

English Grammar

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Contents

1	Grammar	1
1.1	Overview of English Tenses	1
1.2	Reported Speech	3
1.3	Conditionals	3
1.3.1	0th Conditional	3
1.3.2	1st Conditional	3
1.3.3	2nd Conditional	3
1.3.4	3rd Conditional	3
1.3.5	Mixed Conditional	3
1.4	Unreal Time and Subjunctives	3
1.5	Phrasal Verbs	3
1.6	Writing Commas	3
2	Spoken Language	4
2.1	Stress	4
2.2	Weak forms of function words	4
3	Random tidbits	5
3.1	Special phrases	5
3.1.1	Have something done	5
3.2	Similar words	5
3.2.1	Through, Tough, Thorough, Thought	5
3.2.2	Lie, Lie, Lay	6

1. Grammar

1.1 Overview of English Tenses

Present Simple

- Repeated/regular action in the present
- General validity: He likes food.
- Sequential actions: It's wet after it rains.
- Timetabled/scheduled future actions: Train departs at six.

Present Continuous

- Actions currently in progress: He is jumping the jumping jack.
- Temporary situations:
- Future plans and arrangements: I'm meeting the CEO this evening.

Past Simple, Preterite

- Completed past actions (one-off or repeated): He died in 16th century.
- Sequential past actions: After I ate, I went to sleep.

Past Continuous

- Actions already in progress at a specific moment in the past: He was speaking at conference.
- Multiple actions in progress at the same time: While he was speaking it was raining outside.
- Background description in a narrative

Present Perfect Simple

- Completed past action without a concrete time marker: I have visited that Museum.
- Past action with an influence on the present: It seems I have lost my keys.
- Action that lasts to the present moment: I have known her for the last 10 years.
- Recently completed actions: I've just washed the car.
- How much/how many times an action happened up to now: I have seen that movie five times.

Present Perfect Continuous

- How long an action has been in progress up to now: He has been hiking for the last five days.

- Recently completed actions with an emphasis on the duration: Why are your clothes dirty? — I have been gardening.

Past Perfect Simple

- Actions that occurred prior to another point in the past: Caesar had had spoken with senators prior to being stabbed.
- Sometimes interchangeable with past perfect continuous

Past Perfect Continuous

- Action before a certain point in the past: His hands were dirty because he had been fixing the car.
- Emphasizes the action or length of the action: By the time the guests arrived, I had been cooking for two hours.
- Sometimes interchangeable with past perfect simple (just emphasizes the duration of the action in the past)

Future denoted with will

- Spontaneous decisions: I think I will eat a banana.
- Promises: I will do regular exercise next year.
- Predictions: I will rain.

Future denoted with going to

- Intentions for the future: I'm going to change the world for the better.
- Logical conclusions regarding the future: War in Ukraine is going to deteriorate global security.

Future Continuous

- Actions that will already be in progress at a certain point in the future: In one year I will be swimming in cash.

Future Perfect Simple

- Actions that will have been completed by a future time: By monday I will have checked with all praetorians whether to proceed with the plan.

Future Perfect Continuous

- Actions that will already have been completed by a future time: He will have been speaking.

1.2 Reported Speech

1.3 Conditionals

1.3.1 0th Conditional

1.3.2 1st Conditional

1.3.3 2nd Conditional

1.3.4 3rd Conditional

1.3.5 Mixed Conditional

1.4 Unreal Time and Subjunctives

1.5 Phrasal Verbs

1.6 Writing Commas

2. Spoken Language

2.1 Stress

TODO: English Pronunciation in Use Advanced by Martin Hewings, suffixes and word stress (Strong and weak folder)

2.2 Weak forms of function words

In spoken English we emphasis is often placed on certain words in a sentence. Some words aren't usually emphasized. Examples of these include things like articles, indefinite pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions and so on. In some words that can be, but don't have to be, emphasized there is a difference in pronunciation.

We usually use strong form for one of three reasons:

1. Word forms a sentence on it's own.
2. We want word to be prominent.
3. Word is used at the end of the sentence.

Mechanism	Words	Weak	Strong
Weak form with /ə/	the, a, an, and, but, that, than, your, then, us, at, for, from, of, to, as, there, can, could, shall, should, would, must, do, does, am, are, was, were, some	I can (/kən/) draw This is for (/fə/) YOU	I CAN (/kæn/) come after ALL Who's it FOR (/fɔː/)
Weak form with reduced vowels	she, he, we, you	Are you (/ju/, /jə/) TIRED?	A: who DID it? B: he (/hiː/)
Weak form without (/h/) sound	his, her, he, him, had, had	was he (/hi/, /i/) THERE?	HE (/hiː/) was there but SHE (/ʃiː/) wasn't

TODO: add prominent function words (Strong and weak folder)

3. Random tidbits

3.1 Special phrases

3.1.1 Have something done

We use structure **have something done** to denote that a action with given object has been arrange to be done by somebody else. E.g.: Peter repaired the car. (Peter himself repaired the car), Peter had the car repaired. (He arranged a mechanic to repaired the car). In sentence the order of words is fixed - **have** - **subject** - **past participle**. There is also option to use the word **get** instead of **have**. This is used essentially exclusively in spoken English and isn't particularly formal.

Sometimes structure have something done might not necessary mean that the action was arranged, but that something happened to somebody/somebody's belonging. E.g.: Peter had his nose broken. Have you ever had your phone stolen.

3.2 Similar words

3.2.1 Through, Tough, Thorough, Thought

Word	Meaning
Though	in spite of, however, nevertheless
Thought	an individual act or product of thinking
Tough	difficult to accomplish, capable of enduring strain
Through	preposition/adverb: moving from one side to another adverb: continue in time toward the completion
Thorough	complete in all respects

Examples

- Though:
 - Conjunction: I am eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring, though I truly enjoy the winter.
 - Adverb: The students can be loud and boisterous, but I enjoy working with them, though.
- Thought:
 - Noun: His thought was that the movie did no justice to the book.
 - Verb: While daydreaming in class, Morgan often thought about her upcoming graduation. (past tense of think)
- Tough:
 - The tough new laws are meant to deter tobacco companies from advertising to a young demographic. The tourists were advised to avoid the tough parts of town.
- Through:
 - Preposition: The kitten snuck in through the garage to stay warm.

- Adverb: When we opened the door to the library, the kids came running through. (movement from place to place)
- Adverb: The students will be training all summer break, from June through August. (continuation in time towards completion)
- Adjective: The employees took a break once they were through with all their tasks. (acts like finished)
- Thorough:
 - Adjective: After a thorough investigation, the police department concluded that the student was not involved with the recent string of laptop thefts.

3.2.2 Lie, Lie, Lay

- Lay (verb): place down
- Lie (verb): to be in horizontal position, to tell a lie
- Lie (noun): untruth

Tense	Lay	Lie (horizontal)	Lie (tell a lie)
present	lay	lie	lie
past	laid	lay	lied
past participle	laid	lain	lied
present participle	laying	lying	lying