

UNIT 4

Language focus

1 Learning grammar



🔊 4.1 James and Nicola are talking about how you can improve your grammar. Answer the questions below.

- 1 Why are some mistakes in tense usage (e.g. using the Present Perfect rather than the Past Simple) not important?
- 2 What mistakes in tense usage are important? Why?
- 3 What is the alternative to learning grammar rules?
- 4 Why is listening important in improving one's grammar?
- 5 How can you use the emails you receive in order to improve your grammar?

2 Future forms

1 🔊 4.2 Listen to a journalist being interviewed about how he sees the world of work in 2020. Note down all the different future forms that are used.

2 🔊 4.2 Listen again and decide whether, according to the journalist, the following are true or false.

- 1 It is relatively easy to predict how the world of work will have changed in the future.
 - 2 The workforce should be factory-based.
 - 3 More people will be designing and marketing products than actually making them.
 - 4 People will not want to go into offices.
 - 5 Work is expected to become less boring.
 - 6 It is clear how people's activities can be organized more efficiently.
- 3 Correct any mistakes in the verbs in bold.
- 1 What do you think you **will do** this time in five years?
 - 2 I am catching the train that **will leave** at 5.00.
 - 3 When I **will arrive**, she **will have already got** there.
 - 4 I am not an expert, but I think that inflation **is going to rise** by 10% next year.
 - 5 By the time I **will be** fifty, I **would have saved** enough money to retire.

1 Making predictions

What will houses of the future be like? Decide which of the following are likely to become part of new designs for houses.

Feature	Yes	No
1 better insulation, more air conditioning, more shading of windows		
2 smaller houses and flats		
3 multi-purpose rooms		
4 furniture that can be easily removed when not in use		
5 increased use of home entertainment systems		
6 remote control of equipment (e.g. from the office, or while on holiday)		
7 cleaning done with sound waves rather than water		
8 smart fridges that suggest recipes based on the contents of the fridge		
9 robots		
10 self-repairing building materials		

2 Houses of the future

Compare your answers to exercise 1 with the experts' opinion in the article below.

THE HOUSE OF THE FUTURE

We asked some experts how they envisage houses of the future.

Population increase

It is foreseen that with the rise in the world's population, people will have to live in smaller homes. This means that the same room will have to serve many functions and have foldaway furniture (e.g. sofa beds). In richer countries, the traditional spare bedroom is likely to give way to a multimedia room equipped with a gym, and massive TV screens (doubling as a computer and games screen). And of course, all this equipment (plus lighting and heating) can be controlled from a distance.

Climate changes

Global warming and unpredictable weather are going to affect the way houses around the world are built. In countries where temperatures are forecast to rise in the summer and fall in the winter, new forms of insulation will be needed to keep heat in or out, e.g. heat-resistant blinds, more efficient forms of air conditioning, and heating. Given that for the foreseeable future water is going to be in shorter and shorter supply, new sound wave technologies which

shake off dirt may be used to actually replace water used for cleaning.

Smart homes

It has long been predicted that robots would become part of our everyday life, but rather than human-size ones, they are likely to be mini robots that check whether we have enough supplies in our fridge, when these supplies will reach their sell-by date, and how they could be combined together to create a delicious recipe. Robots will also control whether the house is at an optimal temperature, and what general repairs need to be made. In fact, it may even be possible for building materials and appliances to repair themselves.

Off the wall

Experts predict that walls will soon be made of glass which can change colour depending on whether you want to see from one room to another. Some experts anticipate that such walls will run on tracks, so that we will be able to change the size of a room to meet our needs at particular times of day, or periods in our life.

3 Talking about the future

Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

anticipating	envisage	forecast
foreseeable	foreseen	unpredictable

- The _____ said there would be sunny intervals and showers.
- _____ that it would soon be dark, they all took torches.
- I can't _____ the plan working.
- This will not happen in the _____ future.
- You never know how she will react: she's so _____.
- They could not have _____ how things would turn out.

4 Nouns and adjectives

- Find nineteen nouns in the wordsearch. Use the wordlist below to help if necessary.

H	M	A	G	N	E	T	E	R	R	O	R
Q	Y	L	G	A	L	L	E	R	G	Y	Y
R	T	P	V	E	Q	N	U	M	B	E	R
C	J	H	O	S	O	B	L	Y	A	I	S
Z	U	A	X	T	V	G	T	T	C	D	U
P	X	B	L	R	H	H	R	R	I	I	R
R	M	E	E	A	A	E	A	A	D	O	G
O	U	T	T	T	T	T	S	R	P	T	E
B	S	P	H	E	R	E	O	I	H	H	R
L	I	M	A	G	I	C	U	M	S	E	Y
E	C	Y	Y	Y	N	B	N	Z	X	R	R
M	Z	P	E	R	I	O	D	B	N	O	O

acid, allergy, alphabet, atom, cube, geography, hero, hypothesis, idiot, magic, magnet, music, number, period, problem, sphere, strategy, surgery, ultrasound

- Write the corresponding adjective for each noun.

Example ultrasonic

1 Talking about language

Decide if the following statements are true or false.

- 1 Americans speak the same language as the British.
- 2 Americans live a lifestyle that is different from the British.
- 3 Americans are essentially culturally different from the British.
- 4 The English typically have tea at four o'clock in the afternoon.
- 5 In India people typically have tea at four o'clock in the afternoon.
- 6 'Tea' in England is another word for 'dinner'.

4.3 Now listen to an American and an Indian talking about how they imagined England would be. Check your answers to 1–6.



2 The schwa sound

- 4.4** Listen to these words and practise saying them. The syllables in bold contain the schwa sound /ə/ – one of the most common, yet most indistinct, sounds in English.

again wonderful actor

- 2 Look at these words from the listening in exercise 1. Which syllables in bold do you think contain the schwa sound?

experience, cultural, difference, similar, humour, American, essentially, family, curve

- 4.5** Listen and check your answers. If you are still not sure, look at the key on page 80.

- 3 **4.6** Listen to these sentences being said in two different ways. In which one (first or second) is the word in bold pronounced with a schwa sound?

- a We **were** living an American lifestyle. 1 2
- b I **was** making all sorts of mistakes. 1 2
- c A drink **and** some sandwiches. 1 2

- 4 **4.7** Now listen to these two sentences. In which case does **that** have the schwa sound?

*I hadn't realized **that** tea is actually dinner.
And **that's** all you get.*


1 Making invitations


4.8 Listen to these three invitations and complete the table.


phrase used to make the invitation	phrase used to accept / decline the invitation	activity	time and place
1			
2			
3			


2 Formal and informal invitations

- 1 Read the following emails. Decide which ones are formal and which are informal. Underline the words and phrases that show formality and informality.

A 
 We would very much like you to speak at the dinner we are organizing to celebrate our twenty-year anniversary. We would very much appreciate an early reply.

B 
 Thank you for your kind invitation to deliver a speech at your anniversary dinner. I would be delighted to attend.

C 
 How are you doing? Do you fancy going out for lunch next week? I've got a presentation coming up and I'd like to pick your brains on a couple of things. Let me know asap.

D 
 I would have loved to come for lunch but I don't think I could make it cuz the kids are on holiday next week. I'm OK for the following week though. Say hello to Pete for me.

- 2 Now rewrite A and C so that they become informal and formal respectively.

3 Written invitations

- 1 Write one of the following letters.
 - 1 You have been asked to provide a reference for a person you know. Decline the request.
 - 2 You have been asked to act as chairperson at a congress, or to make a presentation at another company. Accept.
 - 3 You want to invite a colleague to a social activity.



- 2 Write some short dialogues which include the following expressions:

- Better still ...
- It's very nice of you to ask, but it's not really my thing.
- It's yours if you want it.
- OK, I'll hold you to that.
- That'd be great.