

Advanced comparative clauses

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3315G

LANGUAGE
English

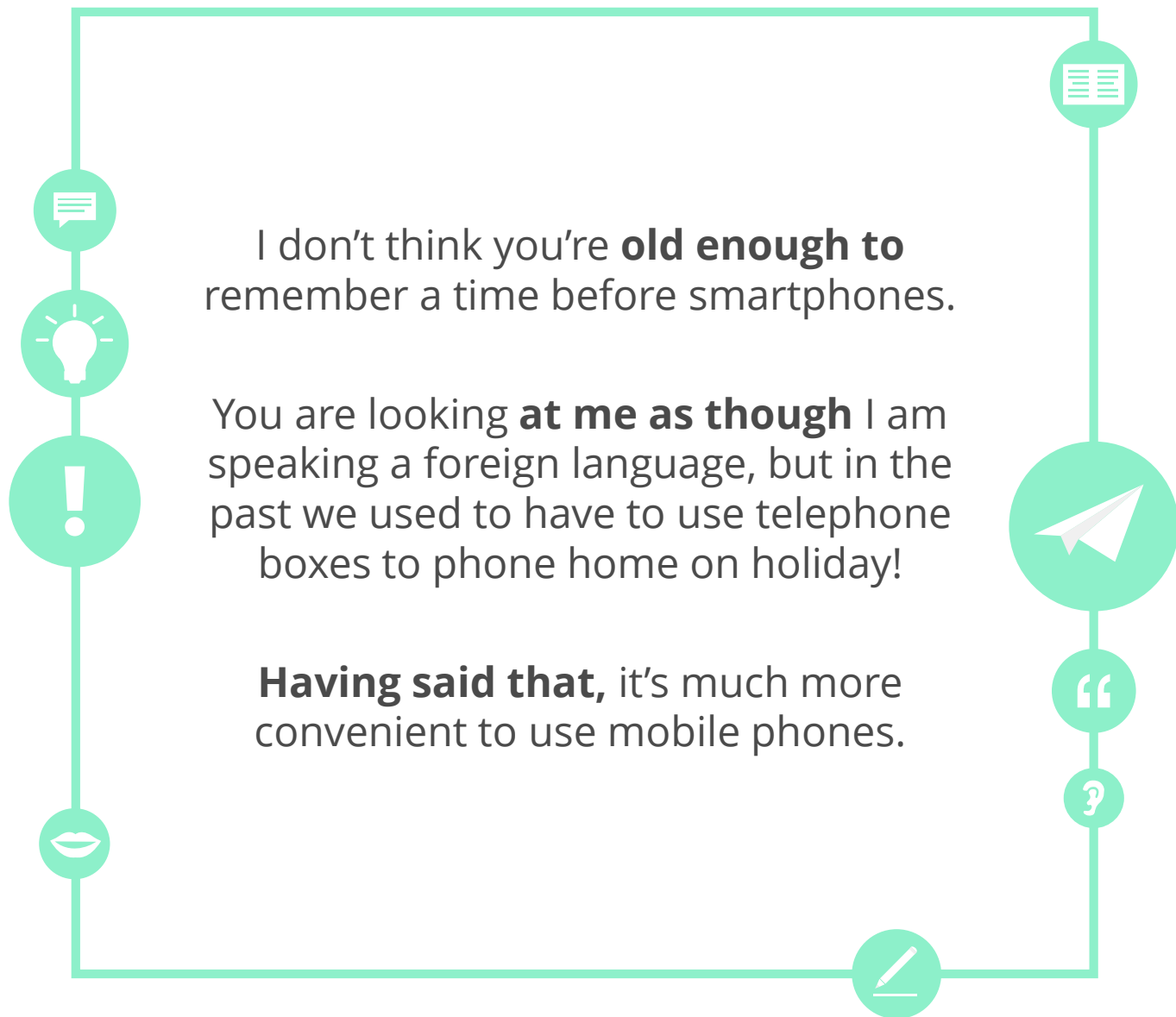




Goals

- Can use advanced structures to express comparison.
- Can use comparative clause structures to write statements and rules.







Preview and warm-up

- This lesson is about **clause structures** with a main focus on **comparative clauses**. However, we will also deal with other clauses!



What do you already know about **comparative clauses**?



Comparative clauses: adjective + *enough*

- We can use ***enough*** as an **adverb** to modify an adjective or another adverb.
- We can also join two sentences together using ***enough + to infinitive***.
 - I am not rich. I can't buy the house.
 - I am not rich enough to buy the house.

- However, when we use ***enough*** to make a **comparative clause with an adjective** we have to make sure that both of the sentences we are going to join together are either **positive** or **negative**.
- **You cannot make a clause with enough using a negative sentence with a positive one!**
 - I am tired. I want to sleep for a week.
 - I am tired enough to sleep for a week!

Note that enough comes after the adjective!



Comparative clauses: + *than* + to-infinitive clause

- We can also make **comparative clauses** using *than* followed by **to + an infinitive clause**.

- It is better to get along with your co-workers **than to** argue with them.
- We are happier to help you out **than to** see you struggling.





Grammar examples

- Still not sure exactly how to use these comparative clauses?
- Check out the examples below!



I'm hungry **enough** to eat that whole cake!

It is much harder to do the right thing
than to do the easy one.





Making comparative clauses

**Make clauses using the comparative clause adjective + *enough*.
Use the sentences on the cards below to start your clause.**





Role-play: encouraging your employee

You are a manager of a company. One of your workers (played by your teacher) is finding work quite challenging at the moment and is very insecure. However, you see potential in him/her, so you want to encourage him/her.

- Your teacher will say 10 negative things about himself/herself.
- Encourage him/her by using some of the phrases and structures you have practised.
- e.g. *Of course you are smart enough. I had difficulties with my first project too!*





Than + to-infinitive clauses

Can you make comparative clauses with *than* followed by *to* + an infinitive clause using the adjectives below?

You will have to switch them to the comparative form first!

easy

stressful

happy

difficult

content

sad

It can be much harder to do the right thing than to do the **easy** one.



Comparative clauses: *Rather than* + non-finite clause



- We can use the phrase ***rather than*** followed by a **non-finite clause** to **make comparisons**, often to show that one is much more favoured than the other.
- I would like to work from home today **rather than** go into the office.

- It's often possible to put **rather** at the beginning of these clauses and still have the same meaning.

- **Rather** than go into the office, I would like to work from home today.



Comparative clauses: *As if* / *as though* + finite clause

- We can also make **comparative clauses** using *as if* or *as though* + a **finite clause**.
- There is no difference in meaning when you use either.

- Andrew looked at me **as though** I'd just made a huge mistake.
- Andrew looked at me **as if** I'd just made a huge mistake.





Making clauses about you!



Write ten statements about yourself using the phrase **rather than** followed by a non-finite clause. Share these with your class.

*I want to get all the work done now **rather than** stay late after work.*



Practice makes perfect

Make a clause using each of the phrases together with *rather than* followed by a non-finite clause.



pay more

know now

finish it today

change
suppliers

stay at home

reschedule

keep it a secret

find a better
candidate

find another job



Using *as if* / *as though* + finite clause

Take inspiration from the photos below and make statements using *as if* and *as though* + a finite clause for each!



as if



as though



Other clauses

- We can also make clauses using verbs in the **-ing** form before the main clause.
- However, when making this type of clause it is really important that you make it clear **who the subject is!**

- **Having** a lot of experience in office administration, I am confident I am fit for this position.





Using conditionals to make clauses

Knowing how to use conditionals such as **unless** or **provided (that)** in clauses is really useful!

- You can start a conditional clause with **unless**, or you can also use **unless** to join the two parts of the clause together.
 - **Unless** something changes, I will see you at the airport at 12pm.
 - I will see you at the airport at 12pm **unless** something changes.
- However, we do not use **unless** with impossible conditions. Nor do we use **unless** and **if** together.
- You can use **provided (that)** in place of **if** in clauses.
 - You can have a raise **provided that** you work extra hard.



Relative clauses with *whose*



We use ***whose*** to introduce a **relative clause** that shows **possession**.



He's the man **whose** wife is a heart surgeon.



Some more examples

Here are some more examples of the structures we have explored.



Having so much money, I decided to give some of it away.

Unless my trial day goes terribly, I think I've got the job.



You have a place on the course **provided that** you pay the entrance fees on time.

He is the man **whose** book won an award.





Practise making clauses using *unless*

Imagine you are a manager explaining the rules of your company to a new employee. Using *unless* in the clause, come up with ten rules.

“

You cannot take more than two sick days off **unless** you have a doctor's note

”





More practice making clauses

Imagine you are at the airport. Can you think of ten different clauses that you might read around the airport that would use *unless* and/or *provided that*?





Thinking about what you have learnt



Think about all the clause structures you have learnt in this class.

Which did you find most challenging and why?

Which do you think are most useful to you?

Can you give examples of how you will use them?



Helping a friend

Your friend is learning English, but is really struggling with advanced comparative clauses! Can you help them?

- Think of all the clauses you have learnt in this lesson.
- Explain to your friend how they are used and give examples of each.
- Try to be as detailed as possible.





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no



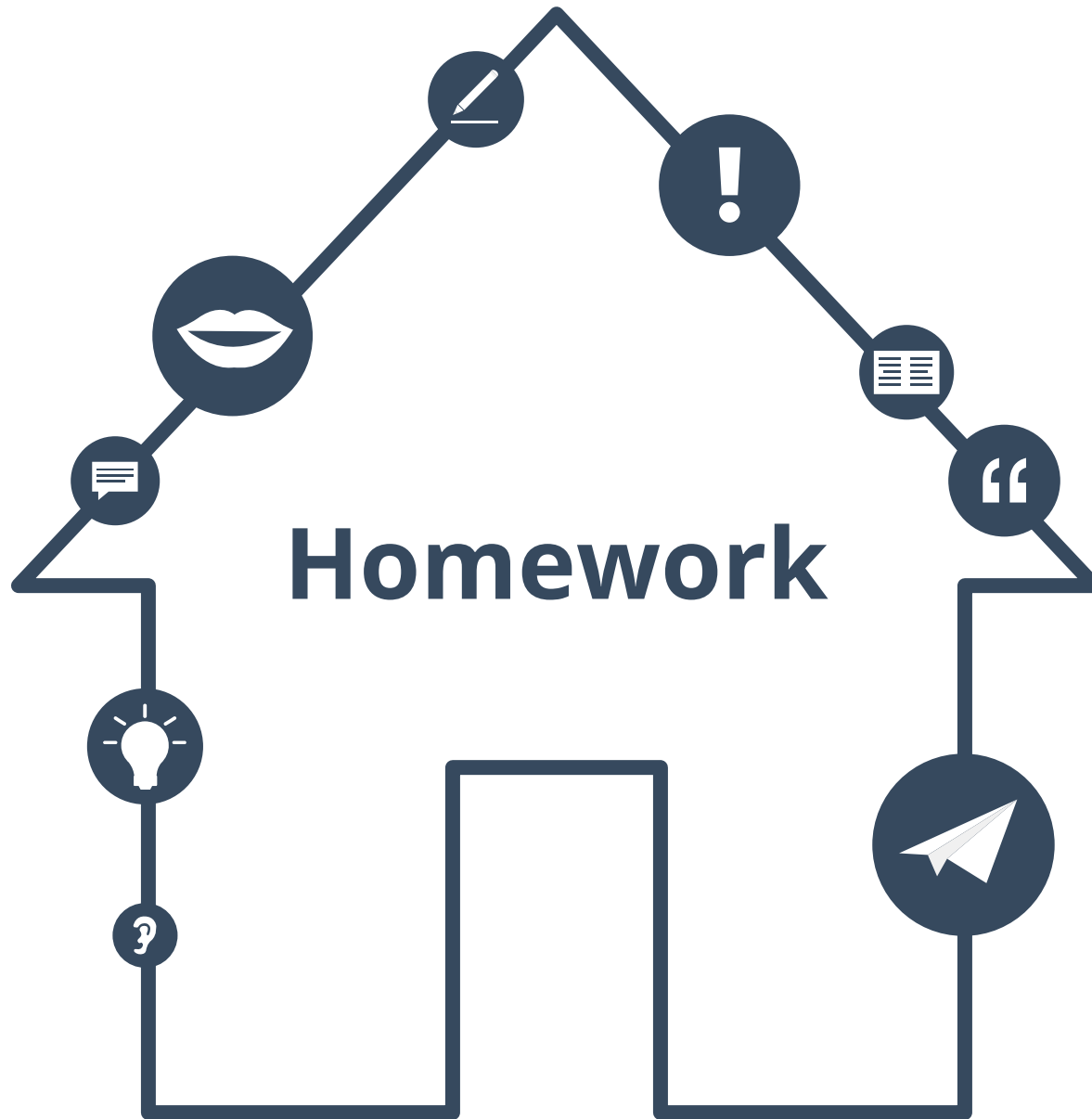


Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again





Homework writing activity

Write 6 sentences using the advanced clause structures listed on the cards below.

unless

provided that

whose

having said that

than + to-
infinitive clause

adjective +
enough





This image shows a blank sheet of white paper designed for writing. On the left side, there is a vertical blue margin line. To the left of this margin line are ten circular punch holes, evenly spaced vertically. The main body of the page is filled with horizontal blue ruling lines, providing space for text. There are no pre-written notes or markings on the paper.



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