, Present Continuous is used.

While I am going to be finishing my homework, she is going to make dinner. (Not Correct)
While I am finishing my homework, she is going to make dinner. (Correct)

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Future Continuous with these verbs, you must use Simple Future.

Jane will be being at my house when you arrive. (Not Correct)
Jane will be at my house when you arrive. (Correct)

You can use the present perfect simple form to say that something will have happened by a certain time in the future. Future Perfect has two different forms: "will have done" and "be going to have done." Unlike Simple Future forms, Future Perfect forms are usually interchangeable.

Future Perfect with "Will" [will have + past participle]

You will have perfected your English by the time you come back from the U.S.

Will you have perfected your English by the time you come back from the U.S.?

You will not have perfected your English by the time you come back from the U.S.

Future Perfect with "Be Going To" [am/is/are + going to have + past participle]

You are going to have perfected your English by the time you come back from the U.S.

Are you going to have perfected your English by the time you come back from the U.S.?

You are not going to have perfected your English by the time you come back from the U.S.

NOTE: It is possible to use either "will" or "be going to" to create the Future Perfect with little or no difference in meaning.

The Future Perfect expresses the idea that something will occur before another action in the future. It can also show that something will happen before a specific time in the future.

By next November, I will have received my promotion.

By the time he gets home, she is going to have cleaned the entire house.

I am not going to have finished this test by 3 o'clock.

Will she have learned enough Chinese to communicate before she moves to Beijing?

Sam is probably going to have completed the proposal by the time he leaves this afternoon.

Notice in the examples above that the reference points (marked in italics) are in Simple Present rather than Simple Future. This is because the interruptions are in time clauses, and you cannot use future tenses in time clauses.

With Non-Continuous Verbs and some non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, we use the Future Perfect to show that something will continue up until another action in the future.

I will have been in London for six months by the time I leave.
By Monday, Susan is going to have had my book for a week.

Although the above use of Future Perfect is normally limited to Non-Continuous Verbs and non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, the words "live," "work," "teach," and "study" are sometimes used in this way even though they are NOT Non-Continuous Verbs.

Like all future forms, the Future Perfect cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Instead of Future Perfect, Present Perfect is used.

I am going to see a movie when I will have finished my homework. (Not Correct)

I am going to see a movie when I have finished my homework. (Correct)

Simple Future has two different forms in English: "will" and "be going to." Although the two forms can sometimes be used interchangeably, they often express two very different meanings. These different meanings might seem too abstract at first, but with time and practice, the differences will become clear. Both "will" and "be going to" refer to a specific time in the future.

FORM Will [will + verb]

You will help him later.
Will you help him later?
You will not help him later.

FORM Be Going To [am/is/are + going to + verb]

You are going to meet Jane tonight.
Are you going to meet Jane tonight?
You are not going to meet Jane tonight.

"Will" often suggests that a speaker will do something voluntarily. A voluntary action is one the speaker offers to do for someone else. Often, we use "will" to respond to someone else's complaint or request for help. We also use "will" when we request that someone help us or volunteer to do something for us. Similarly, we use "will not" or "won't" when we refuse to voluntarily do something.

I will send you the information when I get it.
I will translate the email, so Mr. Smith can read it.
Will you help me move this heavy table?
Will you make dinner?

Both "will" and "be going to" can express the idea of a general prediction about the future.

I believe "as" is used more by UK English speakers, and "since" by US English speakers. Both of these words are used as conjunctions, prepositions and adverbs.

The word 'since' is used to express time as adverb and preposition, as below:

I had seen him previously, but hadn't seen him since. (adverb)
I have known her since last year. (preposition)

The word 'as' is used to express extent/degree as an adverb and as a preposition:

You're heavier than I am, and not as tall. (adv)
You are not as tall as I am. (prep)

However, as a conjunction they are usually used to introduce reasons or with verbs of the senses (feel, hear, read...), and to express emotion (admire, hate, love, like...). In the following sentences, they are interchangeable:

As it's too late, I quit or Since it's too late, I quit
As/Since we read, we learn.
Since/As we were in the computer lab, our English has improved.

In certain situations 'as' can only be used:

As I came in, she flew. (used like the word, when)
He sleeps as the rain falls. (used like the word, while)

Auxiliary Verbs are the verbs be, do, have, and will. When they are followed by another verb (the full verb) the form a question, a negative sentence, a compound tense or the passive voice.

<https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/auxiliary-verbs>

Present Progressive: He is playing football.

Past Progressive: He was playing football.

Present Perfect Progressive: He has been playing football.

Past Perfect Progressive: He had been playing football.

Present Perfect Simple: He has played football.

Past Perfect Simple: He had played football.

Future I: He will not play football.

Future II: He will have played football.

1. "Be" as an auxiliary verb. Be = (I) am / (He/She/It) is / (We/They/Plural Noun) are. "Be" can be used as an auxiliary verb or the main verb in a sentence. "Is" tells us that an action is happening now or is going to happen in the future. "Be" is also used to make passives. "Are" is used for they and we. "Was" is used for the past tense of am and is. "Were" is used for the past tense of you, we and they.

In statements:

I am 21.

You are Indian.

We are waiting.

They are excited

He/she is cool.

In questions:

Am I in the right place?

Are you my new boss?

Are we nearly there?

Are they the best players on the team?

Is he/she old enough to go to bars?

In negative sentences:

I am not.

You are not. (You aren't)

We are not. (We aren't)

They are not. (They aren't)

He/She is not. (He/She isn't)

Used in progressive sentences:

I am taking a bath.

She is preparing dinner for us.

They have been studying all night.

Used in passive sentences:

I was given a free meal.

He was seen by fans at the airport.

This song has been sung by all nations.

2. "Do" as an auxiliary verb. (I) Do / (He/She) does / (We/They/Plural noun) did. Do is common for forming questions and making negatives and statements.

Used in negative sentences:

I do not know the truth.

She doesn't agree with me.

They didn't arrive here yet.

Used in questions:

Do you want to have another one?

Did he finish his homework?

Do we need to keep going straight?

Do I know you?

Do you live here?

Do we have time?

Do they come from Vietnam?

Does he/she drive to work?

Used in statements

I do my homework.

You do the laundry.

We do the washing up.

They do yoga.

He/she does the cleaning.

Used in the past tense. Do and does is never used for the past.

3. "Have" as an auxiliary verb. "Have" is used to make the present perfect tense (it is always followed by the past participle). "Has" is used for the third person singular. "Had" is used for past tenses especially the past perfect tense. It describes an action that began in the past and continues into the present or that occurred in the recent past.

Used in perfect sentences:

I have been following you for a mile.

We have done a lot so far.

She had been queen of the town.

Used in statements:

I have a dog.

You have something on your shirt.

We have seen it before.

They have called me three times.

He/she has lived in America.

Used in negative sentences:

I have not. (I haven't/ I've not)

You have not. (you haven't/you've not)

We have not. (we haven't/we've not)

They have not. (they haven't/they've not)

He/she has not (he/she hasn't)

Other common auxiliary verbs are:

can, could, may, might, must, ought, should, and would.

These are also known as modal verbs. We use them to show obligation, possibility and necessity.

For example:

Jack is late. He might be sleeping. (possibility)

I should clean my room today. (obligation)

I must wear a tie to school. (necessity)

Answering questions: Auxiliary verbs are useful in giving short answers to questions. Basically, your answer can end with the auxiliary verb. The following examples are natural and completely acceptable ways to answer questions:

Do you like reading?

Yes, I do (like reading)

Can you speak English?

Yes, I can (speak English)

Do you have a sister?

No, I don't (have a sister)

http://www.grammar.cl/Notes/Reflexive_Pronouns.htm

When the Subject and the Object in a sentence refer to the same person or thing we use a Reflexive Pronoun. It is the only area of English grammar that is reflexive.

| Subject Pronouns | Reflexive Pronouns |
|------------------|--------------------|
| I | Myself |
| You | Yourself |
| He | Himself |
| She | Herself |
| It | Itself |
| We | Ourselves |
| You (plural) | Yourselves |
| They | Themselves |

Examples of sentences using reflexive pronouns:

My daughter likes to dress herself without my help.

I taught myself to play the guitar.

My cat always licks itself.

When to use reflexive pronouns:

1. When the subject and the object refer to the same person or thing. Ex. She bought a present for herself.

2. We use them for emphasis. Ex. I did it myself.

3. In some cases we use it to have a similar meaning to also.

Example: Annabelle was pretty happy last night. I was pretty happy myself.

When NOT to use reflexive pronouns

1. There are a number of verbs in English with which we rarely or never use reflexive pronouns (as they are in other languages).

They include: adapt, complain, concentrate, get up, hide, lie down, meet, move, relax, remember, shave, shower, sit down.

2. After a preposition of place or location we use a personal pronoun and not a reflexive pronoun. Ex. He put the backpack next to him.

Rule 1. Capitalize the first word of a document and the first word after a period.

Rule 2. Capitalize proper nouns – and adjectives derived from proper nouns.

<http://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/capital.asp>

Brand names and Companies

Days of the week and months of the year

Governmental matters

Congress (but congressional), the U.S. Constitution (but constitutional), the Electoral College, Department of Agriculture.

Historical episodes and eras (the American Revolutionary War)

Holidays

Institutions (Oxford College, the Juilliard School of Music)

Manmade structures (the Empire State Building)

Manmade territories (Berlin, Montana, Cook County)

Natural and manmade landmarks (Mount Everest)

Nicknames and epithets (Andrew "Old Hickory" Jackson)

Organizations (American Center for Law and Justice,

Norwegian Ministry of the Environment)

Planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus,

Neptune, but policies vary on capitalizing earth, and it is usually not capitalized unless it is being discussed specifically as a planet: We learned that Earth travels through space at 66,700 miles per hour).

Races, nationalities, and tribes (Eskimo, Navajo, East Indian, Caucasian, African American)

Religions and names of deities

Note: Capitalize the Bible (but biblical). Do not capitalize heaven, hell, the devil, satanic.

Special occasions (the Olympic Games, the Cannes Film Festival)

Streets and roads

Russians, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans

The words, "the", "a/an" are often missing from sentences, because the many language does not have them. While an English speaker would say, "He sits on the floor", many will say or write, "He sit on floor".

To learn how and when to use the definite article... "the", go here:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar/determiners-and-quantifiers/definite-article>

To learn how and when to use the indefinite article... "a / an", go here:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar/determiners-and-quantifiers/indefinite-article-and>

French

Article use in French is similar but not identical to that in English. French pronouns are based on the gender of the noun they are associated with; and the possessive adjectives agree with the nouns they qualify. Interference in these areas will lead to mistakes such as:

He is doctor.

This is the John's car.

What stupid thing to do!

The German is easier than the English.

Do you like my umbrella. He was very cheap.

I met John and her wife for dinner.

When using determiners like "the" or "a" or "an" think about whether the noun is specific or general. If it is specific, like "I felt the stress of the day", then use the determiner. If it is general, "we all feel stress", then don't. This rule will almost never let you down.

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/definite-article/>

Use the **to** refer to something which has already been mentioned.

On Monday, an unarmed man stole \$1,000 from the bank. The thief hasn't been caught yet.

I was walking past Benny's Bakery when I decided to go into the bakery to get some bread.

There's a position available in my team. The job will involve some international travel.

Use the **when** you assume there is just one of something in that place, even if it has not been mentioned before.

We went on a walk in the forest yesterday.

Where is the bathroom?

Turn left and go to number 45. Our house is across from the Italian restaurant.

My father enjoyed the book you gave him.

Use the **in** sentences or clauses where you define or identify a particular person or object.

The man who wrote this book is famous.

I scratched the red car parked outside.

I live in the small house with a blue door.

He is the doctor I came to see.

Use the **to** refer to people or objects that are unique.

The sun rose at 6:17 this morning.

You can go anywhere in the world.

Clouds drifted across the sky.

The president will be speaking on TV tonight.

The CEO of Total is coming to our meeting.

Use the **before** superlatives and ordinal numbers.

This is the highest building in New York.

She read the last chapter of her new book first.

You are the tallest person in our class.

This is the third time I have called you today.

Use the **with** adjectives, to refer to a whole group of people.

The French enjoy cheese.
The elderly require special attention.
She has given a lot of money to the poor.
Use the with decades.

He was born in the seventies.
This is a painting from the 1820's.
Use the with clauses introduced by only

This is the only day we've had sunshine all week.
You are the only person he will listen to.
The only tea I like is black tea.

Use the with names of geographical areas, rivers, mountain ranges, groups of islands, canals, and oceans.

They are travelling in the Arctic.
Our ship crossed the Atlantic in 7 days.
I will go on a cruise down the Nile.
Hiking across the Rocky Mountains would be difficult.
Use the with countries that have plural names

I have never been to the Netherlands.
Do you know anyone who lives in the Philippines?
Use the with countries that include the words "republic", "kingdom", or "states" in their names.

She is visiting the United States.
James is from the Republic of Ireland.
Use the with newspaper names.

I read it in the Guardian.
She works for the New York Times.
Use the with the names of famous buildings, works of art, museums, or monuments.

Have you been to the Vietnam Memorial?

We went to the Louvre and saw the Mona Lisa.

I would like to visit the Eiffel Tower.

I saw King Lear at the Globe.

Use the with the names of hotels & restaurants, unless these are named after a person.

They are staying at the Hilton on 6th street.

We ate at the Golden Lion.

Use the with the names of families, but not with the names of individuals.

We're having dinner with the Smiths tonight.

The Browns are going to the play with us.

Do not use the with names of countries (except for the special cases above).

Germany is an important economic power.

He's just returned from Zimbabwe.

Do not use the with the names of languages.

French is spoken in Tahiti.

English uses many words of Latin origin.

Indonesian is a relatively new language.

Do not use the with the names of meals.

Lunch is my favorite meal.

I like to eat breakfast early.

Do not use the with people's names.

John is coming over later.

Mary Carpenter is my boss.

Do not use the with titles when combined with names.

Prince Charles is Queen Elizabeth's son.

President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

Do not use the after the 's possessive case

His brother's car was stolen.
Peter's house is over there.
Do not use the with professions

Engineering is a well-paid career.
He'll probably study medicine.
Do not use the with names of shops

I'll get the card at Smith's.
Can you go to Boots for me?
Do not use the with years

1948 was a wonderful year.
He was born in 1995.
Do not use the with uncountable nouns

Rice is an important food in Asia.
Milk is often added to tea in England.
War is destructive.
Do not use the with the names of individual mountains, lakes and islands

Mount McKinley is the highest mountain in Alaska.
She lives near Lake Windermere.
Have you visited Long Island?
Do not use the with most names of towns, streets, stations and airports

Victoria Station is in the centre of London.
Can you direct me to Bond Street?
She lives in Florence.
They're flying into Heathrow.

As a rule, adverbs are placed before the verb (or at the beginning or end of the sentence).

<https://staff.washington.edu/marynell/grammar/AdverbPl.html>

Examples - Before Verb:

He always takes flowers to his girlfriend.

She quite often invites people for Thanksgiving.

They almost never go to the theater.

We don't even know his name.

We've already eaten dinner.

He also rents chainsaws.

We just finished painting the house.

Example - Beginning:

Usually we see him at church.

Last night we went dancing.

Examples - Ending:

We've performed there occasionally.

Where did you eat yesterday?

All the bedrooms are upstairs.

Have you taken the TOEFL yet?

Have you eaten dinner already?

She sang that aria very well.

He drives competently.

Exception (after the verb "To be"):

He is rarely morose.

He is only five years old.

I am finally ready.

He is still planning to go tonight.

The verb "speak" is modified by the adverb "fluently". Adverbs go either before the verb or at the end or beginning of the sentence.

Marco wasn't able to fluently speak English.
Marco wasn't able to speak English fluently.

Romance languages like to place the adverb after the verb...which is why I can spot a non-Native speaker of English quickly. (see the adverb is at the end)

I can quickly spot a non-native speaker. (before verb)
Quickly, I can spot a non-native speaker. (beginning of sentence)
I can spot a non-native speaker quickly. (end of sentence)
I can spot quickly a non-native speaker. (Warning,
Warning....non-native speaker alert!)

French:

Je pense que vous devriez pratiquer sur des sites comme ceux-ci d'abord.

<https://www.duolingo.com/>

<http://lingohut.com/fr/>

<http://www.goethe-verlag.com/book2/>

All:

For my English learning friends, let me share my list of very helpful English grammar and language sites:

Free On-Line Lessons with MP3 sound files (choose your native language)

<http://www.goethe-verlag.com/book2/>

<https://www.duolingo.com/>

French

<http://lingohut.com/fr/>

Japanese

<http://lingohut.com/ja/>

Chinese

<http://lingohut.com/zh/>

Korean

<http://lingohut.com/ko/>

Russian

<http://lingohut.com/sr/>



Language Partner Sites

<http://www.mylanguageexchange.com>

<http://www.language-exchanges.org>

<http://www.speaky.com/>

<http://www.italki.com>

<http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/penpals.asp>

<http://en-us.wespeke.com/>

<http://www.omniglot.com/links/langexchange.htm>

<http://www.InterPals.net/>

Smart Phone Apps:

*Duolingo

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.duolingo&hl=en>

*Mindsnacks

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/learn-french-by-mindsnacks/id409947305?mt=8>

*Hello Talk

<https://www.hellotalk.com/#en>

*Fluent Panda

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/54908586/fluent-panda-forget-about-forgetting-languages>

*Triplingo

<http://www.triplingo.com/>

*Mosalingua

<http://www.mosalingua.com/en/our-apps/>

*Hi Native

<https://hinative.com/>

*Learn 50 Languages

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.goethe.f50languages&hl=en>

*Quizlet

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.quizlet.quizletandroid&hl=en>

*Think Bilingual!

<https://itunes.apple.com/app/apple-store/id984967146?mt=8>

On-Line Tutors

<https://classdo.com/en/>

Good Phrases and Words to Know for Essays in English

<https://www.oxford-royale.co.uk/articles/words-phrases-good-essays.html>

<http://www.smart-words.org/linking-words/transition-words.html>

<http://englishharmony.com/sentence-starters/>

<http://www.fluentin3months.com/conversation-starters/>

<http://basicenglishspeaking.com/common-expressions-english/>

Punctuation

<http://www.thepunctuationguide.com/>

<http://linguapress.com/grammar/english-punctuation.htm>

Sentence Structure

<http://www.weblearn.in/sentences/>

<http://esl.fis.edu/learners/advice/syntax.htm>

http://www.eslgold.com/grammar/basic_sentence.html

<http://linguapress.com/grammar/word-order.htm>

Verb Tenses

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/verbs/>

Present simple

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tensesimpres.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/simple-present-tense/>

Present continuous

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tenseprescont.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/present-continuous/>

Present perfect

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tensepresperfsim.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/present-perfect/>

Present perfect continuous

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tensepresperfcont.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/present-perfect-continuous/>

Past simple

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tensesimpast.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/simple-past-tense/>

Past continuous

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tensepastcont.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/past-continuous-tense/>

Past perfect

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tensepastperfsim.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/past-perfect-tense/>

Past perfect continuous

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/past-perfect-continuous/>

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tensepastperfcont.html>

Future simple

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tensesimpresfut.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/simple-future-tense/>

Future continuous

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tenseprescontfut.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/future-continuous/>

Future perfect

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tensepresperffut.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/future-perfect/>

Future perfect continuous

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tenseprescontfut.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/future-perfect-continuous/>

Verb Overview

<http://www.eslcharts.com/verb-tenses-chart.html>

<http://englishgrammarsecrets.com/index.html>

<http://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/verbs/>

Free Grammar Book (PDF)

<http://www.capella.edu/interactivemedia/onlinewritingcenter/downloads/grammar.pdf>

Grammar concepts

<http://www.talkenglish.com/grammar/>

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammarpage.html>

<https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/>

<https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/index.asp>

<http://www.grammarbook.com>

<http://www.ef.com/english-resources/english-grammar/>

100 English Sentence Patterns

<http://basicenglishspeaking.com/100-common-phrases-and-sentence-patterns/>

The Ten Types of English Sentences

<https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/sentpatt.htm>

Sentence Creation

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/sentencetext.html>

<https://www.englishgrammar101.com/sentence-structure>

On-Line Language Checker

<https://www.languagetool.org/>

Writing Prompts for Essay Ideas

<http://www.dailyteachingtools.com/journal-writing-prompts.html>

<https://education.depaul.edu/student-resources/academic-success-center/Documents/501writingprompts.pdf>

https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/11/13/500-prompts-for-narrative-and-personal-writing/?_r=0

Proofreading French

<http://french.about.com/od/mistakes/a/proofreading-and-editing.htm>

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Test_of_English_as_a_Foreign_Language

<https://www.englishclub.com/esl-exams/ets-toefl-tips.htm>

<http://www.toeflgoanywhere.org/toefl-planning-registration#to-do-list>

http://www.toeflgoanywhere.org/apps/todolist/downloads/TOEFL_PLAN_to_do_list.pdf

<http://www.stuff.co.uk/toefl.htm>

http://www.examenglish.com/TOEFL/toefl_structure_1.htm

<https://www.4tests.com/toefl>

<http://www.examenglish.com/TOEFL/>

<https://quizlet.com/13067750/400-must-have-words-for-the-toefl-flash-cards/>

IELTS (International English Language Testing System)

<http://www.stuff.co.uk/ielts/ielts.htm>

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/ielts/>

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/>

Finally, there is the ESL (English as a Second Language) exams:

<https://www.englishclub.com/esl-exams/levels-test-wc.htm>

<http://a4esl.org/q/h/>

<https://www.esl-languages.com/en/study-abroad/adults/online-tests/index.htm>

Tutors

<http://www.myenglishteacher.eu/ask/>

Their tutor page is here:

<http://www.myenglishteacher.eu/>

English has a lot of verbs + prepositions:

think of
think about
think with

It can be confusing at first.

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/quick-grammar/verbs-prepositions>

This website is also great for learning English grammar rules and applications.

The verb “to be”, in its many tense forms, is often missing from simple sentences in other languages. Once a non-native speaker understands verb conjugation, and feels more comfortable with the past, present, and future forms of the verb “to be”, better English sentences can be constructed and mastered.

Present Tense

I am
you are
he is
we are
you are
they are

Pluperfect Tense

I had been
you had been
he had been
we had been
you had been
they had been

Perfect Tense

I have been
you have been
he has been
we have been
you have been
they have been

Future Tense

I will be
you will be
he will be
we will be
you will be
they will be

Past Tense

I was
you were
he was
we were
you were
they were

Future Perfect Tense

I will have been
you will have been
he will have been
we will have been
you will have been
they will have been

The verb to do is another common verb in English. It can be used as an auxiliary and a main verb. It is often used in questions.

I / you / we / they

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Present | do |
| Past | did |
| Perfect Form | have / had done |
| Continuous Form | are / were doing |

he / she / it

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Present | does |
| Past | did |
| Perfect Form | has / had done |
| Continuous Form | is / was doing |

As an auxiliary verb do is used with a main verb when forming interrogative or negative sentences, or for adding emphasis. It is also called the dummy operator or dummy auxiliary.

| Question | Positive Statement | Negative Statement |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Do I? | I do | I do not (I don't) |
| Do you? | You do | You do not (You don't) |
| Does he/she/it? | He/she/it does | He/she/it does not |
| Do we? | We do | We do not (We don't) |
| Do you? | You do | You do not (You don't) |
| Do they? | They do | They do not (They don't) |

Do you always take the bus to work?

Does she ever do her homework on time?

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Positive Answer | Yes, I do. | Yes, she does. |
| Negative Answer | No, I don't." | No, she doesn't. |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| What do you do? | I'm a student. |
| | I'm an architect. I'm a trainee architect. |
| | I'm looking for work. |
| | I'm on a career break. |
| | I'm a volunteer. |
| | I'm a housewife. / I'm a househusband. |
| | I'm a pensioner. / I'm retired. |

What does he / she do?

He / She's a student.

He / She's an architect. He / She's a trainee architect.

He / She's looking for work.

He / She's on a career break.

He / She's a volunteer.

He / She's a housewife. / He / She's a househusband.

He / She's a pensioner. / He / She's retired.

What do we / they do?

We / They are students.

We / They are architects.

We / They are looking for work.

We / They are on a career break.

We / They are volunteers.

We / They are pensioners. / We / They are retired.

When using the continuous tense, "do" becomes "doing" and it doesn't change.

The verb "to do" works as a main verb. Example:

My husband does the dishes.

Did he do them yesterday?

Yes he did.

Do is used as an auxiliary verb (dummy auxiliary) in the question form. For example: I know the way. Do you know the way?

Do is used for emphasis in positive statements. For example: I do like this beer!

Note - As an auxiliary verb 'do' is always followed by the base form of the main verb (infinitive).

<http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/verbtodo.html>

En français, on utilise "y" et "en" si souvent. En anglais ce n'est pas nécessaire.

French: When I was at school, I was trying hard to learn English, but I was unable to do it.

Native: When I was at school, I tried hard to learn English, but I was unable to.

Incorrect agreement with noun phrases

Example: I would like to buy this apples.

Correct: I would like to buy these apples.

Me is an object pronoun, which means that it refers to the person that the action of a verb is being done to, or to whom a preposition refers.

They want me to study more.

Tell me a story.

Between you and me, he's right.

Carol wants to meet with John and me tomorrow.

The book was written entirely by me.

Please call Hillary or me with any questions.

Myself is a reflexive or stressed pronoun, which means that, generally speaking, it should be used in conjunction with the subject pronoun I, not instead of the object pronoun me.

I bought myself a car.

I myself started the company.

I did the laundry by myself.

I feel like myself again.

Tired of waiting, I just did it myself.

The Bottom Line

Myself can be used for stress, but most grammarians won't allow it to be used alone – they reject constructions like “Carol wants to meet with John and myself” (correct: with John and me) and “The book was written entirely by myself” (correct: by me personally).

Just remember that myself can be reflexive (I'm doing something to/for myself) or emphatic (I myself). Otherwise, you probably want to use me.

<http://online-english-lessons.eu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/50-common-English-phrasal-verbs.pdf>

Si, c'est quelque chose que tu fais en ce moment et tu continue à le faire, puis on utilise ...ing.

Examples:

I am running.

I am walking.

I am going.

En anglais on fait beaucoup de "...ing«

En plus, si tu a commencé quelque chose il y a deux ans et tu continue et tu continueras puis on dit par exemple:

Je bosse l'anglais = I am studying English / I am learning English

Quand on utilisera le présent simple?

Action d'habitude: L'action peut être une habitude, un passe-temps, un événement quotidien, un événement programmé ou quelque chose qui arrive souvent. Il peut également être quelque chose d'une personne oublie souvent ou généralement ne fait pas.

I play tennis.

She does not play tennis.

Does he play tennis?

The train leaves every morning at 8 AM.

The train does not leave at 9 AM.

When does the train usually leave?

Faits ou généralisations:

Cats like milk.

Birds do not like milk.

Do pigs like milk?

California is in America.

Windows are made of glass.

Windows are not made of wood.

Les locuteurs utilisent parfois le présent simple pour exprimer l'idée qu'une action se produit ou ne se produit pas maintenant – en ce moment !! Ce ne sera pas continuer. **Seulement maintenant.**

I am here now.

Je suis ici maintenant mais pas pour longtemps.

He needs help right now.

Pas dans une minute. Toute de suite

He does not need help now.

He has his passport in his hand

En revanche:

Qu'est-ce que tu fais maintenant? I am watching TV.

Qu'est-ce que tu as fait hier à 8 heures ? I was watching TV.

Qu'est-ce que tu feras demain à 8 heures I will be watching TV.

What do you usually do in the evening? I watch TV. (En général)

La plupart du temps, on utilise ...ing avec le verbe être

I am, you are, he is, she is, we are, you are, they are.

Present Tenses in English

Simple present tense - They walk home.

Present continuous tense - They are walking home.

Past Tenses in English

Simple past tense - Peter lived in China in 1965.

Past continuous tense - I was reading when she arrived.

Perfect Tenses in English (Perfect....action completed)

Present perfect tense - I have lived here since 1987.

Present perfect continuous - I have been living here for years.

Past perfect - We had been to see her several times before she visited us.

Past perfect continuous - He had been watching her for some time when she turned and smiled.

Future perfect - We will have arrived in the States by the time you get this letter.

Future perfect continuous - By the end of your course, you will have been studying for five years.

Future Tenses in English

Simple future tense - They will go to Italy next week.

Future continuous tense - I will be travelling by train.

Conditional Tenses in English

Zero conditional - If ice gets hot it melts.

Type 1 conditional - If he is late I will be angry.

Type 2 conditional - If he was in Rome he would be getting up now.

Type 3 conditional - She would have visited me if she had had time.

Mixed conditional - I would be playing tennis if I hadn't broken my arm.

The -ing forms in English

Gerund - I like swimming.

Present participle - She goes running every morning.

Whom should be used to refer to the object of a verb or preposition. When in doubt, try this simple trick: If you can replace the word with "he" or "she," use who. If you can replace it with "him" or "her," use whom. In this case, "I can't forget....him" is correct, so it is whom.

Let's look at a couple of examples:

Who would like to go on vacation?

Who made these awesome quesadillas?

Whom is used as the object of a verb or preposition. Consider these examples:

To whom was the letter addressed?

Whom do you believe?

I do not know with whom I will go to the prom.

Clauses are groups of words which have meaning, but are often not complete sentences. Some clauses begin with the word "when" such as "when she called" or "when it bit me." Other clauses begin with "while" such as "while she was sleeping" and "while he was surfing." When you talk about things in the past, "when" is most often followed by the verb tense Simple Past (-ed). whereas "while" is usually followed by Past Continuous (-ing). "While" expresses the idea of "during that time." Study the examples below. They have similar meanings, but they emphasize different parts of the sentence.

I was studying when she called.
While I was studying, she called.

Another way to think about the difference is that "when" is related to a particular moment in time, "while" describes a time span.

Plus naturel comme cela

Pas de fautes très importantes!

Félicitation pour la conjugaison.

_____ ne prend jamais de s

En général, il n'y que des erreurs mineures

"Mauvaises" s'accorde avec "choses" puisque c'est employé avec l'auxiliaire être

Pas de virgule avant "et«

En français, on utilise très rarement le _____

le passé composé ne fonctionne pas dans cette phrase

le passé composé on l'utilise pour parler d'une action qui est terminée

More natural like this

No major mistakes!

Congratulations for the conjugation.

_____ never takes

In general, there are only minor errors

"Bad" agrees with "things" since it is used with the auxiliary "to be"

No comma before "and"

In French, very rarely is _____

The compound past does not work in this sentence

The compound past is used to talk about an action that is completed

Standard American English is an ever-evolving entity, and experts disagree on many aspects of what is “correct,” and as a result, many of us use slightly different spellings for the same words.

| Standard | Nonstandard |
|------------------|--------------------|
| a lot | alot |
| all right | alright |
| anyway | anyways |
| considered to be | considered as |
| in comparison to | in comparison with |
| in contrast to | in contrast with |
| somewhat | kind of |
| regarded as | regarded to be |
| regardless | irregardless |
| would have | would of |
| might have | might of |
| in regard to | in regards to |
| should have | should of |
| thus | thusly |
| use | utilize |

Which is used for a "nonrestrictive clause". A nonrestrictive clause contains optional information on the subject that isn't entirely necessary to the sentence.

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/using-that-and-which-is-all-about-restrictive-and-non-restrictive-clauses/>

That is used for a "restrictive clause". A restrictive clause acts as an adjective to modify the subject of the sentence. The restrictive clause is essential to the sentence because it provides information that, if taken out, changes the subject of the sentence completely.

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