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# ENGLISH NOTES

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FROM A1 TO C2

EDITED BY

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*My notes from  
Langpill english grammar course from Udemy, and internet*

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Nouns</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Plural Form . . . . .	5
2.2	Common Nouns . . . . .	6
2.3	Proper Nouns . . . . .	6
2.4	Material Nouns . . . . .	6
2.5	Compound Nouns . . . . .	7
2.6	Countable vs Uncountable Nouns . . . . .	8
2.7	Collective Nouns . . . . .	8
2.8	Concrete and Abstract Nouns . . . . .	9
2.8.1	Concrete nouns . . . . .	9
2.8.2	Abstract Nouns . . . . .	9
2.9	Possessive Nouns . . . . .	10
<b>3</b>	<b>Pronouns</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	Subject Pronouns . . . . .	10
3.2	Object Pronouns . . . . .	11
3.3	Possessive Pronouns . . . . .	11
<b>4</b>	<b>Articles</b>	<b>12</b>
4.1	Indefinite Article . . . . .	12
4.2	Definite Article . . . . .	12
<b>5</b>	<b>Demonstratives</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Distributives</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1	All . . . . .	14
6.2	Half . . . . .	14
6.3	Each and Every . . . . .	14
6.3.1	Each . . . . .	14
6.3.2	Every . . . . .	15
6.4	Both . . . . .	15
6.5	Either . . . . .	15
6.6	Neither . . . . .	15
<b>7</b>	<b>Quantifiers</b>	<b>16</b>
7.1	A Few, Little . . . . .	16
7.2	Much and Many . . . . .	16
7.3	A Lot, Most . . . . .	16
7.4	Some, Any and Enough . . . . .	17
<b>8</b>	<b>Verb Conjugation</b>	<b>17</b>
8.1	First, Second and Third Person . . . . .	17
<b>9</b>	<b>Simple Tense</b>	<b>18</b>
9.1	Past Simple . . . . .	18
9.1.1	How to form the past simple tense . . . . .	18
9.1.2	Positive, negative, and questions forms . . . . .	19
9.1.3	Using time markers . . . . .	19
9.2	Present Simple . . . . .	19
9.2.1	How to form the present simple tense . . . . .	19
9.2.2	Positive, negative, and questions forms . . . . .	20
9.2.3	Using time markers . . . . .	20
9.3	Subject-Verb Agreement . . . . .	20
9.3.1	The Rule of Proximity . . . . .	21
9.3.2	The Inverted Subject . . . . .	21
9.3.3	More about subject-verb agreement . . . . .	21

9.4	Future Simple . . . . .	21
9.4.1	Positive, negative, and questions forms . . . . .	21
9.4.2	Using time and probability markers . . . . .	22
<b>10</b>	<b>The Gerund</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Present Participle</b>	<b>22</b>
11.1	How to form the present participle . . . . .	23
11.2	Uses . . . . .	23
<b>12</b>	<b>Continuous Tense</b>	<b>23</b>
12.1	Past Continuous . . . . .	23
12.1.1	How to form the past continuous . . . . .	23
12.1.2	Positive, negative and question forms . . . . .	23
12.1.3	Using time markers . . . . .	24
12.1.4	Exceptions . . . . .	24
12.2	Present Continuous . . . . .	24
12.2.1	How to form the present continuous . . . . .	24
12.2.2	Positive, negative and question forms . . . . .	24
12.2.3	Using time markers . . . . .	24
12.2.4	Other uses . . . . .	24
12.3	Future Continuous . . . . .	24
12.3.1	How to form the future continuous . . . . .	25
12.3.2	Positive, negative and question forms . . . . .	25
12.3.3	Using time markers . . . . .	25
12.3.4	Other uses . . . . .	25
12.4	Comparing continuous tenses . . . . .	25
<b>13</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>	<b>25</b>
13.1	How to form the past participle . . . . .	25
13.2	Uses . . . . .	26
<b>14</b>	<b>Perfect Tense</b>	<b>26</b>
14.1	Present Perfect . . . . .	26
14.1.1	How to form the present participle . . . . .	26
14.1.2	Positive, negative and question forms . . . . .	26
14.1.3	Uses . . . . .	26
14.1.4	Using time markers . . . . .	27
14.2	Past Perfect . . . . .	27
14.2.1	How to form the past perfect . . . . .	27
14.2.2	Positive, negative and question forms . . . . .	27
14.2.3	Past perfect vs Present perfect . . . . .	27
14.2.4	Other Uses . . . . .	28
14.3	Future Perfect . . . . .	28
14.3.1	How to form the future perfect . . . . .	28
14.3.2	Positive, negative and question forms . . . . .	28
14.3.3	Time expressions . . . . .	28
14.3.4	Other uses . . . . .	28
<b>15</b>	<b>Prefect Continuous Tense</b>	<b>28</b>
15.1	Present Perfect Continuous . . . . .	28
15.1.1	How to form the present perfect continuous . . . . .	29
15.1.2	Positive, negative and question forms . . . . .	29
15.1.3	Time markers . . . . .	29
15.2	Past Perfect Continuous . . . . .	29
15.2.1	How to form the past perfect continuous . . . . .	29
15.2.2	Positive, negative and question forms . . . . .	29
15.2.3	Time markers . . . . .	30
15.3	Future Perfect Continuous . . . . .	30

15.3.1	How to form the future perfect continuous . . . . .	30
15.3.2	Positive, negative and question forms . . . . .	30
15.3.3	by + time expression . . . . .	30
<b>16</b>	<b>Helping Verbs (Auxiliary Verbs)</b>	<b>30</b>
16.1	To Be . . . . .	31
16.1.1	Uses . . . . .	31
16.2	To Do and To Have . . . . .	31
16.2.1	Uses . . . . .	31
16.3	Modal Verbs . . . . .	32
16.3.1	Can and Could . . . . .	32
16.3.2	Must . . . . .	32
16.3.3	May (Modal verb) . . . . .	33
16.3.4	Shall . . . . .	33
16.3.5	Should . . . . .	33
16.3.6	Will . . . . .	33
16.3.7	Would . . . . .	34

# 1 Introduction

This document was written for me to understand the English grammar from a beginner to an advanced level. Because I find that I can understand better if I take notes for myself while I'm watching English lessons, and I decided to make my notes with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X because it is a useful and cool tool for writing awesome documents.

I know that I need to improve my English writing and as I improve it I will update this document. I hope my notes become useful to other people so this document is divided in the main topics of English grammar, so that you can go directly to the topic that you want to learn.

Remember that is important to practice on your own to master the English language, another advice for you is to speak with a friend of you who wants to learn English or already knows it, or even to your self, about any topic you like and if you are stuck to explain something then you can search on Internet or ask to your friend to get feedback.

## 2 Nouns

A **noun** is a word that is used to name a person, animal, place, action or thing either generally (**common noun**) or specifically (**proper noun**).

Common noun                      Proper noun  
*You can buy a **pencil** at **Office Depot**.*

### 2.1 Plural Form

There are rules to form plural forms, but remember that some nouns are irregular so that you can't use those rules to form the plural form.

- Generally we can use  $\Rightarrow$  Noun + S, to get the plural form  
 e.g. *cat-cats, dog-dogs, pencil-pencils*
- Singular noun ending in s, ss, sh, ch, x, z, o + *es*,  $\Rightarrow$  Plural form  
 e.g. *tax-taxes, bus-buses, box-boxes*
- In some cases, singular nouns ending in s or z  $\Rightarrow$  Double s or z  
 e.g. *fez-fezzes, gas-gasses*
- Noun ending in f, fe  $\Rightarrow$  Change *f* into *ve* + s  
 e.g. *life-lives, wolf-wolves, wife-wives* (Exceptions: *roof-roofs, belief-beliefs, chef-chefs*)
- Noun ending in *y* and the letter before is a consonant  $\Rightarrow$  Change the ending to *ies*  
 e.g. *city-cities, puppy-puppies*
- Noun ending in *y* and the letter before is a vowel  $\Rightarrow$  Add s  
 e.g. *ray-rays, boy-boys*
- Noun ending in *o*  $\Rightarrow$  Add *es*  
 e.g. *potato-potatoes, tomato-tomatoes* (Exceptions: *photo-photos, piano-pianos, halo-halos*)
- Noun ending in *us*  $\Rightarrow$  Frequently change *us* to *i*  
 e.g. *cactus-cacti, focus-foci*
- Noun ending in *is*  $\Rightarrow$  Change *is* to *es*  
 e.g. *analysis-analyses, ellipsis-ellipses*
- Noun ending in *on*  $\Rightarrow$  Change *on* to *a*  
 e.g. *phenomenon-phenomena, criterion-criteria*
- Some nouns don't change  
 e.g. *sheep-sheep, series-series, species-species*

Here we have some **irregular nouns**, they don't follow specific rules

Singular	Plural
man	men
woman	women
person	people
child	children
tooth	teeth
foot	feet
mouse	mice

Table 1: Some irregular nouns

## 2.2 Common Nouns

**Common nouns** refer to classes or categories of people, animals, places, things, or a concept, as opposed to a particular individual.

*I have a **computer**, a **keyboard**, a **mouse** and many **books**.*

**Common nouns** are **not capitalized** unless they begin a sentence or are part of a title.

***Apples** are delicious fruits  
I don't like **apples***

## 2.3 Proper Nouns

**Proper nouns** are used to name to specific items rather than refer to a category or a class, such as names, names of cities, countries, etc.

*I'm from **Mexico***

Note that proper nouns are unique names. **They are capitalized**

*My friend **George** is from **Brazil***

We should also capitalize:

- a) Festivals  
e.g. ***Christmas** and **Thanksgiving** are my two favourite holidays!*
- b) People's titles  
e.g. *Everything depends on **President** Trump and his decisions.*
- c) The names of books, films, plays, paintings. We use capital letters for the nouns, adjectives, and verbs in the title.  
e.g. *I've just finished reading '**The Old Man and the Sea**'*

Sometimes we use a person's name to refer to something they have created.

*We were listening to **Mozart** the other day.  
I'm reading **an Iris Murdoch** now.*

When you use a word about a family member (e.g. *mom, dad, uncle*), capitalize it only if the word is being used exactly as you would use a name, i.e. if you were addressing the person directly. If the word is not being used as a name, it is not capitalized.

*Please ask **Dad** if he can buy wine on his way home.  
Is your **dad** coming over for dinner?*

Whenever you see a capitalized word, question whether or not it is a proper noun. Make sure that the capitalized word is in fact a noun as there are also proper adjectives.

***Asia** is one of the continents of the world. (proper noun)  
I don't like **Asian** food. (proper adjective).*

## 2.4 Material Nouns

**Material nouns** denote a material or substance from which things are made of.

*a **plastic** bottle, a **diamond** ring, etc.*

Material nouns are uncountable, thus they do not have a plural form. Generally, articles are not used with material nouns as they are uncountable.

*~~I really want to buy these cottons pants.~~  
I really want to buy these **cotton** pants.*

Material nouns fall into several categories:

- a) Related to nature  
e.g. air, salt, coal, silver, gold, etc.
- b) Related to animals  
e.g. meat, milk, egg, wool, etc.
- c) Related to plants  
e.g. cotton, coffee, tea, wood, etc.
- d) Artificial or man-made materials  
e.g. alcohol, cheese, brick, steel, etc.

## 2.5 Compound Nouns

A **compound noun** contains two or more words which are joined together and form a single noun. Compound nouns can be words written together, words that are hyphenated, or separate words. The first word usually describes or modifies the second word, denoting its type or purpose. Consequently, the second word identifies the item itself.

*I need to buy a new **toothbrush**.* ( a brush used for cleaning one's teeth)

There is no exact rule as to when we should write compound nouns together, hyphenated, or as separate words. If you are not sure how to write a compound noun, **consult a dictionary**.

*Could you go with me to the **bus stop**?*

*My **in-laws** are incredible people.*

*I love your new **haircut**! You look fantastic!*

Note that the stress usually falls on the first syllable in compound nouns. As a result, the word stress helps to differentiate between a compound noun and an adjective + noun.

*A **greenhouse** is a glass building used for growing plants that need warmth, light, and protection.*  
(compound noun)

*A **green house** is a building that someone lives in. This building is painted green.* (adjective + noun)



## 2.6 Countable vs Uncountable Nouns

Countable Nouns (e.g. apple, song, house, etc.)	Uncountable Nouns (e.g. tea, money, love, etc.)
Things that <b>can be counted</b> , even if the number might be extremely high ( <i>e.g. all the people in the world</i> ).	Things that we <b>cannot count</b> with numbers. They may be the names for abstract ideas or qualities or for physical objects that are too small to count or shapeless ( <i>e.g. liquids, gases, etc.</i> ).
Can be singular or plural. <i>I have an <b>apple</b> and you have three <b>apples</b>.</i>	No plural form. <i>We're going to have <b>rice</b> for lunch.</i>
You can use <i>a/an</i> with singular countable nouns. <i>There is <b>a girl</b> outside. She is wearing <b>a beautiful dress</b>.</i>	You can't use <i>a/an</i> with uncountable nouns. But you can often use the phrase <i>a (bag, cup, etc.) of</i> . <i>There is <b>a bowl of rice</b> and <b>a bottle of juice</b> on the table.</i>
If you want to ask about the quantity of a countable noun, you ask 'How many?' combined with the plural countable noun. <i><b>How many dogs</b> are there? - There are <b>five dogs</b>.</i>	If you want to ask about the quantity of an uncountable noun, you ask 'How much?' combined with the uncountable noun. <i><b>How much coffee</b> do we have left? - We don't have <b>much coffee</b> left.</i>
You can use <i>many, a few, few</i> with plural countable nouns. <i>Sorry, but I didn't take <b>many pictures</b>. I've got <b>a few relatives</b> leaving here.</i>	You can use <i>much, a little, little</i> with uncountable nouns. <i>We didn't do <b>much shopping</b> there. We have <b>a little sugar</b> left.</i>
You can use <i>some, any, a lot of, both</i> with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns.	
<i>We like singing <b>some crazy songs</b> at karaoke.</i>	<i>We listened to <b>some music</b> there.</i>
<i>Did you buy <b>any oranges</b>?</i>	<i>I didn't buy <b>any orange juice</b>.</i>
<i>She showed <b>a lot of signs</b> of affection.</i>	<i>There is <b>a lot of love</b> in the air.</i>

Table 2: Countable vs Uncountable Nouns

## 2.7 Collective Nouns

A collective noun is used to refer to an entire group of people, animals, or things. Therefore it includes more than one member.

*My **family** is very big.*

Collective nouns can refer to:

- a) People  
e.g. *family, class, committee, staff, etc.*
- b) Animals  
e.g. *a pack of dogs, a swarm of flies, a herd of horses, a litter of puppies, etc.*
- c) Things  
e.g. *pack, set, bunch, stack, etc.*

When the members within one group behave in the same manner, they are part of a collective noun, thus this noun becomes singular and requires a singular verb.

*Every day **the football team** follows its coach out to the field for practice.*

When the members are acting as individuals, the collective noun is plural and requires a plural verb. In many cases, it may sound more natural to make the subject plural in form by adding words like *members, mates, etc.*

*After the practice **the team(mates)** shower, change into their casual clothes, and head to their homes.*

## 2.8 Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Nouns can be concrete or abstract.

**Concrete Nouns** are tangible and you can experience them with your five senses.

**Abstract nouns** refer to intangible things, like *actions, feelings, ideals, concepts, and qualities*.

***Food** is great. But **love** is even greater.*

### 2.8.1 Concrete nouns

A **concrete noun** is a noun that can be identified through one of the five senses: *touch, sight, hearing, smell, or taste*.

*Who turned off the **TV**?* (The noun *TV* is a concrete noun)

*What is that **noise**?* (Even though *nose* can't be touched, you can hear it, so it's a concrete noun)

Concrete nouns fall into several categories:

- a) People  
e.g. *mother, friend, teacher, stranger, etc.*
- b) Places  
e.g. *school, McDonald's, Las Vegas, India, etc.*
- c) Things you can touch and see  
e.g. *plane, cup, lamp, book, etc.*
- d) Things you can hear  
e.g. *music, noise, someone's voice, song, etc.*
- e) Things you can smell and taste  
e.g. *herbs, cookies, bread, wine, etc.*

### 2.8.2 Abstract Nouns

Remember that **abstract nouns** refer to a intangible things, like *actions, feelings, ideals, concepts, and qualities*.

Abstract nouns fall into several categories:

- a) Emotions and feelings  
e.g. *anger, sadness, love, grief, etc.*
- b) Human qualities and characteristics  
e.g. *beauty, maturity, humour, patience, etc.*
- c) Ideas and concepts  
e.g. *knowledge, freedom, luxury, comfort, etc.*
- d) Events  
e.g. *marriage, birthday, career, adventure, etc.*

Many abstract nouns are formed from adjectives, verbs, or nouns. Sometimes you can add a suffix to the concrete noun or alter the word root to form abstract nouns.

(Concrete noun)	(abstract noun)
<i>child</i>	<i>childhood</i>

Nouns with the following suffixes are often abstract:

<b>-tion</b> e.g. <i>devotion</i>	<b>-ism</b> e.g. <i>pessimism</i>	<b>-ity</b> e.g. <i>hospitality</i>
<b>-ment</b> e.g. <i>movement</i>	<b>-ness</b> e.g. <i>restlessness</i>	<b>-age</b> e.g. <i>marriage</i>
<b>-ance</b> e.g. <i>brilliance</i>	<b>-ence</b> e.g. <i>indifference</i>	<b>-ship</b> e.g. <i>relationship</i>
<b>-ability</b> e.g. <i>availability</i>	<b>-acy</b> e.g. <i>bureaucracy</i>	

Table 3: Common suffixes for abstract nouns

## 2.9 Possessive Nouns

The **Possessive** form is used with **nouns** referring to people, groups of people, countries, and animals. It shows a relationship of belonging between one thing and another.

*Leslie's aunt is a doctor.*

To form the possessive, add an **apostrophe + -s** to the noun.

*My brother's computer was stolen a week ago.*  
*Children's toys were on the ground.*

If the noun already **ends in -s**, just add an **apostrophe**.

*Student's homework will be assessed later.*

For names **ending in -s**, you can either add an **apostrophe + -s**, or just an **apostrophe**. The first option is more common.

*They want to sell Jame's car.*

Study some of the fixed expressions where the possessive form is used.

*a day's work, a month's pay, in a year's time, for God's sake*

Note that the possessive is also used to refer to *shops, restaurants, churches, universities, etc.*, using the name or job title of the owner.

*I want to go to Luigi's for dinner.*  
*Peter has an appointment at the dentist's at 10 a.m.*

## 3 Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word that replaces a noun in a sentence, making the subject a person or a thing

### 3.1 Subject Pronouns

A **subject** is the person or thing that performs the action in the clause or sentence.

A **subject pronoun** is a pronoun that takes the place of a noun as the subject of a sentence

*She told me about her worries.*

Subject pronouns replace nouns that are the subject of their clause.

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> person	I	we
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	you	you
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	he/she/it	they

Table 4: Singular and plural forms for subject pronouns

We should replace the subject with a subject pronoun to avoid repetition.

~~Mary is a student and Mary is very hard working.~~  
Mary is a student and **she** is very hard working.

We use the subject pronoun *it* when we refer to objects, things, animals, or ideas.

Love is eternal. **It** will last forever.

Sometimes when we don't know the sex of a baby, we can use *it*'.

Their baby is so small. **It** only weights 2 kilos.

We use *it* when we talk about *time, weather, or temperature*.

What time is **it**? - **It**'s 7 o'clock.  
**It**'s quite cold today.

### 3.2 Object Pronouns

An **object** is the person or thing that receives the action in the clause or sentence.

An **object pronoun** is a pronoun that takes the place of a noun as the object of a sentence.

She told **me** about her worries.

Object pronouns are used to replace nouns that are the direct or indirect object of a clause.

Subject	Object
I	me
you	you
he	him
she	her
it	it
we	us
they	them

Table 5: Subject and Object Pronouns

Object pronouns come either after a verb or a preposition.

Ethan asked **me** to talk to **them**.

Note that the subject pronoun *it* and the object pronoun *it* look the same.

Do you know the movie 'Pretty Lady'? *it* is my favourite! (subject pronoun)  
I've seen *it* many times. (object pronoun)

Remember that object nouns are always the recipients of the action in sentence.

~~He and me went to the movies.~~ **He and I** went to the movies.  
~~Mrs. Keith called her and I.~~ Mrs. Keith called **her and me**.

We should replace the object with an object pronoun to avoid repetition.

I can't stop thinking about Amy. ~~I can't stop imagining my future with Amy.~~ I can't stop imagining my future with **her**.

### 3.3 Possessive Pronouns

**Possessive pronouns** are pronouns that demonstrate ownership.

This car is **mine**.

Possessive pronouns are used instead of a possessive adjective and noun. Study the following table:

Subject	Object	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun
I	me	my	mine
you	you	your	yours
he	him	his	his
she	her	her	hers
it	it	its	its
they	them	their	theirs

Table 6: Possessive Adjectives & Possessive Pronouns

## 4 Articles

**Articles** are words that define a noun as specific or unspecific. English has two types of articles:

- Indefinite: *a/an*
- Definite: *the*

*I'm **a** nurse. **The** hospital I'm working in is huge.*

### 4.1 Indefinite Article

The **indefinite article** takes two forms: **a/an**. Use the indefinite article **a** when it precedes a word that **begin** with a **consonant**. Use the indefinite article **an** when it precedes a word that **begins** with a **vowel**.

***a** table, **an** umbrella, **a** university, **an** honest person.*

The indefinite article **a/an** indicates that a noun refers to a general idea rather than a particular thing.

*What does **a** fox say?*

We use **a/an** when the listener does not know which person or thing we are talking about.

*Helen's brother works in **a** factory. I don't know which factory exactly.*

If we refer to something for the first time, it will be new information for the listener so we use **a/an**. When referencing to the same thing again use **the** because now the listener knows what we are talking about.

*I bought **a** new computer. It's really great! **The** computer is much better than my previous one.*

### 4.2 Definite Article

The **definite article** is the word **the**. It limits the meaning of a noun to one particular thing. We use **the** when it is clear which thing or person we are talking about.

***The** cake is in the fridge. I know that Kate made it.*

We use the definite article **the** with:

- Nationalities and other groups  
e.g. ***the** French, **the** Italians, **the** old, **the** poor.*
- Time  
e.g. *in **the** past, in **the** future (but: **at present**.)*
- Superlatives  
e.g. *You are **the** first one!*

- d) Musical instruments  
e.g. *I played **the** piano as a kid.*
- e) Countries which are a group or plural  
e.g. ***the** U.S. , **the** U.K., **the** United Arab Emirates, **the** Netherlands*
- f) Names of ship.  
e.g. *We sailed on **the** Claudia*
- g) Oceans  
e.g. ***the** Pacific, **the** Atlantic*
- h) Rivers  
e.g. ***the** Amazon, **the** Nile*

Note that we use **zero article** with **plurals** and **uncountable nouns** when we are generally talking about something.

***Dogs** are not allowed in that shop.* (We are talking about dogs in general.)  
***The dogs** next door were barking at night.* (We are talking about the particular dogs.)

## 5 Demonstratives

**Demonstratives** are words that show which person or thing is being referred to. Demonstratives show where an object, event, or person is in relation to the speaker. They can refer to a physical or a psychological closeness or distance.

***This** is Hugh, and **that** is Kevin.*

	Near the speaker	Far from the speaker
Adverbs	here	there
Demonstratives with singular and uncountable nouns	this	that
Demonstratives with plural countable nouns	these	those

Table 7: Demonstratives

Demonstratives can be placed before the noun or the adjective that modifies the noun.

***That old man** stole my purse!*  
***These oranges** are delicious!*

Demonstratives can also appear before a number by itself when the noun is understood from the context.

*I'll take **this one**, please. = I'll take this watermelon, please.*

Demonstratives can be used by themselves when the noun they modify is understood from the context.

***Those** aren't yours. Put them back. = Those shoes aren't yours. Put them back.*

When talking about events, the **near demonstratives** are often used to refer to the **present** while the **far demonstratives** often refer to the **past**.

***This situation** is quite unstable.*  
***That event** made me realise how important my family is to me.*

## 6 Distributives

**Distributive determiners** or simply **distributives** refer to a group of people or things, and to individual members of the group.

They show different ways of looking at the individuals within a group, and they express how something is distributed, shared, or divided.

***All people** want to love and to be loved.*  
***Each person** is unique. **Every** person is unique.*  
***Both of us** like Mexican food.*

## 6.1 All

The distributive determiner **all** is used to talk about a whole group, with a special emphasis on the fact that nothing has been left out.

**All** can be used with uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns by itself. In this usage, it refers to the group as a concept rather than as individuals.

***All parents** want the best for their children.*

**All** can be used with uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns preceded by **the** or a **possessive adjective**. In these uses, the word **of** can be added just after **all** with no change in meaning.

*Have you eaten **all the cookies** in the jar? = Have you eaten **all of the cookies** in the jar?.*

**All** can be used with **plural pronouns** preceded by **of**.

***All of us** are going to be there tonight.*

**All** can be used in questions and exclamations with **uncountable nouns** preceded by **this/that** or with **countable nouns** preceded by **these/those**. In these uses, the word **of** can be added just after **all** with no change in meaning.

*Look at **all this snow** out there!*

*What are **all these people** doing in our house?*

## 6.2 Half

The distributive determiner **half** is used to talk about a whole group divided in **two**. **Half** can be used as a distributive in several different patterns.

**Half** can refer to measurements if it is followed by an indefinite article **a/an** and a noun.

*I'll be back in **half an hour**.*

**Half** can be used with plural pronouns preceded by **of**.

***Only half of us** are going to be there tonight.*

**Half** can be used with nouns preceded by **the**, **a/b**, **a demonstrative**, or **a possessive adjective**. In this case, the meaning refers to a concrete, physical division. The word **of** can be added just after **half** with no change in meaning.

***Half the people** have already left the party.*

*Putting **half a kilo of sugar** into the topping will ruin the cake.*

*I want **half of that cake**!*

*Sorry, but I used **half of your eggs** making breakfast today.*

## 6.3 Each and Every

The distributives **each** and **every** are both related to describing the members of a group. These distributives can only be used with **countable nouns** by being placed before the nouns.

In many cases, they are interchangeable but there is a **subtle difference** between them.

### 6.3.1 Each

**Each** is used to describe and highlight an individual member of a group, or multiple individuals. By using **each** you recognise the item is a part of a group, but that it also needs to be pointed out as a singular item too.

***Each book** on the shelf had a unique cover.*

**Each** can be used with plural nouns and pronouns but **must** be followed by **of**.

***Each of the pupils** received a Christmas card.*

**Each** can be used after the subject or at the end of a sentence.

***My siblings each** have their own room.*

*My mother gave my sister and I \$20 **each**. = (gave \$20 to each of us.)*

### 6.3.2 Every

**Every** by contrast is a way of referring to the group as a collection of individual members. **Every** cannot be used with plural nouns.

~~*Every boys in my class wanted that computer game.*~~ *Every boy in my class wanted that computer game.*

**Every** can express different points in a series, especially with time expressions.

*Every morning Phillip goes for a run.*  
And *every time* Ann would forgive him.

### 6.4 Both

**Both** refers to the whole pair and is equivalent to 'one and the other'. **Both** can be used with plural nouns on its own, or it can be followed by **of**, with **of** without an article. When followed by a plural pronoun, **both** must be separated from the pronoun by **of**.

*Both (of) my parents approve of me going to college.*  
I told *both of them* to give me a call.

**Both** cannot be used with singular nouns, because it refers to two things.

~~*Both my sister likes traveling.*~~ *Both my sisters like traveling.*

### 6.5 Either

**Either** is positive and when used alone refers to one of the two members of the pair. It is equivalent to 'one or the other'. Because it refers to just one member of a pair, **either** must be used before a singular noun. It can also be used with a plural noun or pronoun if followed by **of**.

*Either day is fine.*  
We could stay at *either of the hotels*.

**Either** can also be used with **or** in a construction that talks about each member of the pair in turn. The meaning remains the same, but in this case **either** is not functioning as a distributive. It is functioning as a **conjunction**.

*You can have either ice cream or cake.*

### 6.6 Neither

**Neither** is negative and when used alone refer to the whole pair. It is equivalent to 'not one or the other'. Because it refers to just one member of a pair, **neither** must be used before a singular noun. It can also be used with a plural noun or pronoun if followed by **of**.

*Neither date is convenient for me.*  
*Neither of these dresses suits her.*

**Neither** can also be used with **nor** in a construction that talks about each member of the pair in turn. The meaning remains the same, but in this case **neither** is not functioning as a distributive. It is functioning as a **conjunction**.

*It is neither snowing nor raining.*



## 7 Quantifiers

We use **quantifiers** when we want to give someone information about the number of something, they are adjectives and adjectival phrases that give approximate or specific answers to the questions 'How much?' and 'How many?'

***Most** children start school at the age of five.*

*I ate some **rice**.*

*There are **a lot of** dogs.*

We can use **quantifiers** with both **count** and **uncountable** nouns:

*How **much** coffee do we have left.*

*How many **cookies** do you have?*

**How much** is used to ask about uncountable nouns and when we want to know the price of something.

***How much** this computer cost?*

### 7.1 A Few, Little

A (very) few, (very) little are generally used in affirmative statements, not negatives or questions.

With countable nouns	With uncountable nouns
(very) <b>few</b> = hardly any or not enough	(very) <b>little</b> = hardly any or not enough
<i>I have (very) <b>few</b> toys.</i>	<i>We have (very) <b>little</b> coffee left.</i>
<b>a few</b> = some or enough	<b>a little</b> = some or enough
<i>I have <b>a few</b> examples to show</i>	<i>I have <b>a little</b> coffee left but I can make me a cup of coffee</i>

Table 8: A few vs A little

### 7.2 Much and Many

Normally, we use **much** and **many** only in questions and negative clauses. But can be used in affirmative sentences in combination with *too* and *so*. In this case, they denote the excessive amount of something.

*How **much** money do you have left?*

*There are **too many** people.*

*You put **a lot of sugar** on my coffee!*

We use **much** to talk about the quantity of uncountable nouns or the price of something, while we use **many** when we talk about the quantity of countable nouns.

*I have **many** friends.*

*She has **too much** money*

### 7.3 A Lot, Most

Note that in spoken English and informal writing when we want to indicate a large quantity of something we tend to use **a lot**, **a lot of**, **lots of**.

**A lot** means very often or very much. It is used as an adverb. It often comes at the end of a sentence and **never** before a noun.

*My brother plays video games **a lot**.*

*She's **a lot** happier after quitting her job.*

We use the quantifier **most** to talk about quantities, amounts and degree. We can use it with a noun (as a determiner) or without a noun (as a pronoun).

We use **most** with nouns in the meaning **the majority of**. If there is no article, demonstrative or possessive pronoun, we use **most** right before the noun.

***Most tap water** is drinkable.*

When we are talking about the majority of a specific set of something, we use **most of the + noun**.

***Most cakes** are sweet.* (cakes in general)

*The party was amazing. Kate made **most of the cakes** herself.* (a specific set of cakes at the party)

We can leave out the noun with **most** when the noun is obvious from the context.

*Students can eat in the cafeteria but **most** bring food from home.* (=most students)

## 7.4 Some, Any and Enough

We use **some**, **any** when we are talking about limited but rather indefinite number of quantities.

In general, we use **some** for affirmative sentences, and **any** for negatives and questions. Both can be used with countable and uncountable nouns.

*Jane bought **some** flowers.*

*Did Jane buy **any** flowers? - No, she didn't buy **any**.*

**Some** can be used for questions, typically offers and requests, if we think the answer will be positive.

*Would you like **some** tea.*

**Any** can be used in the meaning 'it doesn't matter which'.

*You can't take **any** bus. They all go to the centre.* (=it doesn't matter which bus you take=)

We use **enough** to indicate sufficiency, while in negative sentences it means less than sufficient or less than necessary.

*I'll take your t-shirt. It's **big enough** to fit me.*

*Sorry, but I can't go with you. I don't have **enough money** for that.*

## 8 Verb Conjugation

**Verb conjugation** refer to how a verb changes to indicate a different person, number, tense, or mood. In other words, **conjugation** is the changing of a verb's form to express a different person, number, tense, aspect, or gender. In order to communicate in more than one tone, verbs must be conjugated. To conjugate something is to change a verb's form to express a different meaning.

*I'm a student.* (1<sup>st</sup> person, singular, present simple, indicative mood)

### 8.1 First, Second and Third Person

Verbs should be conjugated with regard to person. Depending on the subject, a verb can stand in the first, second, or third person.

	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> person	I	we
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	you	you
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	he, she, it	they

Table 9: First, Second and Third Person (Singular and Plural).

As you can see, the pronouns **I**, **were** refer to the first person; **you**, to the second person; **he**, **she**, **it**, **they**, to the third person.

*We work on Saturdays.* (first person)  
*You need to take a break.* (second person)  
*It is snowing outside.* (third person)

Usually we assume the person of the verb in the sentence automatically as we almost always state a subject explicitly.

*Sarah has signed up for a yoga class.* ( **Sarah** can be substituted with the pronoun **she**; the verb is in the third person)

Note that the verb **to be** is irregular and has three forms in present tenses and two forms in past tenses. These forms depend on the person expressed by the subject.

	Present		Past	
1 <sup>st</sup> <b>person</b>	I am	we are	I was	we were
2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>person</b>	you are	you are	you were	you were
3 <sup>rd</sup> <b>person</b>	he/she/it is	they are	he/she/it was	they were

Table 10: Verb To Be forms.

## 9 Simple Tense

### 9.1 Past Simple

The **past simple** is used to write and talk about completed actions that happened in a time before the present. It is the basic form of the past tense in English. We use the **past simple** when we talk about an action which happened at a definite time in the past.

This tense emphasizes that the action is finished.

We can also use this tense to talk about how someone felt about something.

*I **solved** the puzzle.*  
*I **was** happy for your success.*

#### 9.1.1 How to form the past simple tense

- infinitive + (e)d  
e.g. *He **worked** part-time as a waiter.*  
*We **liked** our stay at the hotel.*  
Note that all persons have the same form.
- cons + -y  $\Rightarrow$  cons + -ied  
e.g. *cry-**cried**, try-**tried***
- vowel + const  $\Rightarrow$  vowel + double const + ed  
e.g. *stop-**stopped**, regret-**regretted***

Remember that irregular verbs don't follow the rules above, use the past tense form of the irregular verbs to make sentences in the past simple.

*be-**was/were**, eat-**ate**, drink-**drank***

The **past tense** of the verb **to be** depends on the person of the subject. (Table - 10)

I was	We were
You were	You were
he/she/it was	They were

Table 11: Past forms of verb To Be

### 9.1.2 Positive, negative, and questions forms

Positive      Negative  
**did** / **did not** + Verb

- (+) *His sister **lived** in Sutton, London.*
- (-) *His sister **did not live** in Sutton. She **lived** in Harrow.*
- (?) ***Did** his sister **live** in Sutton?*
- (?) *Where **did** his sister **live** in London?*

### 9.1.3 Using time markers

Yesterday, last night, (not) a long time ago, two years ago, etc.

*Shakespeare died **in 1616**.*

*Ryan did not go to work **yesterday**. He got sick.*

***When** did you move to Spain? - I moved there **not a long time ago**.*

Note that we use **did/did not** with the verb **to have**.

*I **didn't** have enough money to buy a new computer.*

But we do **not use did** with the verb **to be** (was/were).

*- Why **were you** so angry?*

*- I **wasn't** angry. **This was** my usual self.*

## 9.2 Present Simple

The **present simple** also called *present indefinite* is a verb tense which is used to show repetition, habit or generalization. We use the **present simple** when we talk about things in general.

We use this tense to say that something:

- Happens all the time.
- Happens repeatedly.
- Is true in general.

*Jane **works** as a barista. Her shift **begins** at 7 a.m.*

### 9.2.1 How to form the present simple tense

The present tense is the **base form** of the verb

*I **work** in London.*

But with the third person singular (she/he/it), we add an -s

*She **works** in London*

and when the verb ends in -o, -s, -ch, -sh, -x, we add -es instead

*My sister **watches** TV in the evening and my brother **does** his homework.*

Remember that such verbs as **to be** and **to have** are irregular.

Note the difference between BrE and AmE:

(BrE) - *I have got a car.*      (AmE) - *I have a car.*

To Be		To Have	
I am	we are	I have	we have
you are	you are	you have	you have
he/she/it is	they are	he/she/it has	they have

Table 12: Present simple: to be - to have

### 9.2.2 Positive, negative, and questions forms

Negative

do not/does not + verb

- (+) *He **gets up** at 6 o'clock every morning.*
- (-) *He **does not get up** at 6 o'clock every morning.  
He **gets up** at 7.*
- (?) ***Does he get up** at 6 o'clock every morning?*
- (?) ***When does he get up?***

### 9.2.3 Using time markers

You can add time markers such as always, often, usually, sometimes, rarely, never, every day, etc.

*I **usually** cook at home but my friends **always** eat at the local cafe.  
Kim is **always** late for classes.*

Notice where they are places in the sentences.

## 9.3 Subject-Verb Agreement

The **subject-verb agreement** is the correspondence of a verb with its subject in person (first, second, or third) and number (singular or plural).

***Liz is** an accountant and **she has** a typical 8-5 job.*

Subjects and verbs must agree with one another in person (first, second, or third).

Note that **subject-verb agreement** rules of the verb **to be** in present tenses.

	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> person	I am	we are
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	you are	you are
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	he/she/it is	they are

Table 13: Subject-Verb Agreement: To Be

*I am a student (1<sup>st</sup> person), my brother is a pupil (3<sup>rd</sup> person), and you are a teacher (2<sup>nd</sup> person).*

Subjects and verbs must agree with one another in number (singular or plural). Thus, if a subject is singular, its verbs must also be singular; if a subject is plural, its verb must also be plural.

***She cooks** dinner, and **her brothers make** breakfast.*

When the subject of the sentence is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by the conjunction **and**, use a plural verb.

***Brothers and sisters don't often get along.***

The words **each**, **each one**, **either**, **neither**, **everyone**, **everybody**, **anyone**, **anybody**, **nobody**, **somebody**, **someone**, and **no one** are singular and require a singular verb.

*Each of these suggestions is interesting.  
Someone was standing at the door.*

When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by **or** or **nor**, use a singular verb.

*Either your mother or dad needs to contact me.*

### 9.3.1 The Rule of Proximity

When a compound subject contains both a singular and a plural noun or pronouns joined by **or** or **nor**, the verb should agree with the part of the subject that is closer. (also called **the rule of proximity**).

*The teacher or the students write homework on the board. The students or the teacher writes homework on the board.*

### 9.3.2 The Inverted Subject

In sentences beginning with **there is** or **there are**, the subject follows the verb (also called **the inverted subject**). As **there** is not the subject, the verbs agrees with what follows.

*There is a book on the table. There are books on the table.*

### 9.3.3 More about subject-verb agreement

Note the **subject-verb agreement** with words that indicate portions (e.g. *a lot*, *a majority*, *some*, *all*): If the noun after **of** is singular, use a singular verb; if it is plural, use a plural verb.

*There is a lot of fuss around his arrival. There are a lot of people in the room.*

Use a singular verb with distances, periods of time, sums of money, etc. when considered as a unit.

*Ten dollars is a high price to pay for socks.  
But: Ten dollars (i.e. dollar bills) were scattered on the floor.*

Collective nouns are words that imply more than one person but are considered singular and take a singular verb (e.g. *family*, *group*, *team*, *committee*, *class*, etc.).

*My family is very big.*

## 9.4 Future Simple

The **future simple tenses** is often called the "**will tense**" because we make the **future simple** with the modal auxiliary **will**.

We can refer to the future by using **will**, **be going to** or by using **present tenses**.

We use the **will** future when we want to talk generally about future beliefs, opinions, hopes and predictions.

*I promised myself that once I start college I will do all my assignments on time.*

### 9.4.1 Positive, negative, and questions forms

Positive                      Negative  
**will ('ll)/ will not (won't) + verb**

- (+) *Sam will probably move to Canada next year.*
- (-) *Sam won't move to Canada next year. He'll move to the US.*
- (?) *Will Sam move to Canada next year?*
- (?) *Where will Sam move to?*

### 9.4.2 Using time and probability markers

Time markers - **tomorrow, next month, in a day, etc.**

Probability markers - **perhaps, probably, definitely, etc.**

*Perhaps it'll snow **tomorrow**.  
I'll **definitely** finish my essay **next month**.*

Pay attention to the word order.

(+) *We'll **probably** do it tomorrow.*  
(-) *We **probably** won't do it tomorrow.*

Some speakers use **shall** to refer to the future in formal situations (with / and we).

Nowadays **shall** is used for suggestions only.

***Shall I go or shall we leave together?***

## 10 The Gerund

The **gerund** looks exactly the same as a **present participle**, but it is useful to understand the difference between the two. The **gerund** always has the same **function as a noun** (although it looks like a verb).

***Hunting** tigers is dangerous.*

Some rule to form the gerund

- -e + ing  
e.g. *make-making, write-writing*
- vowel + cons  $\Rightarrow$  double cons + -ing  
e.g. *knit-knitting, swim-swimming*
- -ie  $\Rightarrow$  -y + -ing  
e.g. *lie-lying, die-dying*

The **gerund** can be made negative by adding not.

*The best thing for your health is **not smoking**.*

The **gerund** can function as:

- (a) The subject of the sentence.  
e.g. ***Smoking** causes lung cancer.*
- (b) The complement of the verb to be.  
e.g. *The hardest thing about learning Russian is **memorizing** the verbs of movement.*

The **gerund** can be used:

- (a) After prepositions or as part of certain expressions. (there's no point in, in spite of, etc.)  
e.g. *Can your brother count to ten **without looking** at his fingers?  
**There's no point in going** back to his place now.*
- (b) After phrasal verbs. They are composed of a verb + preposition/adverb.  
e.g. *I **ended up buying** a new computer. Rachel **gave up drinking** sugar drinks.*

## 11 Present Participle

Most commonly we use the **present participle -ing** as an element in all continuous verb forms (the present continuous, the past continuous, etc.).

The auxiliary verb indicates the tense, while the present participle remains unchanging.

*I **was playing** computer games **all night** (past continuous)*

## 11.1 How to form the present participle

- Verb ending in -e + -ing  
e.g. *like-liking, write-writing*
- Verb ending with vowel + cons  $\Rightarrow$  double cons + -ing  
e.g. *sit-sitting, swim, swimming*
- Verb ending in -ie  $\Rightarrow$  -y + -ing  
e.g. *lie-lying, die-dying*

## 11.2 Uses

The present participle is used not only form verb tenses. It can be used:

- (a) After verbs of movement and position.  
e.g. *She went **shopping**.*  
*They came **running** towards me.*
- (b) After verbs of perception in the pattern verb + object + present participle to indicate the action being perceived.  
e.g. *We saw him **mowing** the lawn. Liz heard someone **singing**.*
- (c) After verbs of movement, action, or position to indicate parallel activity.  
e.g. *He sat **looking at** the pedestrians.*  
*July walks **reading her newspaper**.*
- (d) As an adjective.  
e.g. *Have you heard of that **amazing** movie? The family was trapped inside the **burning** barn.*
- (e) To explain the cause or reason. The present participle is used instead of a phrase starting with **as, since, because**.  
e.g. ***Feeling** hungry, I made myself a sandwich. (= I made myself a sandwich **because** I was hungry).*  
***Knowing** that his roommate was coming, James cleaned the living room. (= James cleaned the living room **as** he knew that his roommate was coming.)*

## 12 Continuous Tense

The **continuous tense** shows an action that is, was, or will be in progress at a certain time. The **continuous tense** is formed with the verb **to be** + -ing form of the verb (present participle).

### 12.1 Past Continuous

We use the **past continuous** when we describe a situation, or several situations in progress, happening at the same time in the past.

This is often contrasted with a sudden event in the past simple.

***I was working** on my computer and my brother **was reading** a book when we heard a loud bang on the door.*

#### 12.1.1 How to form the past continuous

Positive	Negative
Was/were + Verb -ing	wasn't/weren't + Verb - ing

#### 12.1.2 Positive, negative and question forms

- (+) *Jim **was playing** video games all night.*
- (-) *Jim **was not playing** video games all night. / He **wasn't playing** video games all night.*
- (?) ***Was** Jim **playing** video games all night?*
- (?) ***Why was** he **playing** video games all night?*



### 12.1.3 Using time markers

at 7 o'clock, for two hours, in January, last week, all night, etc.

*Kate was trying to find a nice apartment in her area **for 5 months**.*

when, while = during the time that

***While** they were waiting for the train, it started to rain.  
James broke his finger **when** he was playing basketball.*

### 12.1.4 Exceptions

Non-continuous verbs (e.g. *to love, hate, know, want, etc.* are **no used** in any continuous tenses! Use the past simple instead.

*~~I was having fun at the party, but Kim was wanting to go home.~~  
I was having fun at the party, but **Kim wanted to go home**.*

## 12.2 Present Continuous

We use the **present continuous** when we talk about something happening at the time of speaking, or actions happening 'around now', even though not at the moment of speaking.

This tense also has some future meanings.

*Hey, **what are you doing?** - **I am working on my thesis. I am graduating this semester.***

### 12.2.1 How to form the present continuous

Positive	Negative
to be + Verb -ing	to be + not + Verb -ing

### 12.2.2 Positive, negative and question forms

- (+) He **is sleeping** on the couch in the living room.
- (-) He **is not sleeping** on the couch in the living room.
- (-) He **isn't sleeping** there.
- (?) Where is he? **Is he sleeping?**

### 12.2.3 Using time markers

Now, right now, at the moment, today, this week, etc.

*I'm quite busy **this year** as I'm trying to start my small business.*

### 12.2.4 Other uses

Use the present continuous to talk about changing situations

*~~The population of the world increases very fast.~~  
The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.*

## 12.3 Future Continuous

We use the future continuous to say that we will be in the middle of doing something at a certain time in the future.

We often use this tense when we compare what we are doing now with what we will be doing in the future.

*The movie starts at 8 and ends at 10. At 9 **I will be watching** the movie*

### 12.3.1 How to form the future continuous

Positive	Negative
will + be + Verb -ing	won't + be + Verb -ing

### 12.3.2 Positive, negative and question forms

- (+) Sarah **will be flying** home at 5 o'clock tomorrow.
- (-) Sarah **will not be flying** home at 5 o'clock tomorrow. / She **won't be flying** home at 5 o'clock tomorrow.
- (?) **Will Sarah be flying** home at 5 o'clock tomorrow?
- (?) **Where will she be flying** at 5 o'clock tomorrow?

### 12.3.3 Using time markers

at 5 o'clock, at that time tomorrow, this evening, in 5 years' time, etc.

*Where will you be living **in 3 years' time**?*

### 12.3.4 Other uses

Use the future continuous to say that something will definitely happen in the future.

*I**'be going** to the shop later. Can I get you anything?*

## 12.4 Comparing continuous tenses

Compare **will be doing** with other continuous forms.

*Jane has an ordinary 9/8 job.*  
*At 11 o'clock yesterday she was working.* (past continuous)  
*At 11 o'clock today she is working.* (present continuous)  
*At 11 o'clock tomorrow she will be working.* (future continuous)

## 13 Past Participle

A **past participle** refers to the form of a verb which is used in forming perfect and passive tenses (and sometimes used as an adjective).

*Olivia has **lived** in Greece for 4 years.*

### 13.1 How to form the past participle

We usually add -(e)d to the base form of the regular verb to form the past participle

*Jun has just **painted** this picture.* (present perfect, active voice)  
*This picture was **painted** by Jun a month ago.* (past simple, passive voice)

There is no pattern as to forming the past participle of the irregular verbs. You should always consult a dictionary.

## 13.2 Uses

- (a) In the perfect tenses (Present Perfect, Past Perfect, Future Perfect).  
e.g. *I've **eaten** to much! I can't move.* (present perfect)  
*James had already **left** when Pam arrived.* (past perfect)  
*We will have **landed** by that hour.* (future perfect)
- (b) In the passive voice.  
e.g. *He was **driven** by genuine interest and curiosity.*  
*This dress was **made** by a famous Italian designer.*
- (c) As an adjective. In this case, place it before a noun.  
e.g. *Mike has **broken** his arm. ⇒ He has a **broken** arm now.*  
*Someone has stolen Ann's purse. ⇒ Her purse was **stolen**.*

## 14 Perfect Tense

The **perfect tense** or aspect is a verb form that indicates that an action or circumstance occurred earlier than the time under consideration, often focusing attention on the resulting state rather than on the occurrence itself.

### *I have made dinner*

Although this gives information about a prior action (my making of the dinner), the focus is likely to be on the present consequences of that action (the fact that the dinner is now ready).

### 14.1 Present Perfect

We use the present perfect to describe past events which are connected to the present.

Although this tense can be used to describe different situations.

*Sam **has lost** his keys.* (= He is looking for his keys and he still hasn't found them.)

#### 14.1.1 How to form the present participle

Positive  
have/has + Verb ending in -ed (**past participle**) or Simple Verb  
Negative  
haven't/hasn't + Verb ending -ed (**past participle**) or Simple Verb

#### 14.1.2 Positive, negative and question forms

- (+) I **have** already **seen** that movie. / I've already **seen** that movie.
- (-) I **have not seen** that movie yet. / I **haven't seen** it yet.
- (?) **Have** I **seen** that movie?

#### 14.1.3 Uses

- (a) Experiences in our life up to now.  
e.g. *I've **been** to Spain and Portugal. I really want to go to the UK. I **haven't been** there yet.*
- (b) An event in the past that has a result in the present.  
e.g. *Lilly **has broken** her foot. Her foot is still in a cast.*
- (c) A situation that started in the past and continues until the present.  
*I've **lived** here **for twenty years**. And I am still living here now.*
- (d) An event in the past that has a result in the present.  
e.g. *Peter **has read** 50 pages of his book so far. There are 150 pages left.*

#### 14.1.4 Using time markers

Pay attention to the time markers:

- (a) We use **every** and **never** to ask or talk about our experiences in life.  
e.g. *Have you **ever** eaten Chinese food? - I've **never** eaten it.*
- (b) We use **already** to describe an action which has happened before; **yet** - an action which hasn't happened before. e.g. *I haven't finished this book **yet**, and my sister has **already** begun reading another one.*
- (c) We use **just** when we describe a very recent event.  
e.g. *My mom has **just** come home from work.*
- (d) **Always, often, etc.** can also be used in the present perfect.  
e.g. *He has **always** loved Ann.*
- (e) We use **for** to describe the length of a time period. We use **since** to describe the point when the time period started.  
e.g. *Chris has worked here **for 5 months**. He has worked here **since May 5<sup>th</sup>**.*

### 14.2 Past Perfect

We use the **past perfect** to show clearly that one past event happened before another past event.

We use the past perfect in the earlier event.

*When I arrived at the party, Tom wasn't there. **He had gone home***

#### 14.2.1 How to form the past perfect

Positive

had + Verb ending in -ed (past participle) or Simple verb.

Negative

hadn't + Verb ending in -ed (past participle) or Simple verb.

#### 14.2.2 Positive, negative and question forms

- (?) **Had** Kate **gone** to bed when you arrived home?
- (+) **Yes, she had.** She **had gone** to bed when I arrived home. She'd **gone** to bed.
- (-) **No, she hadn't.** She **hadn't gone** to bed when I arrived home.

#### 14.2.3 Past perfect vs Present perfect

The **past perfect** (*I had done*) is the past of the **present perfect** (*I have done*)

- **Present**

*I'm not hungry. I've just had breakfast.*

*Your room is dirty. You haven't cleaned it for months.*

- **Past**

*I wasn't hungry. I'd just had breakfast.*

*Your room was dirty. You hadn't cleaned it for months.*

to think, know, be sure, realize, remember, suspect, understand, etc.

*She **was sure** she hadn't locked the door.*

*When I got home I **realized** I'd left my computer at Starbucks.*

#### 14.2.4 Other Uses

Many speakers use the **past perfect** (in case of **before** or **after**) to show a strong connection between the two events.

*Pam left her house before her parents arrived. (past simple)*

*Pam **had left** her house before her parents arrived. (past simple + past perfect)*

### 14.3 Future Perfect

We use the **future perfect** to look back from one point in the future to an earlier event.

The situation has not happened yet, but at a certain time in the future it will happen.

*By next week **I'll have written** 20 pages for my new book.*

#### 14.3.1 How to form the future perfect

will + have + Verb ending in -ed (past participle) or simple verb.

#### 14.3.2 Positive, negative and question forms

- (+) John **will have arrived** here by 5 p.m. tomorrow.
- (-) He **won't have arrived** here by 5 p.m. tomorrow.
- (?) **Will** he **have arrived** here by 5 p.m. tomorrow?

#### 14.3.3 Time expressions

by + time expression

*Won't they have invited us **by Friday**?*

*James will have finished his thesis **by this time next week**.*

when, as soon as, before, by the time, etc.

*Will you have dressed up **when I pick you up**?*

***By the time you read this** I will have left the city.*

#### 14.3.4 Other uses

The **future perfect** is used only for actions that will be completed by a particular time in the future.

If the deadline is not mentioned, use the future simple instead.

*She will leave her hometown.*

*~~She will have left her hometown.~~ **She will have left her hometown by this time next year.***

## 15 Prefect Continuous Tense

### 15.1 Present Perfect Continuous

We use the **present perfect continuous** to talk about an action (quite a long one) which began in the past and has recently or just stopped.

This tense usually emphasizes:

- Duration of the action
- That the action is temporary
- That the action is repeated

*- Is it snowing now?*

*- No, it isn't but there is 5 cm of snow outside. **It has been snowing all night.***

### 15.1.1 How to form the present perfect continuous

Positive

Have + been + V -ing

### 15.1.2 Positive, negative and question forms

- (+) Ann **has been waiting** for Sam for over an hour
- (-) Ann **hasn't been waiting** for Sam for over an hour. She **has been waiting** for only 10 minutes.
- (?) **Has Ann been waiting** for Sam for over an hour?
- (?) **How long has Ann been waiting** for Sam?

### 15.1.3 Time markers

All day, all morning, for day, for ages, lately, recently, since, for, etc.

*My brother has been playing tennis **since** he was seven.*

*I haven't been feeling well **recently**. **How long** have you been learning English? - I've been learning it **for years**.*

Non-continuous verbs (e.g. *to love, hate, know, want, etc.*) are not used in any continuous tenses!  
Use the present perfect instead.

*~~I've been wanting to visit Paris for years.~~*

***I've wanted** to visit Paris for years.*

## 15.2 Past Perfect Continuous

We use the **past perfect continuous** when we talk about an action (quite a long one) which began in the past and continued up until another time in the past.

*Sammy **had been playing** with his food when his mom walked into the kitchen.*

### 15.2.1 How to form the past perfect continuous

had + been + V -ing

### 15.2.2 Positive, negative and question forms

- (+) Tom was very tired when he got home. He **had been working** all day. / He'd **been working** all day.
- (-) Tom wasn't very tired when he got home. He **hadn't been working** all day.
- (?) Why was Tom tired when he got home? **Had he been working** all day?

Present	Past
I hope the buss <b>comes</b> soon. We've <b>been waiting</b> for 30 minutes.	At last the bus <b>came</b> . We'd <b>been waiting</b> for 30 minutes.
Lilly <b>is</b> out of breath. She <b>has been running</b> .	Lilly <b>was</b> out of breath. She <b>had been running</b> .

Table 14: Present perfect continuous VS Past perfect continuous

### 15.2.3 Time markers

all day, all morning, for days, for ages, when etc.

*Samantha went to the doctor last Monday. She hadn't been feeling well **for some time**.  
My sister had been playing with her friends outside **for an hour when** it started to rain heavily.*

Non-continuous verbs (e.g. *to love, hate, know, want, etc.*) are not used in any continuous tenses!  
**Use the past perfect instead.**

*We were good friends. ~~We had been knowing each other for years.~~  
We were good friends. We had known each other for years.*

## 15.3 Future Perfect Continuous

We use the **future perfect continuous** when we describe an action (quite a long one) that has begun sometime in the past, present or future, and is expected to continue in the future.

*When Petter turns 40, he **will have been painting** for 35 years.*

### 15.3.1 How to form the future perfect continuous

Will + have + been + V -ing

### 15.3.2 Positive, negative and question forms

- (+) At 6 o'clock I **will have been waiting** here for an hour. / At that time I'll **have been waiting** here for an hour.
- (-) I **won't have been waiting** here for an hour at 6 o'clock.
- (?) **Will I have been waiting** here for an hour at 6 o'clock?

### 15.3.3 by + time expression

***By 2025** he'll have been living in London for 10 years.*

**When, as soon as, before, by the time, etc.**

***When** I complete my studies, I'll have been learning English for 17 years.*

Non-continuous verbs (e.g. *to love, hate, know, want, etc.*) are not used in any continuous tenses!  
**Use the future perfect instead.**

*~~In March I'll have been knowing you for a year.~~  
In March I'll have known you for a year.*

## 16 Helping Verbs (Auxiliary Verbs)

We use **auxiliary verbs** (also known as **helping verbs**) to form:

- Questions
- Negative sentences
- Compound tenses (the perfect tense or the continuous tense)
- The passive voice

The basic auxiliary verbs are **to be, to do, to have**.

## 16.1 To Be

**To be** can be used as an auxiliary and a main verb.

*My sister **is** kind.* (Main verb)  
*My sister **is cooking** dinner* (Auxiliary verb; helps to build the present continuous tense)

<b>Base form</b>	be
<b>Present form</b>	am/is/are
<b>Past form</b>	was/were
<b>Present Participle/Gerund</b>	being
<b>Past Participle</b>	been

Table 15: The verb **to be** is irregular

### 16.1.1 Uses

- (a) When you don't want to repeat something.  
e.g. *Everyone was working that day, but I **wasn't**.* (=I wasn't working.)
- (b) To deny something or to say that is not true  
e.g. *You're being unreasonable. - No, **I'm not**.* (=I'm not being unreasonable.)
- (c) To show interest in what somebody has said, or to show surprise.  
e.g. *Kelly and Peter are dating. - **Are they?** Really?*
- (d) With so (when you agree) and neither/nor (when you disagree).  
e.g. *I'm sleepy. - **So am I**.* (=I'm sleepy too.)  
*My parents are never late. - **Neither are mine**.* (=My parents are never late either.)

## 16.2 To Do and To Have

The verbs **to do** and **to have** can be used as auxiliary and main verbs.

*My sister **does** her own taxes.* (Main verb)  
***Do** you believe in ghosts?* (Auxiliary verb)  
*Ann **has** a well-paying job.* (Main verb ; AmE)  
*Ann **has got** a well-paying job.* (Auxiliary verb; BrE)

<b>Base form</b>	do	have
<b>Present form</b>	do/does	have/has
<b>Past form</b>	did	had
<b>Present Participle/Gerund</b>	doing	having
<b>Past Participle</b>	done	had

Table 16: The verbs **to do** and **to have** are irregular

### 16.2.1 Uses

You can use the auxiliary verbs **to do** and **to have**:

- (a) When you don't want to repeat something.  
e.g. *Everyone likes going to the movies but I **don't**.* (=I don't like going to the movies.)
- (b) To deny something or say that it is not true.  
e.g. *Have you ever been abroad? - No, I **haven't**.* (=I haven't been abroad.)



- (c) To show interest in what somebody has said, or to show surprise.  
e.g. *They have been married for 50 years. - **Have they?** That's unbelievable!*
- (d) With so (when you agree) and neither/nor (when you disagree). In this case, an auxiliary verb goes before the subject.  
e.g. *She has helped me a lot. - **So have I!** (=I have helped you too.)*  
*I don't want to go to work. - **Neither do I.** (=I don't want to go to work either.)*

## 16.3 Modal Verbs

### 16.3.1 Can and Could

We use **modal verbs** to show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible (or not).

We also use modals to ask permission, make requests and offers etc.

**Modal verbs** fall into the category of auxiliary verbs (also known as helping verbs). It means that they are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

The modal verb **can** has only two forms:  
*can*(present) and *could*(past). We use:

Can	Could
To talk about general abilities or skills in the <b>present</b> . <i>I <b>can</b> cook and bake.</i>	To talk about general abilities or skills in the <b>past</b> . <i>I <b>could</b> paint beautifully as a kid.</i>
To make general statements about what <b>is</b> possible/impossible (not allowed). <i>It <b>can</b> be very hot in summer.</i> <i>You <b>can't</b> smoke here.</i>	To make general statements about what <b>was</b> possible/impossible (not allowed). <i>It <b>could</b> be very hot in summer.</i> <i>He <b>couldn't</b> do it! He is such a sweet guy.</i>
To ask for permission (informal). <i><b>Can</b> I borrow your pencil, please?</i>	To ask for permission (formal). <i><b>Could</b> I use your phone, please?</i>
To request something (informal). <i><b>Can</b> you help me, please?</i>	To request something (formal). <i><b>Could</b> you show me the way, please?</i>
To make offers <i><b>Can</b> I carry these bags for you?</i>	To make suggestions <i>We <b>could</b> go to the bar if you want.</i>

Table 17: Can and Could

### 16.3.2 Must

You can use the modal verb **must**:

- (a) To express obligation, duty, or prohibition (this also refers to laws and regulations).  
e.g. *You **must** wear a seatbelt at all times.*  
*You **mustn't** use your smartphone while driving.*
- (b) To emphasize the necessity of something.  
e.g. *People **must** drink a lot of water during the day.*
- (c) To express our certainty in something being true.  
e.g. *Look! There are puddles everywhere. **It must have rained.***  
*You are still working? **You must be tired!***
- (d) To give a strong recommendation.  
e.g. *You **must** listen to this song, it's so catchy!*

### 16.3.3 May (Modal verb)

You can use the modal verb **may**:

- (a) To give permission or prohibit something. e.g. *If you have finished the test, you **may** leave the room. You **may not** park here.*
- (b) To ask for permission (more polite than *can*).  
e.g. ***May** I use your bathroom, please?*
- (c) To express wishes. e.g. ***May** you both live happily!*
- (d) In academic (or scientific) language to refer to things that typically happen in certain situations.  
e.g. *Drivers **may** feel tired after driving for 3 hours straight.*

Note that we usually use the modal verbs **may** and **might** without a significant difference in meaning when expressing **possibility**.

However, **might** often implies a smaller chance of something happening.

*I **might** go to the movies tonight. I'm not sure.*

### 16.3.4 Shall

Nowadays, the most common use of **shall** in everyday English is in questions that serve as offers or suggestions (**Shall I? Shall we?**).

***Shall I** order some pizza? **Shall we** go now? It's getting late.*

### 16.3.5 Should

You can use the modal verb **should**:

- (a) To give advice, a recommendation, or a suggestion.  
e.g. *I think you **should** study more.*
- (b) To express that a situation is likely in the present or in the future (a prediction).  
e.g. *Kelly **should** be at home by now. You can stop by.*  
*I ordered some t-shirts 10 days ago. They **should** come in mail this week.*
- (c) To express an obligation (not as strong as **must**). It is used instead of **must** to make rules, orders or instructions sound more polite.  
e.g. *You **should** never lie to your parents.*
- (d) To say that something was expected in the past but didn't happen (in this case, use *should + have + past participle*).  
e.g. *I **should have studied** more but I was too lazy.*

### 16.3.6 Will

You can use the modal verb **will**:

- (a) To express rapid decision. e.g. *Which one? - Hmm, I **will** have the tuna sandwich.*
- (b) To express thoughts or beliefs about the future. e.g. *I think they **will** remain friends forever.*
- (c) To make an offer, a promise, or a threat.  
e.g. *I **will not** disappoint you!*
- (d) To talk about predictable behaviour.  
e.g. *He **will** eat chocolate when he feels anxious*

We use **won't** when someone refuses to do something.

*I tried reassuring him, but he **won't** listen to me.*

### 16.3.7 Would

You can use the modal verb **would**:

- (a) As a polite invitation or to offer. e.g. ***Would** you like to spend this evening together with me?*
- (b) To describe a prediction. e.g. *It **would** be nice to be a little bit funnier.*
- (c) Not to sound impolite when disagreeing with someone.  
e.g. *I **wouldn't** put it like that.*
- (d) To describe past habits.  
e.g. *She **would** fall asleep when she was on a train.*

We use **wouldn't** when someone refused to do something.

*James said that he **wouldn't** help us at all.*