
Advanced English Grammar Course

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Strategies for Success



English Immersion

- English needs to become a part of your everyday life.
- English must be your new lifestyle.



Visualize and Listen

- Watch movies, tv series, the news, etc. in English.
- Listen to music, podcasts, the radio, etc. in English.



Read

- Take 10-15 minutes per day to read in English.
- Read a news article, a blog, a chapter in a book, etc.
- Choose a topic that interests you!



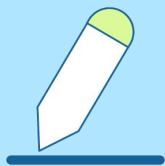
Produce English Daily

- Speak out loud: practice a conversation, read out loud, mimic, etc.
- Write: text a friend, write a short journal entry, etc.

The 4 Types of Conditionals

Zero Conditional

Used when the result will always happen.



If + present simple, ... present simple.



Examples

- If water reaches 100 degrees, it boils.
- If babies are hungry, they cry.
- People die, if they don't eat.

First Conditional

Used to talk about things that might happen in the future.



If + present simple, ... will + infinitive.



Examples

- If he comes, I will be surprised.
- If it rains, I won't go to the park.
- We will be late, if we don't leave soon.

Second Conditional

- Used to talk about things in the future, that are very unlikely to happen.
- Used to talk about something in the present that is impossible.



If + past simple, ...would +infinitive



Examples

- If I won the lottery, I would travel around the world.
- If I were you, I wouldn't take that job.
- I would be sad, if we weren't friends.

Third Conditional

Used to talk about a situation in the past that didn't happen and to imagine the result of that situation.



**If + past perfect, ...would + have
+ past participle**



Examples

- If she had studied, she would have passed the exam.
- If we had taken a taxi, we wouldn't have missed the plane.
- She would have become a doctor, if she had gone to the university.

Visualize

Zero Conditional=100%

First Conditional=80%

The 4 Types of Conditionals

Second Conditional=30%

Third Conditional=0%



Modals: Part 1

Can, Can't, Must

Modal

Probability/
Possibility

Ability

Permission

Can

I can speak
English

Can I go out
tonight?

Can't

She can't be
his mom

I can't play
the piano

No, you can't
Borrow the car.

Must

She must be his
sister because
they look alike

Might, Could, May

Modal

Probability/
Possibility

Ability

Permission

Might

It might rain
tomorrow

Could

It could rain
tomorrow

I could already
read when
I was two

Could I see your
ticket please?

May

It may rain
tomorrow

May I go to the
bathroom?



Modals: Part 2

Must, Have to, Shall

Modal

Probability/
Possibility

Obligation/
Advice

Offers

Must

She must be his
sister because
they look alike

You must leave
before my dad
comes home

Have to

I have to
study tonight

Shall

You shall come
on Tuesday

Shall I help you?

Should, Had better, Would

Modal

Obligation/
Advice

Offers

Should/
Ought to

You should
see the play

Had Better

You had better
get some more
sleep

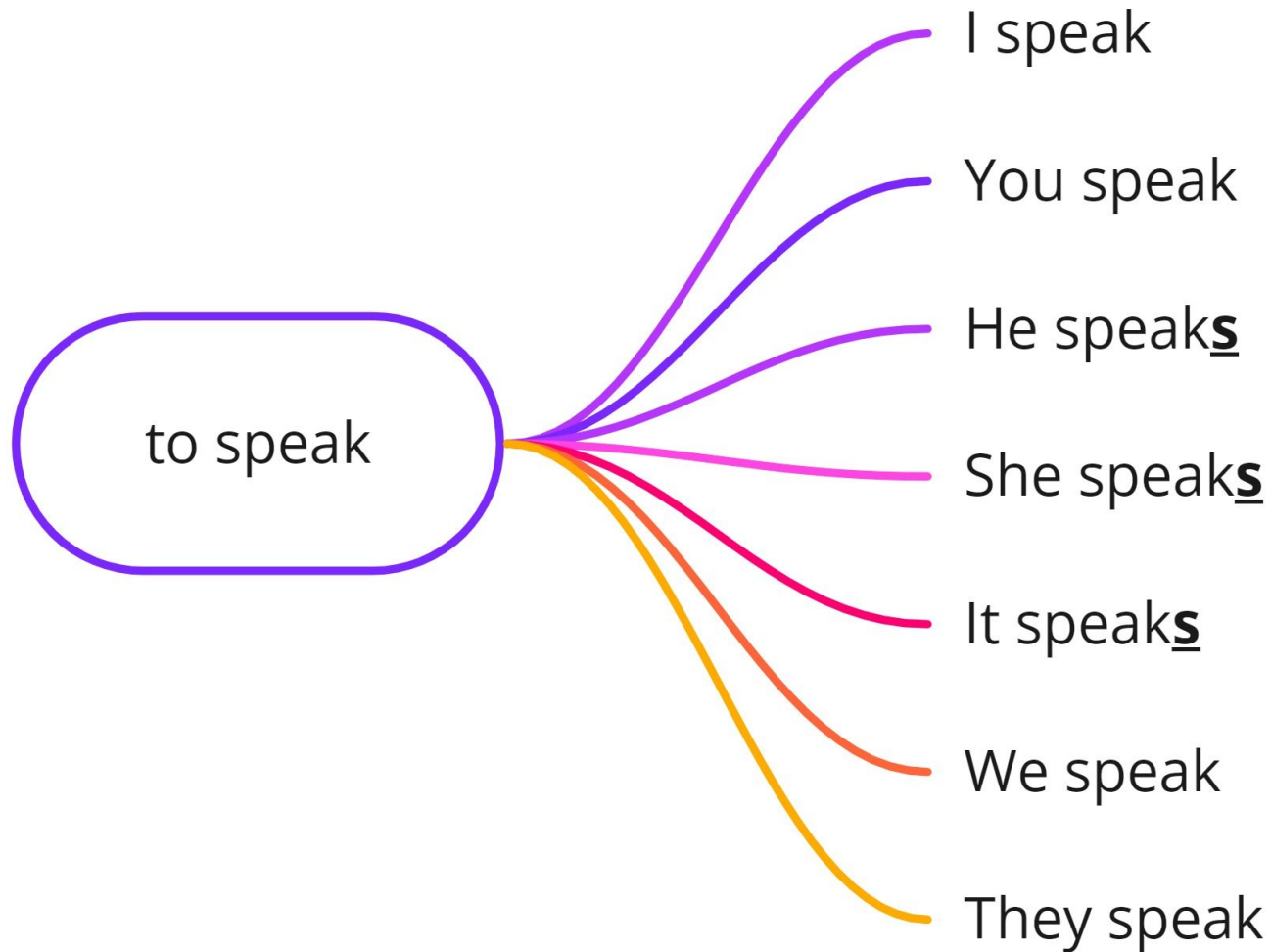
Would

Would you
like a drink?



Uses of the Present

Review



To talk about the Present

- Things we do regularly
- Facts
- Habits
- Truth
- Permanent Situations





Examples

- I check my email everyday.
- I jog at the park twice a week.
- Sarah works at the bank.
- Matt is tall.
- Stealing is wrong.

To talk about the Future

- Timetable
future events





Examples

- I'd better hurry, my bus leaves in 5 minutes.
- The exam starts at 9 am.

To talk about the Past

- Telling a story
- Newspaper headlines
- Hear, tell, gather, say
- When telling jokes



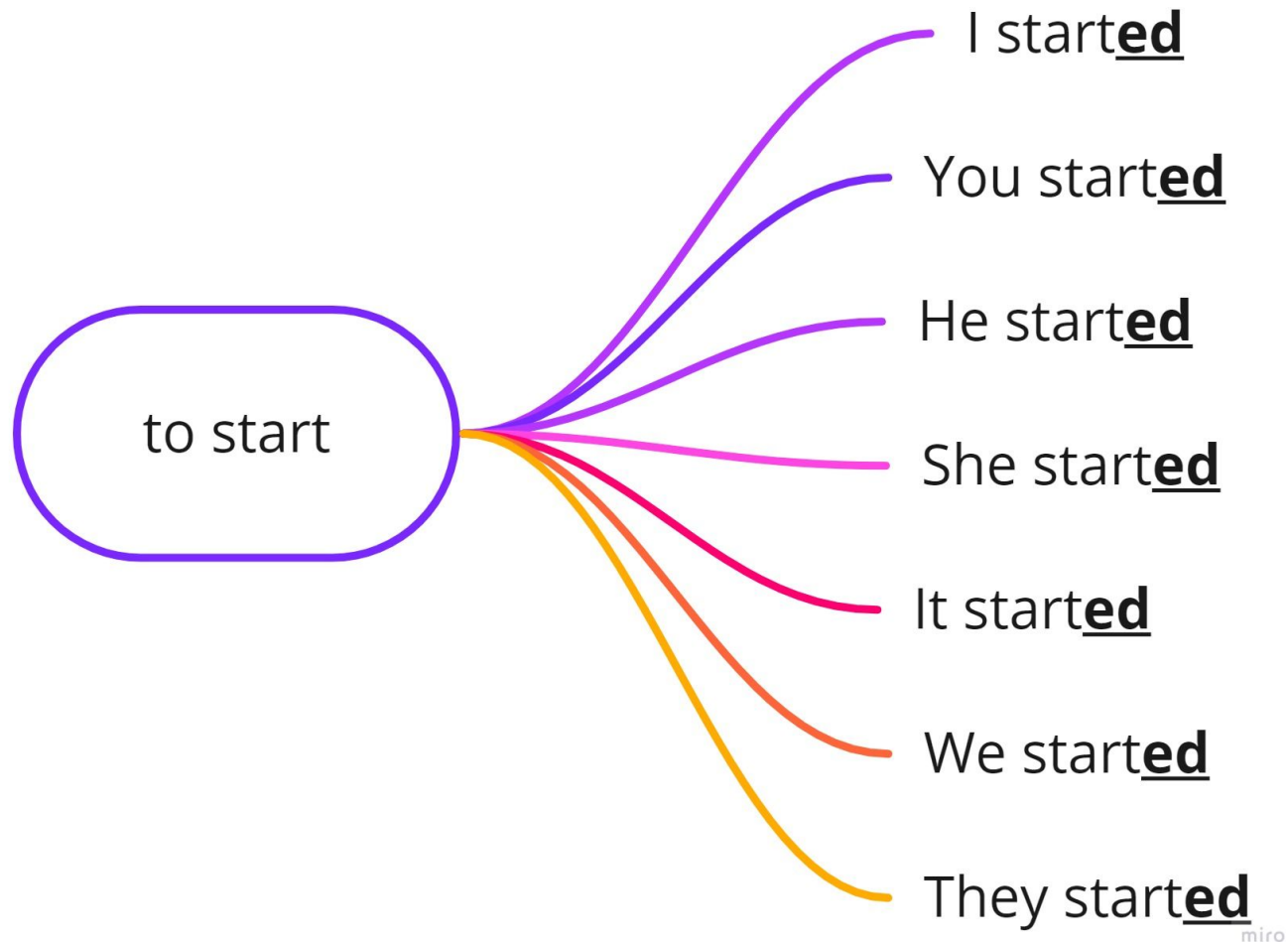
Examples

- Last year I was swimming off the coast of Hawaii, when I see a shark fin heading towards me...
- Man dies in forest fire.
- A man walks into a bar...
- She says she didn't like the gift.



Uses of the Past

Review



To talk about the Past

- An event that happened and finished
- When we know the time something happened
- Telling stories





Examples

- Last year we travelled to Florida.
- When the airplane landed, we waited, and then we got off.

To talk about the Present

- When a plan isn't certain
- To be polite
- To sound urgent
- With “suppose” and “what if”





Examples

- I was thinking of going out for dinner later.
- I was wondering if your report was ready.
- It's time we left.
- Suppose we went to Italy on vacation.

To talk about the Future

- With “wish” and “if only”





Examples

- I wish I had more time.
- If only I had a million dollars.



Uses of Infinitives

To Explain Why

- You're taking this course to improve your English skills.
- We make these videos for you to get better at English.



To Speak More Formally

- We have designed this course in order to help you achieve your goals.
- I worked hard all of my life in order not to be poor.



After a Noun or Pronoun

- I want a car to drive to work.
- I have a book to read.
- I don't have anything to eat.





Linking Words

Emphasis

- I enjoy sweets, especially chocolates.
- Certainly, all fruits and vegetables are good for our health.



Comparison

- Adam enjoys telling jokes; likewise, his son finds his jokes hilarious.
- Ebooks are very convenient; despite this, I prefer a physical book.



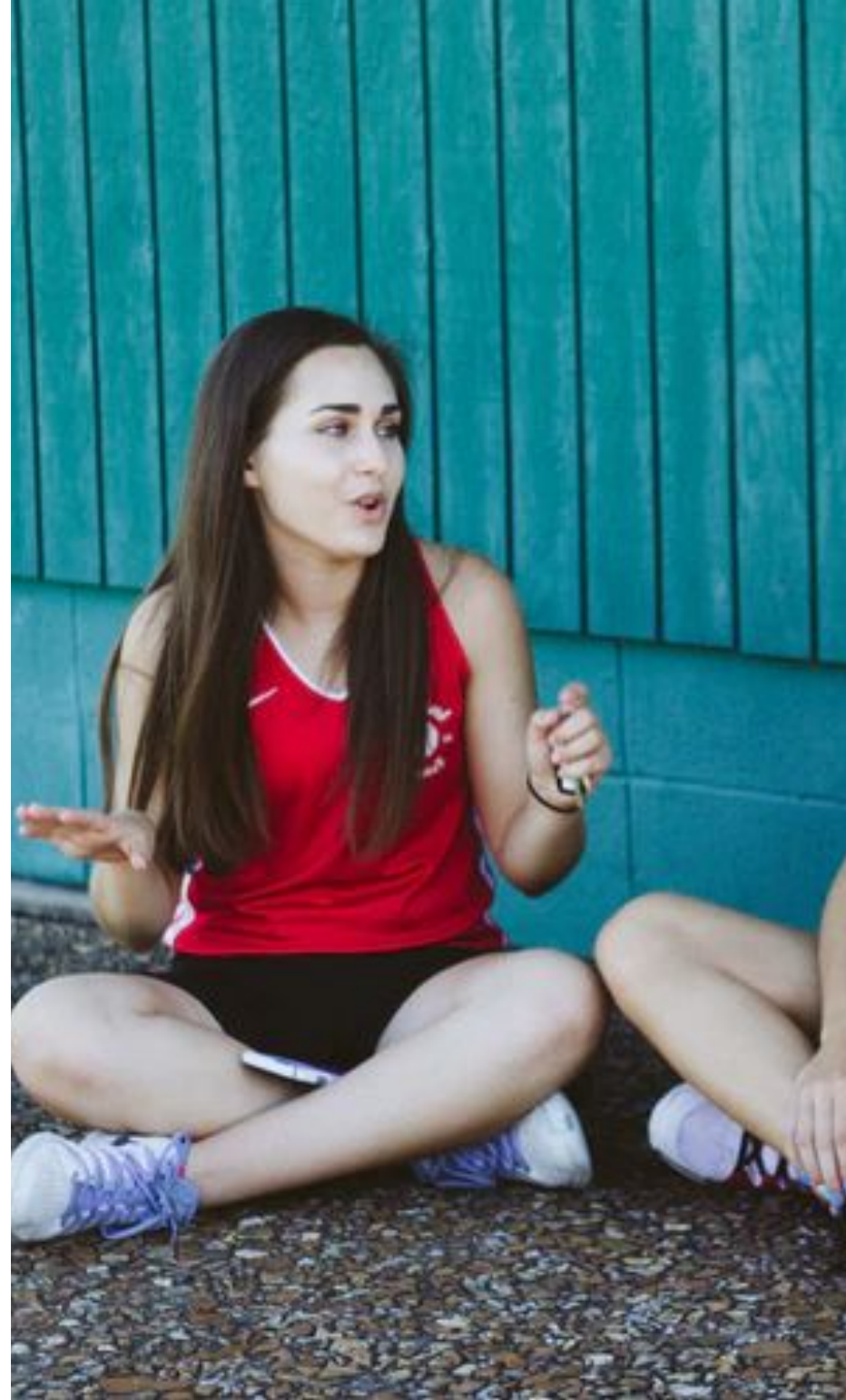
Contrast

- Exercising is important to be healthy, but many people can't find the time.
- Cell phones are convenient; on the other hand, they can be expensive.



Addition

- Not only are laptops lighter, but also they are cheaper than desktops.
- The trip is too expensive. Furthermore, I don't like snowy weather.



Illustration

- English is necessary to obtain a great job. In other words, learning English opens doors of opportunity.
- Having a pet is great for a person's health. For one thing, dogs are considered man's best friend.



Discourse Markers: Part 1

You know

- You know, I was planning a big surprise for our mom's 50th birthday.
- You know, I love you.



Actually

- Actually, she did arrive on time!
- Actually, I have the money to pay you.



Mind you

- The test was so hard...mind you, I had a month to study for it.
- Mind you, I didn't say you could change the channel.



As I was saying

- As I was saying, I'm sorry...
- As I was saying, Mexico is a beautiful country.



Come to think of it

- Come to think of it,
I forgot to ask if you
wanted a glass of water.
- Come to think of it,
I have seen that movie.



Basically

- Basically, everyone loved the party.
- So basically, that's what the book was about.



Anyway

- Anyway, how are you?
- Anyway, I have to go now, catch you later.



By the way

- By the way, you look so nice today.
- By the way, what would you like to drink?



Discourse Markers: Part 2

To tell you the truth

- Well, to tell you the truth I totally disagree with you.
- She asked me if I liked her hair and I said I did, but to tell you the truth it was awful!



I mean

- You can't leave now. I mean, where will you go?
- How are you going to pay the rent? I mean, you shouldn't have quit your job.



You see

- You see, I told you the car wouldn't start.
- So you want to learn about finances...well, you see the first thing you should do is save as much as you can.



In other words

- She said she didn't feel well. In other words, she didn't want to come.
- I've already seen this movie...so in other words I know what's going to happen next.



At the end of the day

- At the end of the day, it's just money, what really matters is time spent with family.
- At the end of the day, hard work and dedication really do lead to success.



I know

- How can I manage my time better? I know!
I'll use a calendar app.
- I don't have enough time to go and buy Christmas gifts. I know!
I'll take my family on a vacation instead.



So to speak

- That's a great idea! They'll be over the moon, so to speak.
- My son is growing like a weed, so to speak.





Cleft Sentences

Examples with 'it'



It + is/was + emphasis + (that) + rest of message

- My brother ate my cake.
- It was my brother that ate my cake.
- I do all the work.
- It is me who does all the work.

Examples with 'it' Negative



It + isn't/wasn't + emphasis + (that) + rest of message

- It wasn't my brother that ate my cake, it was my sister.
- It isn't you that does these things, it's me.

Examples with 'it' Questions



Is/was + it + emphasis + (that) + rest of message?

- Was it my brother that ate my cake?
- Was it your dog that ran away?

Examples with 'what'



What + understood information + is was + emphasis

- They moved us to a different hotel.
- What they did was they moved us to a different hotel.

Examples with 'what'



What/All + subject + do/does/did + is/was + verb

- What they did was give us a complimentary night.
- All they did was move us to another room.

Examples with 'what'



What happens/happened + is/was + clause

- What happened was we got to the hotel and realized that our room had been double booked.
- What happened is we were late and the hotel gave our room away.

Subject Verb Agreement: Part 1

General Rule

- Singular verb
examples: am, is,
has, does, goes
- Plural verb examples:
do, have, are



Both Singular and Plural

- The species is on the endangered list. (It...)
- The species are on the endangered list. (They...)



Examples

- Economics
- Sheep
- Politics
- Headquarters
- Series
- Fish



Nouns with no Plural

- Mathematicss is a difficult class.
- What is the measless disease?
- Dominoess has been around since ancient times.





Examples

- School subjects: mathematics, gymnastics and physics
- Games: dominoes and darts
- Disease: measles

Nouns with no Singular

- The police are coming!
- The staff are happy to receive an end of year bonus.
- Thanks for the help!/Thank you for the help!



Nouns with no Singular

- My jeans don't fit anymore!
- Where are my glasses?
- I can't find my headphones.



Nouns with no Singular

- The British are so kind.
- The rich have a lot to lose.
- The sick have suffered so much already.



Subject Verb Agreement: Part 2

Collective Nouns Review

- Government
- Family
- Crew
- Team
- Jury



Collective Nouns Example

- The jury hasn't yet made a decision. (Singular)
- The jury haven't yet made a decision. (Plural)

Quantities and Amounts

- 3 minutes is perfect for dinner.
- There are 60 minutes in an hour.



Quantities and Amounts

- One of my friends is from the United States.
- One of us is a spy.



Quantities and Amounts

- Half of the cake was eaten.
- Half of the cakes were sold.



Indefinite Nouns

- Someone is at the door.
- Everyone is so happy.
- Nobody is here.



Subject Verb Agreement: Part 3

And

- The man and woman are walking in the park.
- Fish and chips is the best meal ever!



Either/Or

- Pens or pencils are ok for the exam.
- Pen or pencil is ok for the exam.
- Either the dogs or the cat goes.



Neither/Nor

- Neither the cat nor the dogs go.
- Neither I nor my friend have stolen anything.



Noun/Verb Separation

- The slice of bread has butter on it.
- The glass of water has a fly in it.
- The houses down the road are cheap.



Agreement with Cleft Sentences

- What really makes me angry is people who throw rubbish on the ground.
- What really makes me angry are people who throw rubbish on the ground.





Inversions: Part 1



Adverb Review:

- Never
- Hardly
- Rarely
- Seldom
- Barely
- No sooner...than
- In no way
- Under no circumstances

How to invert sentences:

- I had never eaten something so delicious.
- Never had I eaten something so delicious.

- I hardly ever take the subway to work.
- Hardly ever do I take the subway to work.

How to invert sentences:

- He doesn't often help out at home.
 - Not often does he help out at home.
-
- You should not leave this room for any reason.
 - Under no circumstances should you leave this room.

How to invert sentences:



- Not + time (until, before, since) + clause
- Only + time (when, as, after, while, once) + clause

- Not since Hawaii had they seen such beautiful landscapes.
- Only after the exam did they realize they should have studied more.

How to invert sentences:

- Little did he know that I would be leaving soon forever.
- Hardly had I stepped through the door when the dog started barking.



Inversions: Part 2

How to invert sentences:

- If I were a hero I would be able to fly.
- Were I a hero I would be able to fly.

- If I had stayed longer, I would have eaten dessert.
- Had I stayed longer I would have eaten dessert.

How to invert sentences:

- If you (should) go to the store, will you get me a dessert?

- Should you go to the store, will you get me a dessert?

How to invert sentences:

- The spy came through the window.
- Through the window came the spy.

- My book was here.
- Here was my book.

- My father/He sat there.
- There sat my father.
- There he sat.

How to invert sentences:



- so + adjective + inversion + that + consequence
- such + noun + inversion + that + consequence

- So beautiful was she that I couldn't stop staring at her.
- Such a well-behaved dog that I didn't even know it was there.

Definite Article: The

General Rules: Part 1

- Refer to something already mentioned: On Friday, someone stole \$1,000 from the bank. The thief was caught yesterday.
- Assume there is just 1 of something: Where is the bathroom?



General Rules: Part 2

- In clauses with a defined person/object: The man with the red car down the street.
- Refer to a unique person/object: The president will speak at 9pm.



General Rules: Part 3

- Before superlatives and ordinal numbers: The third building on the right is the highest one on the street.
- Adjectives for a group: The elderly need special care.



General Rules: Part 4

- Decades: The eighties had the best music.
- With clauses using 'only':
This is the only day I have off.



Rules for Proper Nouns

- Geographical areas
- Countries with plural names
- Countries with 'republic', 'kingdom', and 'states'

- Famous buildings, works of art, museums, or monuments
- Family names
- Newspaper names

When not to use 'the'

- Countries
- Languages
- Meals
- People's names
- Titles combined with names
- After the possessive 's'

- Professions
- Years
- Uncountable nouns
- Individual mountains, lakes, and islands
- Names of towns, streets, stations, and airports

Indefinite Articles: A & An

General Rules: Part 1

- Should I bring a gift to the party?
- I have a new book.
- Do you have an eraser I could borrow?



General Rules: Part 2

- My friend is a honest person.
- My friend is an honest person.
- She is an United States citizen.
- She is a United States citizen.



General Rules: Part 3

- I saw a great movie last night.
- I have an interesting friend named Bill.



General Rules: Part 4

- Please give me some water.
- Can you pass me a bottle of water?
- We need some more information.



General Rules: Part 5

- Let's go out for dinner.
- Creativity is necessary for kids to play.





Come vs. Go
Bring vs. Take
Speak vs. Talk

Go + Prepositions/Leisure Activities

- Go + to is a very common combination
 - Go + inside, outside, away, down, over, up, under, etc.
 - Go + dancing, fishing, shopping, sailing, hiking, etc.
-
- Let's go to school.
 - Let's go inside it's starting to rain.
 - I like to go bowling.
 - I go biking 10 miles everyday.

Come vs. Go

- Are you coming to see me tomorrow?
- Come here please.
- I need to go to the store next week.
- My friend wants to go to Mexico.



Bring vs. Take

- What are you going to bring to the party?
- Would you like to take home some leftovers?
- I brought my dog to the park yesterday.
- I have to take out the garbage tonight.



Speak vs. Talk

Formal: Speak

- The speaker does not know you very well.
- The setting is formal.
- What the person is saying is important.

Informal: Talk

- The speaker is your friend.
- The setting is informal.
- What the person is saying is not very important.

Speak vs. Talk

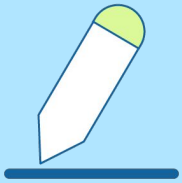
- Dr. Smith will speak about History.
- I can speak Spanish and English.
- He spoke about the importance of healthy eating.
- Who am I speaking to?





Do vs. Make

Do vs. Make



- Do = physical activities and tasks, which are nonspecific and indefinite.
- Make = a specific outcome or object is created by the action in a determined time frame.

Do

- Housework
- Work/Study
- Taking care of your Body
- Good/bad actions



Make

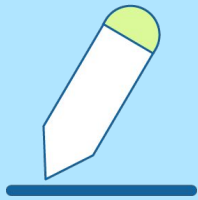
- Food
- Money
- Relationships
- Communication
- Plans and Progress





No vs. Not

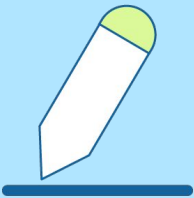
No: Part 1



- Used to answer yes/no questions
- Used to agree with a negative statement
- Used before a noun without an article

- Is this a nice restaurant? No, the service is terrible.
- Sam is not getting any better. No, that's right.
- There is no creativity at work now a days.

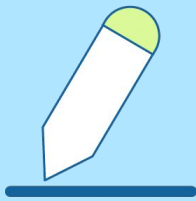
No: Part 2



- Used as an adjective before a noun without an article
- Used as an exclamation
- Used before a verb ending in 'ing'

- I've got no food for you.
- Do you need any help? No, I'm okay.
- No parking.

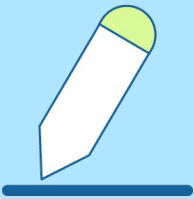
Not: Part 1



- Used to make a verb negative
- Used to make an adjective or adverb negative
- Used before a noun that has an article

- She does not want to read.
- How are you? Not too bad.
- I'm not an alien.

Not: Part 2



- Used as an adverb, which is describing a verb
- Used in short replies with verbs
- Used before any, much, many, or enough

- My dog is not very nice.
- Will our cousin come? I hope not.
- Not many people like mustard.

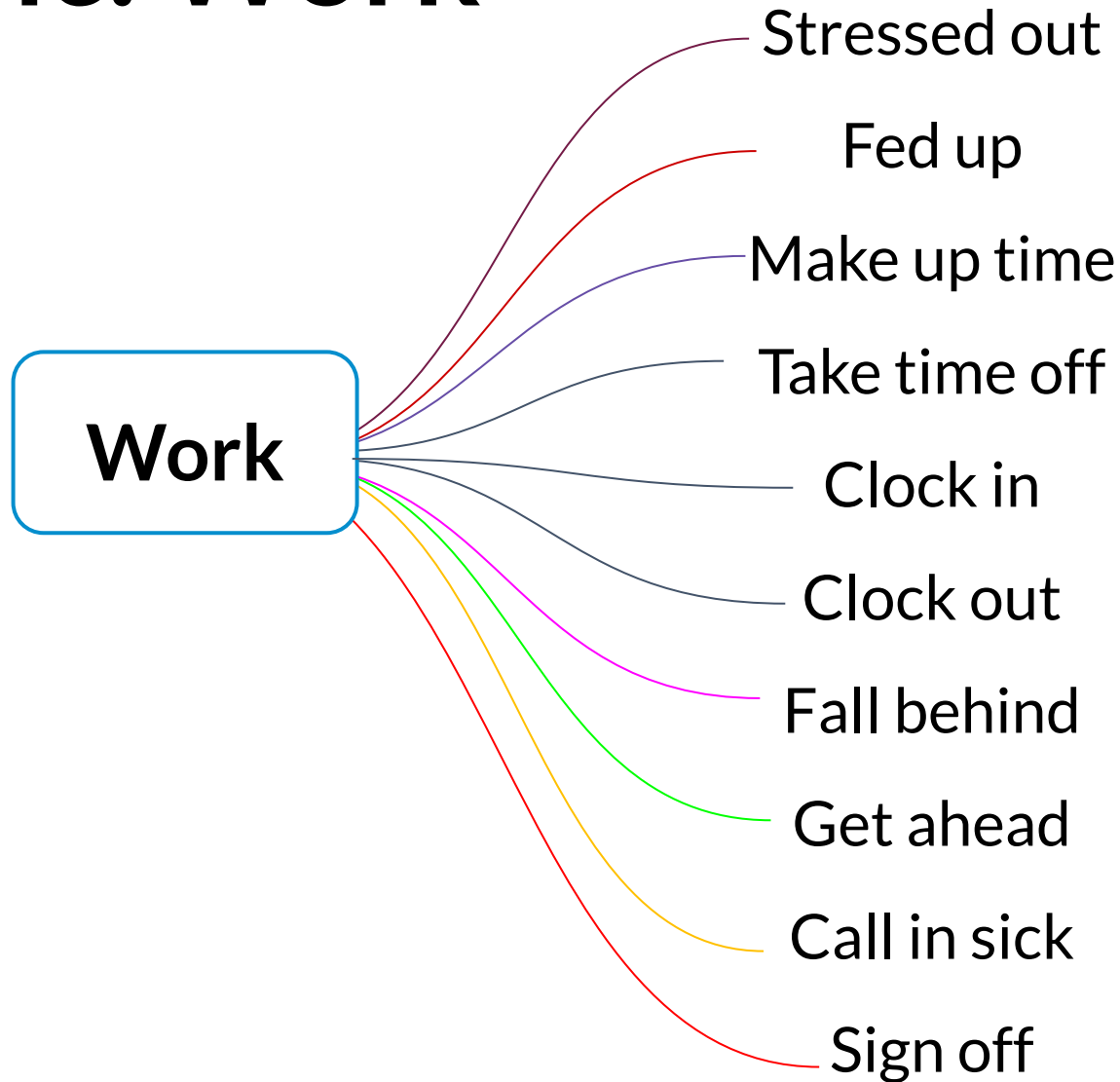
Phrasal Verbs: Work & Technology

Learning Strategies

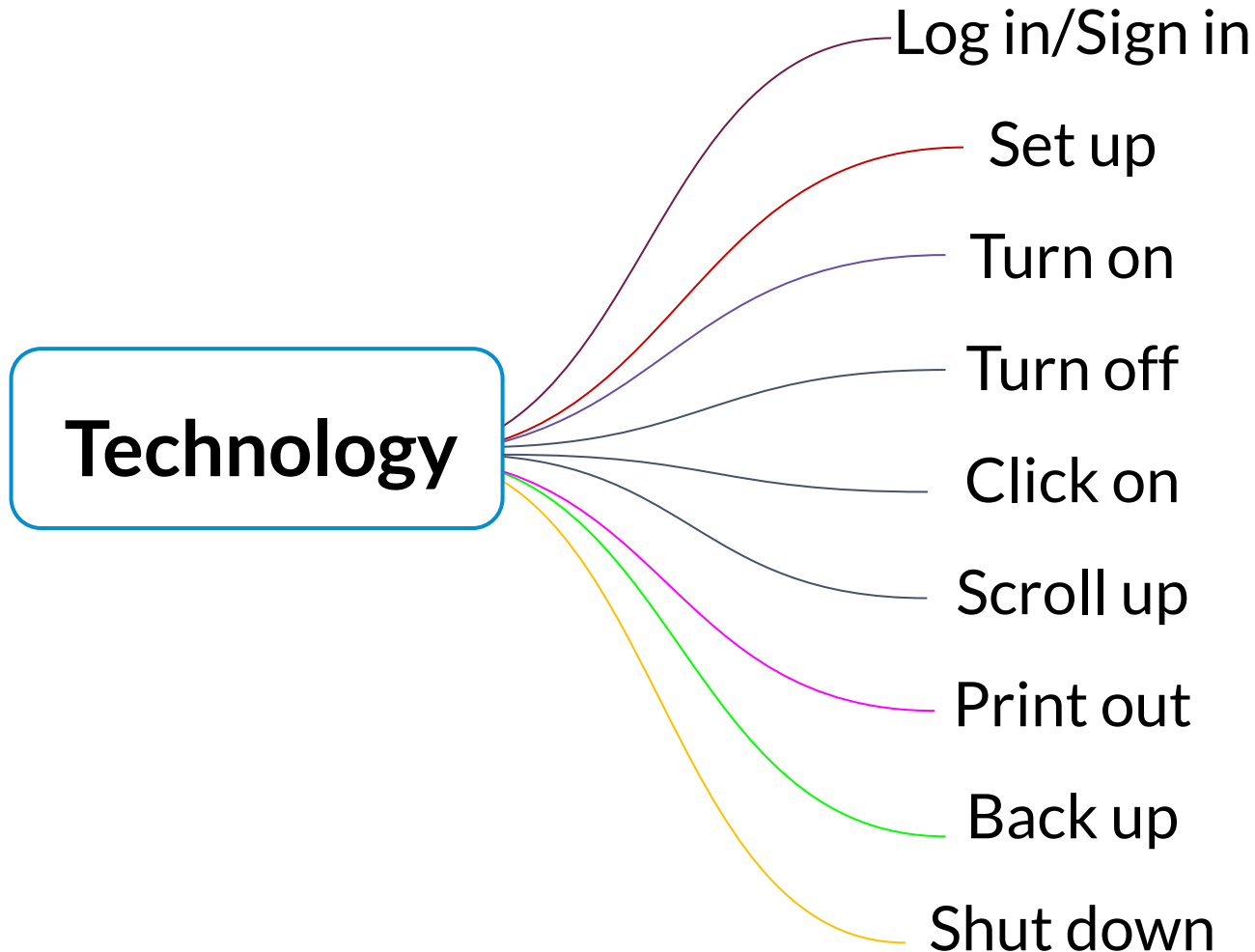
- Do not group them by verbs
- Group them by particle
- Group them by topic
- Learn them in context
- Use them in a story



Topic: Work

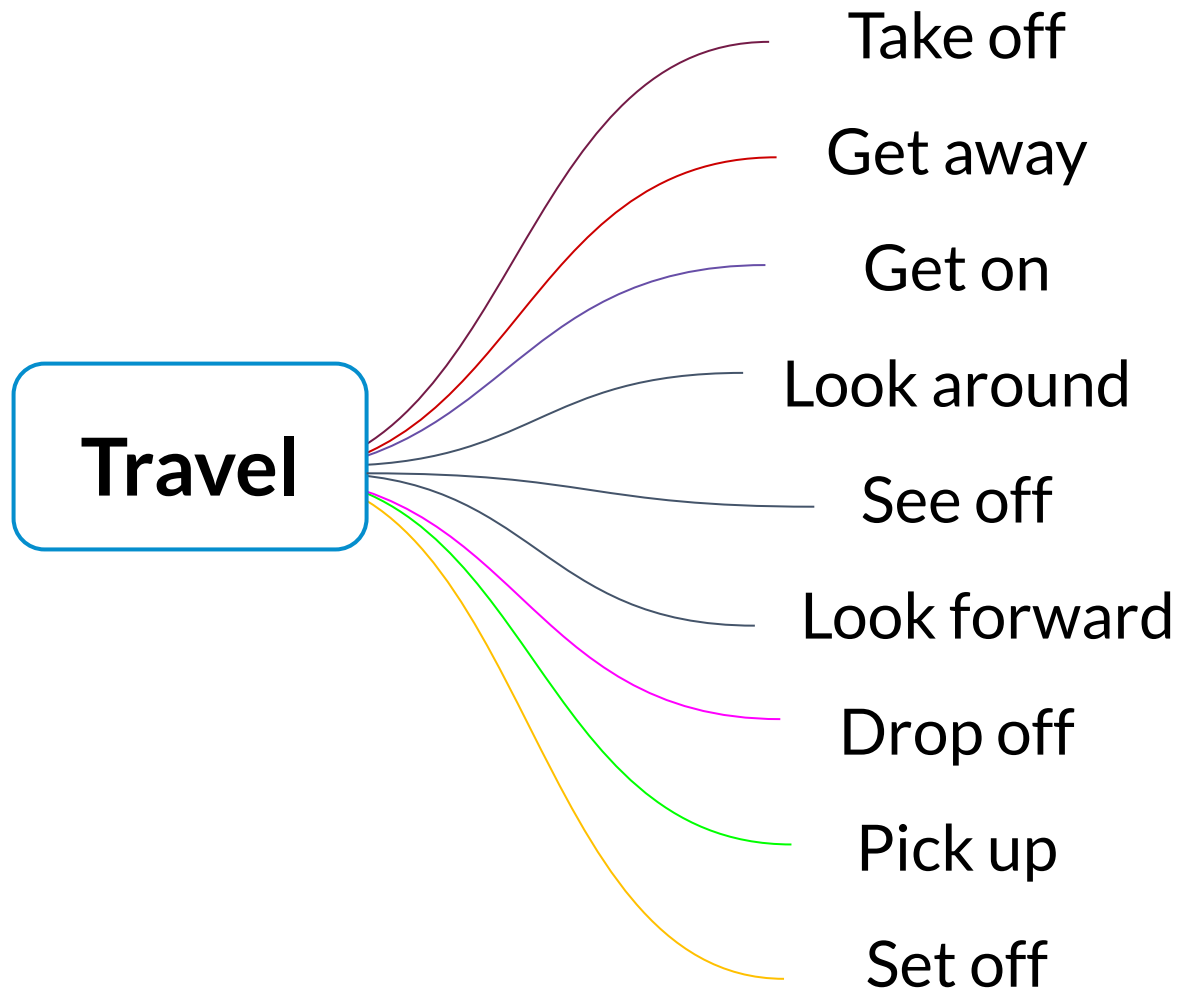


Topic: Technology

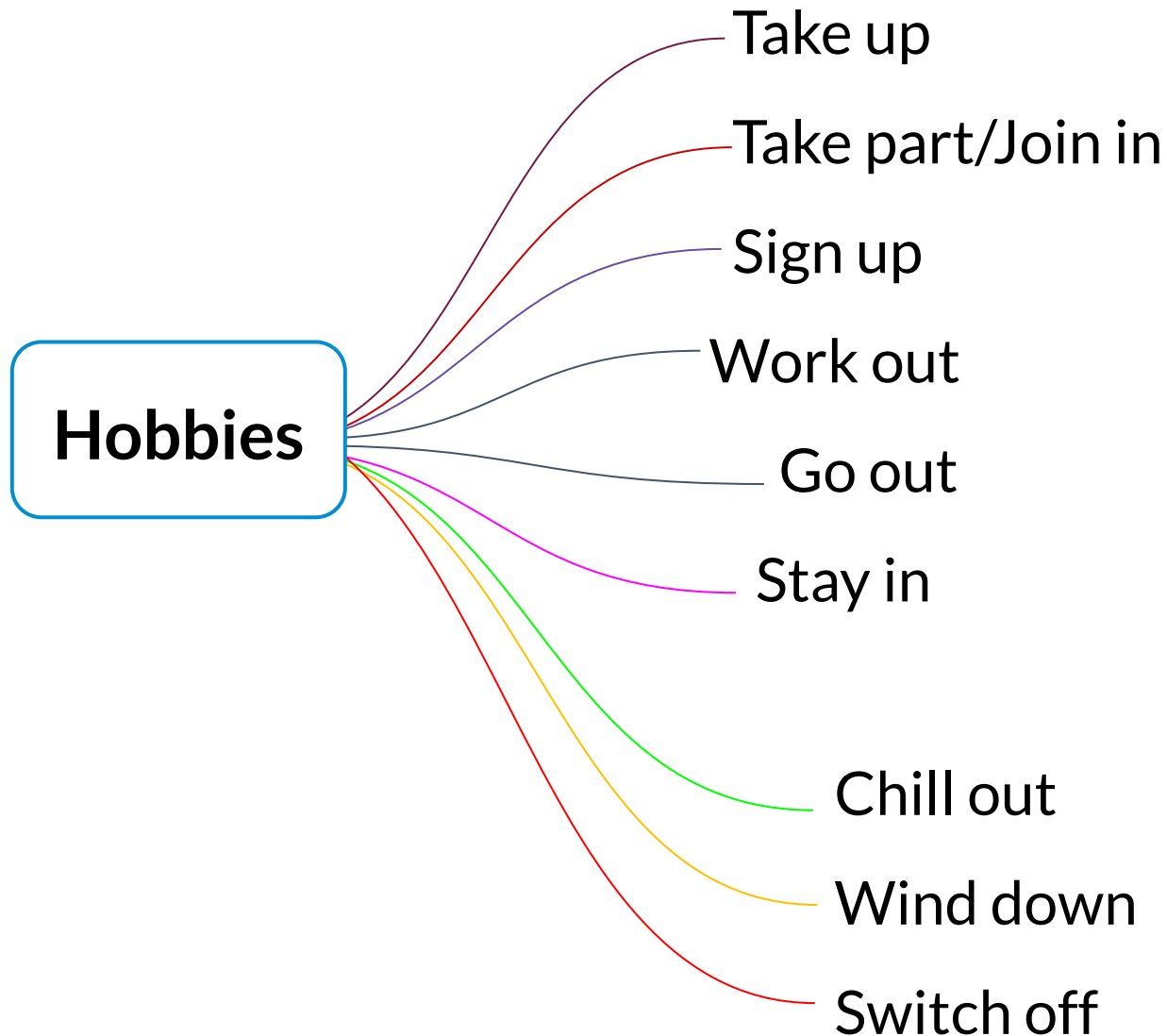


Phrasal Verbs: Travel & Hobbies

Topic: Travel

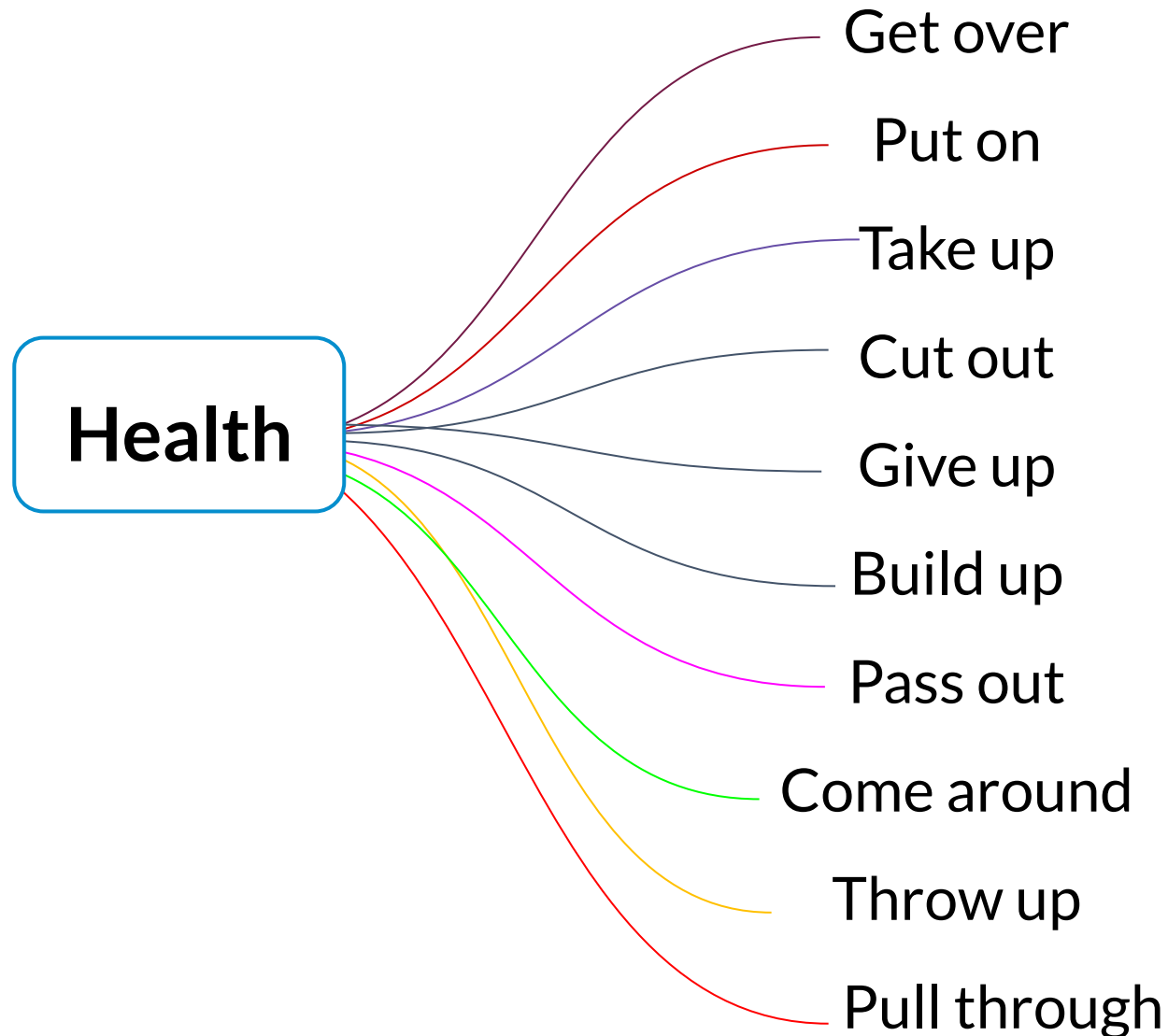


Topic: Hobbies

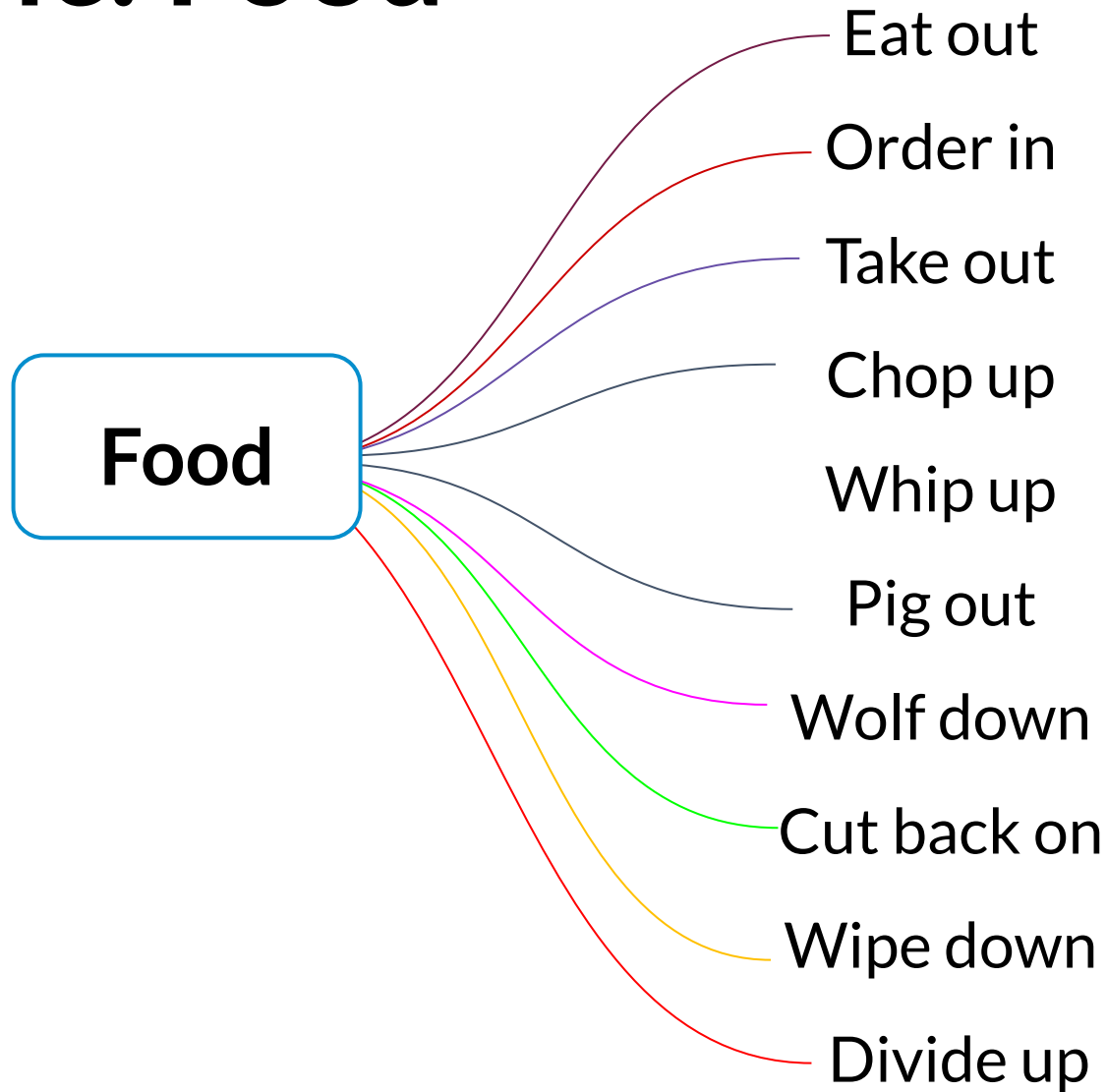


Phrasal Verbs: Health & Food

Topic: Health

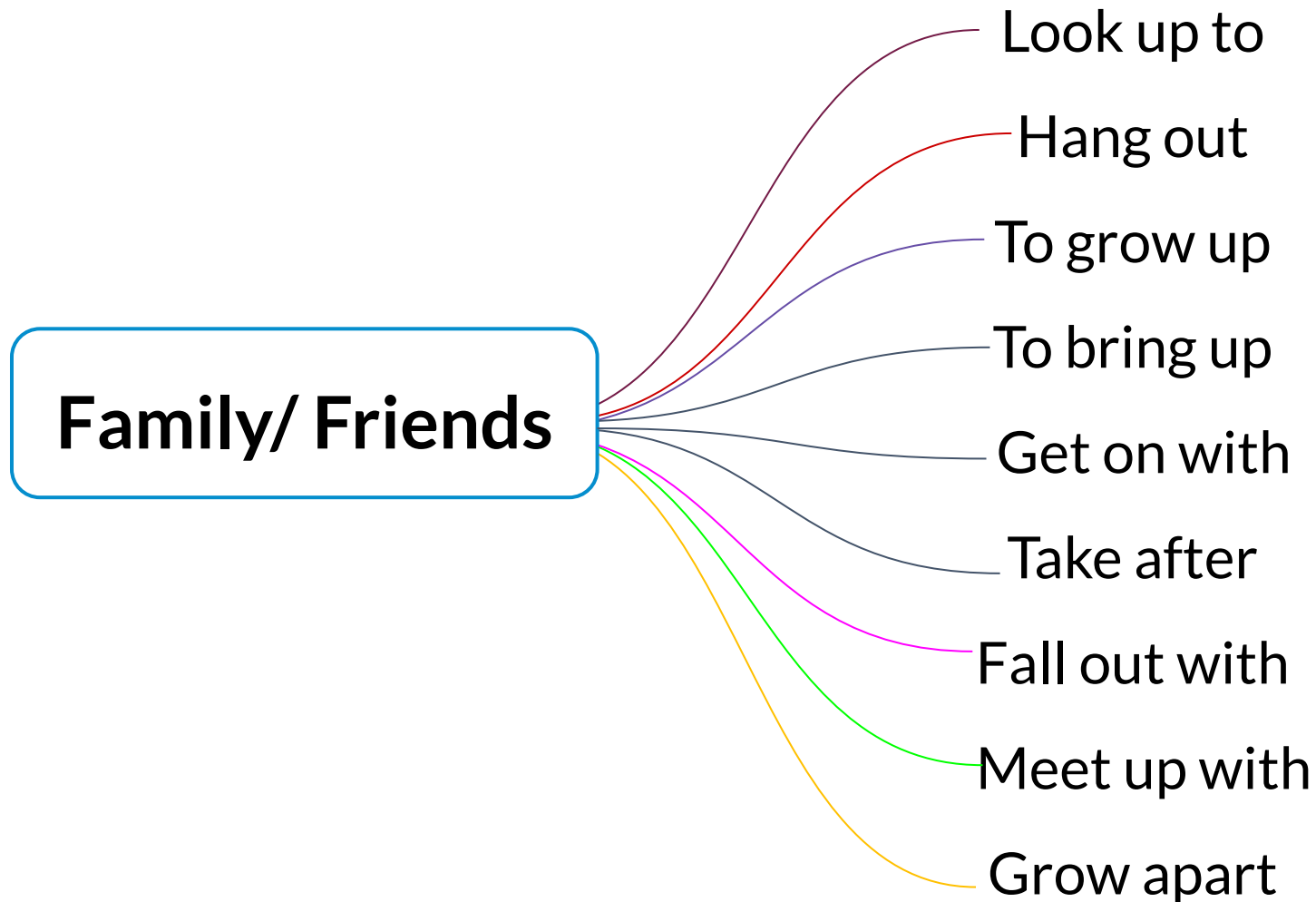


Topic: Food

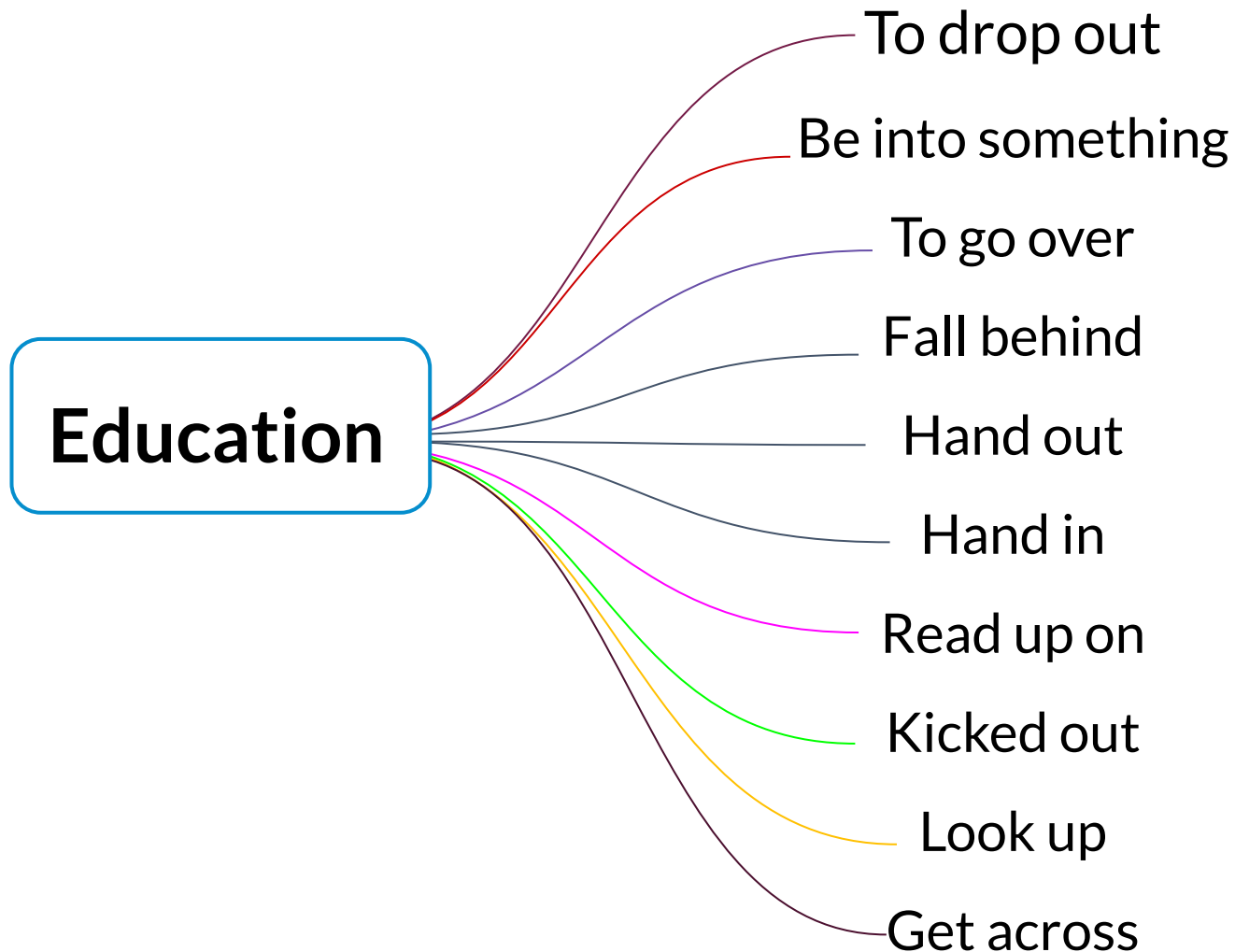


Phrasal Verbs: Family/Friends & Education

Topic: Family/Friends



Topic: Education





Reflection & Advice

Reflect

- Did I immerse myself in English?
- Did I listen and visualize?
- Did I make reading in English 15 minutes a day a habit?
- Did I produce English daily?

Advice

- **Think in English: No translating!**
- **Daily Practice: Immersion**
- **Be curious: Ask questions**