



tense



comparative



Aa



noun



# ENGLISH

## FOR EVERYONE

### ENGLISH GRAMMAR GUIDE



conditional



negative



verb



A COMPREHENSIVE VISUAL REFERENCE

farzadsoleimani.ir

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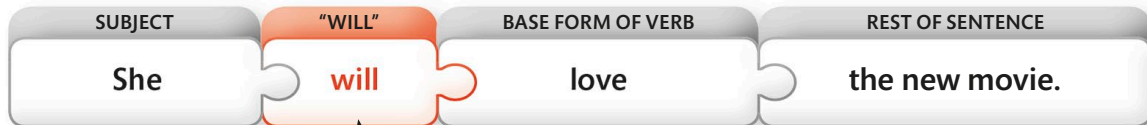
# 18 The future with "will"

"Will" is used to form some future tenses in English. It can be used in several different ways, which are all different from the future with "going to."

See also:

The future with "going to" 17  
Infinitive and participles 51

## 18.1 HOW TO FORM THE FUTURE WITH "WILL"



"Will" doesn't change with the subject.

## 18.2 THE FUTURE USING "WILL"

English uses "will" when talking about the future in four main ways:

To make a prediction about what you think will happen.



Wait a few minutes. I think **it will stop** raining soon.

This prediction is not based on evidence.

To offer to do something for someone.



You look frozen. **I'll make** you some hot soup.

Contraction

To make a promise.



**We'll be** there by eight. Don't worry!

This decision was not planned in advance.

To describe a decision you've just made.



I know! **I'll buy** Aaron a surfboard for his birthday.

### TIP

Remember to use the future with "going to" for predictions based on current evidence, and for decisions made before the time of speaking.

### 18.3 "WILL" FOR PREDICTIONS

"Will" is used to talk about predictions about the future when there is no firm evidence for that prediction.



This movie is great. You **will** love it.

There is no firm evidence that the person will like the movie.

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

The mall **will** be so busy this afternoon.



**They'll** enjoy their trip to Venice.



"Probably" means something is likely, but not definite.

Jane **will** probably like the new house. It's really nice.



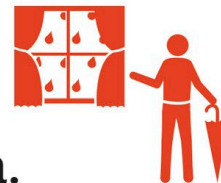
**She'll** be really angry when she finds out.



### 18.4 "WILL" FOR QUICK DECISIONS

"Will" is used to describe quick decisions that someone has made at the time of speaking. They are often a solution to an unexpected problem.

"Will" shows you have just made the decision.



Oh, it's raining! **I'll** take my umbrella.

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

"Will not" or "won't" is the negative form of "will."

It's midnight. I **won't** walk home through the park.



This apple is delicious. **I'll** have another one.



"So" is often used to join a situation to a quick decision.

There's no juice, so **I'll** have some water instead.



The car has broken down, so **I'll** have to walk to work.



## 18.5 "WILL" FOR MAKING OFFERS

"Will" is also used to offer to do something for someone.



You seem busy. **I'll** pick the kids up from school today.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**I'll** go to the post office for you if you want.



Sit down and relax, **I'll** make you a cup of tea.



You must be starving! **I'll** make you a sandwich.



Since you cooked, **I'll** do the dishes.



## 18.6 "WILL" FOR MAKING PROMISES

"Will" can be used when making a promise.

Don't worry, **I'll** be careful.



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**We'll** let you know as soon as your car's ready.



**I'll** take care of everything while you're away.



**I'll** feed the cat when I get home.



Ben said **he'll** call us as soon as he gets home.



If you bring the food, **we'll** take care of the drinks.



Don't worry, **I'll** lock the front door when I leave.





## 18.7 "THINK" WITH "WILL"

"Think" can be used with "will" to show that a prediction is just an opinion, or a decision is not final.

"That" is used after "think," but it can be left out.

This is an uncertain prediction.



I **think** that **we'll** have enough food for the party.



I'm tired. I **think** **I'll** go to bed.

This decision is still being considered.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

It's cold outside, but we don't **think** **it'll** snow today.



"Think" is made negative, rather than "will."

I **think** **I'll** cook chicken for dinner this evening.



If we hurry, I **think** **we'll** get to the airport on time.



I **think** **I'll** take the children ice-skating tomorrow.



## 18.8 FUTURE WITH "SHALL"

"Shall" is used instead of "will" when asking for a decision, or making offers or suggestions. In these cases, it is only used with "I" or "we." It is rarely used in US English.

**Shall I** pick you up or **shall we** meet at the restaurant?

"Shall" is being used to make an offer.

"Shall" is being used to make a suggestion.



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**Shall I** cook chicken or beef tonight?



I'm bored, **shall we** go out for a walk?



It's so hot in here. **Shall I** open a window?



**Shall we** try to finish the gardening today?



# 32 Future possibilities

There are many ways to talk about imaginary future situations. Different structures can be used to indicate whether a situation is likely or unlikely.

See also:

Present simple **1** Past simple **7**

Past perfect simple **13**

## 32.1 LIKELY FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

"What if" or "suppose" followed by the present tense can be used to express a future outcome that is likely to happen.

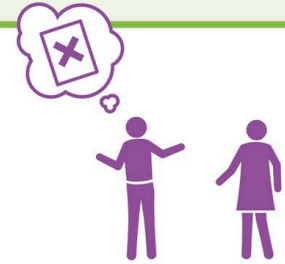
"What if" means "what would happen if an imagined situation occurred?"

What if  
Suppose

I **fail** my exams? I won't be able to go to college.

Present tense shows the speaker believes this is likely to happen.

"Suppose" refers to the consequences of an imagined situation.



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**What if** the computer **crashes**?  
I will lose all my work.

**Suppose** they **assess** our coursework.  
We will have to keep a portfolio.

## 32.2 UNLIKELY FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

"What if" or "suppose" followed by the past simple can be used to express a future outcome that is possible, but unlikely to happen.

Just imagine! { **What if**  
**Suppose** } we all **got** 100% on our exams?

The past tense shows the speaker thinks this is unlikely to happen.



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**Suppose** I **got caught** cheating.  
My parents would be furious.

**What if** our flight **was canceled**?  
We'd be stuck here!

### 32.3 THINGS THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED

"What if" and "suppose" can also be used with the past perfect to describe situations that were possible in the past, but that didn't happen, or might not have happened.



That was so dangerous! **{ What if / Suppose }** you **had broken** your leg?

The past perfect shows that this didn't happen, but it was possible.

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

We were lucky to catch that plane!  
**What if** it **hadn't been** delayed?

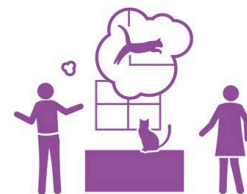
**Suppose** you **had taken** the job.  
We would have had to move.

### 32.4 IN CASE

"In case" or "just in case" plus the present tense are used to show planning for a possible future situation.

Make sure the windows are shut  
**in case** the cat **tries** to escape.

Present tense.



#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

You should take an umbrella with you **in case** it **rains** later.

We should start organizing our project work, **just in case** they **want** to see it.

You should write these instructions down **in case** you **forget** what to do.

You should leave for the airport early, **just in case** the traffic **is** bad.

"Just" is added to "in case" to talk about preparation for a situation that is less likely.

# 33 Wishes and regrets

English uses the verb “wish” to talk about present and past regrets. The tense of the verb that follows “wish” affects the meaning of the sentence.

See also:

Past simple 7 Past perfect simple 13

Modal verbs 56

## 33.1 “WISH” AND PAST SIMPLE

“Wish” is used with the past simple to express regrets and desires about the present, which could still happen or come true.

I **wish** I **earned** more money.

The past simple is used here to talk about the present.



## FURTHER EXAMPLES

Mike’s apartment is too small. He **wishes** he **lived** in a bigger house.



They **wish** the weather **was** better so they could go to the beach.



You’re always busy, I **wish** you **didn’t have to** work so hard.



Sandra hates her job. She **wishes** she **worked** on a farm.



## HOW TO FORM



“Wish” or “wishes,” depending on the subject.

The past simple expresses wishes or regrets about the present.

## 33.2 "WISH" AND PAST PERFECT

"Wish" is used with the past perfect to talk about regrets about the past. This form is used when it is too late for the wish to come true.



I've failed my exams. I **wish** I **had studied** harder.

The past perfect is used to talk about a regret in the past.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

He's very tired. He **wishes** he **had gone** to bed early last night.



My car's useless! I **wish** I **hadn't bought** such an old one.



Jo is really bored. She **wishes** she **had gone out** with her friends.



We're totally lost! I **wish** we **had brought** a map.



I **wish** I **had known** how big this dress was before I bought it.



There was a meteor shower last night. I **wish** I **had seen** it.



### HOW TO FORM



"Wish" or "wishes," depending on the subject.

The past perfect expresses regrets about the past.

### 33.3 "WISH" FOR FUTURE HOPES

"Wish" can also be used to talk about hopes for the future. "Wish" with "could" is usually used when someone is expressing a desire to do something themselves.

I **wish** I **could** move somewhere warm.

[I would like to be able to move somewhere warmer.]



"Wish" with "would" is used when someone is expressing a desire for someone else to do something.

She **wishes** her teacher **would** give her less work.

[She wants her teacher to give out less homework in the future.]



#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

I **wish** I **could** get a new job in a different department.



Colin is always talking about cars. I **wish** he **would** stop.



I **wish** I **could** go to the concert with my friends this evening.



I **wish** they **wouldn't** make it so hard to buy tickets online.



Irene **wishes** she **could** find her diamond necklace.



Jenny's mother **wishes** she **would** clean her room.



Matteo **wishes** he **could** play the violin.



Noel **wishes** Adrienne **would** stop singing.



He **wishes** he **could** understand his homework.



Madge **wishes** Greg **wouldn't** drive so fast.



### 33.4 ANOTHER WAY TO SAY "I WISH"

#### PRESENT REGRETS

Stronger regrets about the present can be expressed by using "if only" and the past simple.



These mountains are incredible!  
**If only I knew** how to ski.

#### PAST REGRETS

Stronger regrets about the past can be expressed by using "if only" and the past perfect.



I really wanted to take pictures.  
**If only I'd charged** the battery.

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

I love the sound of the guitar.  
**If only I played** it better.

I'm sure the teacher explained this.  
**If only I remembered** it!

The show is completely sold out!  
**If only I'd arrived** sooner.

I couldn't finish the marathon.  
**If only I had trained** harder.

### 33.5 PAST REGRETS

"Should have" or "ought to have" are used to express regret that something did or didn't happen in the past.

This bill is so big. I **should have** / **ought to have** used less electricity.

Past participle.



#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

Maybe I **should have** used energy-saving light bulbs.



The negative form "ought not to have" is rarely used in UK English and never used in US English.

I **shouldn't have** fallen asleep with the TV on.



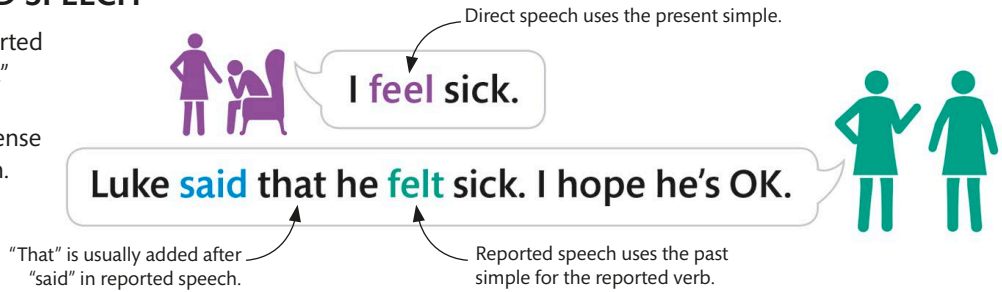
# 43 Reported speech

The words that people say are called direct speech. Reported speech is often used to describe what someone said at an earlier point in time.

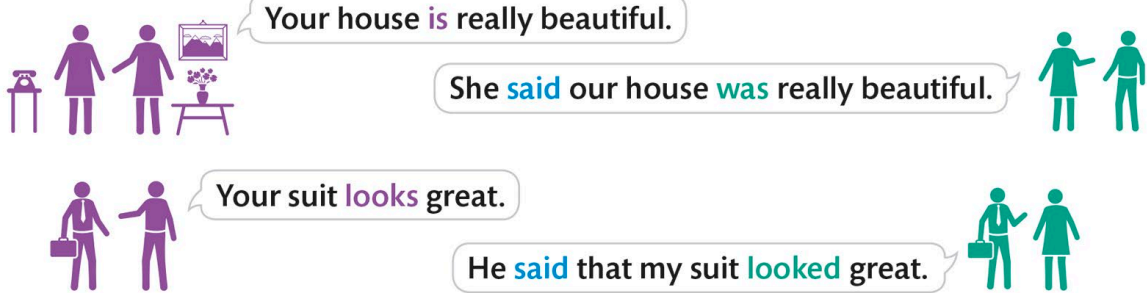
**See also:**  
Present simple **1** Past simple **7**  
Types of verbs **49**

## 43.1 REPORTED SPEECH

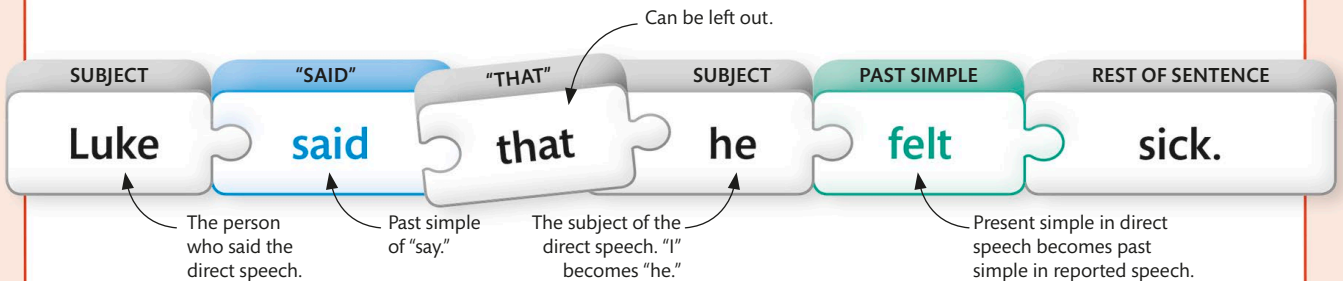
The main verb in reported speech is usually "said."  
The reported verb is usually in a different tense from the direct speech.



## FURTHER EXAMPLES



## HOW TO FORM





## 43.2 "TELL" IN REPORTED SPEECH

In reported speech, "tell" can also be used as the main verb. It must be followed by an object, which shows who someone is talking to.

I **want** to learn to drive.



"Say" does not need to be followed by an object.

He { **said**  
**told me** } that he **wanted** to learn to drive.



"Tell" must be followed by an object.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES



She **told me** that she **was** at the party.



She **told me** that she **had** a very stressful job.



He **told us** he **arrived** late to the meeting.



They **told us** they **bought** a new house.



I **told her** that I **went** abroad last year.

"That" can also be left out in reported speech with "told."



We **told them** that we **didn't** want it.

### ! COMMON MISTAKES "SAY" AND "TELL" IN REPORTED SPEECH

He **said** that he had a fast car. ✓

He **told me** that he had a fast car. ✓

He **said me** that he had a fast car. ✗

He **told** that he had a fast car. ✗

"Said" cannot have an object.

"Told" must have an object.

# 44 Tenses in reported speech

In reported speech, the reported verb usually “goes back” a tense. Time and place references and pronouns sometimes also change.

See also:

Present continuous 4 Past continuous 10  
Past perfect simple 13 Modal verbs 56

## 44.1 REPORTED SPEECH IN DIFFERENT TENSES

The tense used in reported speech is usually one tense back in time from the tense in direct speech.

I'm working in New York.



She said she was working in New York.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS



PAST CONTINUOUS

I've been to China twice.



He said that he'd been to China twice.

PRESENT PERFECT



PAST PERFECT

I will call you soon.



He said he would call them soon.

FUTURE WITH "WILL"



MODAL VERB "WOULD"

We can speak Japanese.



They said that they could speak Japanese.

MODAL VERB "CAN"



MODAL VERB "COULD"

## 44.2 REPORTED SPEECH AND THE PAST SIMPLE

The past simple in direct speech can either stay as the past simple or change to the past perfect in reported speech. The meaning is the same.

I **arrived** in Delhi on Saturday.

DIRECT SPEECH  
WITH PAST SIMPLE

He said { **he arrived**  
**he'd arrived** } in Delhi on Saturday.

REPORTED SPEECH WITH  
PAST SIMPLE OR PAST PERFECT

## 44.3 REPORTED SPEECH WITHOUT CHANGE OF TENSE

If the situation described is ongoing, the verb does not have to change tense in reported speech.



I **like** eating cake.

Amelia said that she **likes** eating cake.

Amelia still likes eating cake.



## FURTHER EXAMPLES



Your hat **looks** great.

He said that my hat **looks** great.



I **love** your tie.

He said that he **loves** my tie.



## 44.4 TIME AND PLACE REFERENCES

If speech is reported some time after it was said, words used to talk about times and places may need to change.



### FURTHER EXAMPLES



I'll call you **tomorrow**.



He said he'd call me **the following day**.



The weather is nice **here**.



She told me the weather was nice **there**.



We'll have a party **this weekend**.



They said they'd have a party **that weekend**.



I saw you **last week**.



She said she'd seen me **the week before**.



I'm starting a new job **today**.



You told her you were starting a new job **that day**.

## 44.5 OTHER CHANGES IN REPORTED SPEECH

In reported speech, pronouns may also need to be changed to ensure they refer to the correct person or thing.



I don't believe **these** ghost stories.

He said that he didn't believe **those** ghost stories.

"These" is replaced by the more distant "those."



**This** house gives me the creeps.

He said that **that** house gave him the creeps.

"This" is replaced by the more distant "that."



### FURTHER EXAMPLES



I don't like **my** new haircut.

He said that he didn't like **his** new haircut.



I can't wait to move into **our** new house.

He said that he couldn't wait to move into **their** new house.



Are you going to come with **us**?

He asked if I was going to go with **them**.



**These** are the best pastries I've ever tasted.

She said **they** were the best pastries she'd ever tasted.



A relative clause is a part of a sentence that gives more information about the subject. A defining, or restrictive, relative clause identifies the subject being talked about.

**See also:**

Non-defining relative clauses **82**

Other relative structures **83**

## 81.1 DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

Defining relative clauses, also known as restrictive relative clauses, are used to describe exactly which person or thing the speaker is referring to. Without this information, the meaning of the sentence changes.

Here the defining clause gives essential information about people.



Here the defining clause gives essential information about a thing.



The defining clause can also go in the middle of the main clause.



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

I need a television **that works!**



Do you know anyone **who knows how to fix a bike?**



He's the actor **that we saw last week.**

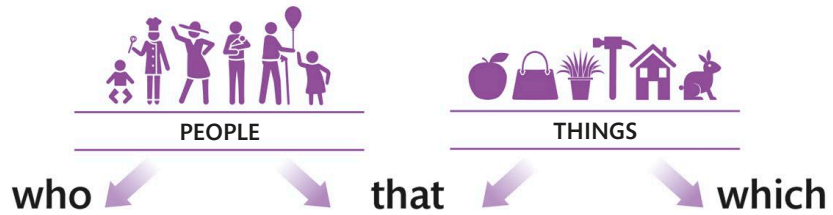


The book **that I just read** is excellent.



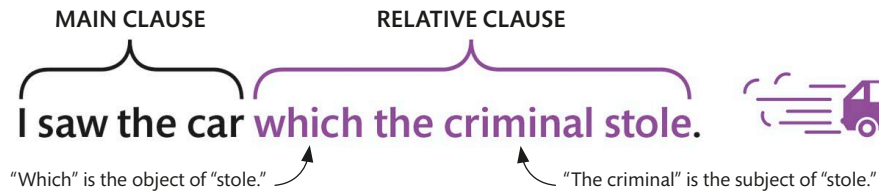
## 81.2 RELATIVE PRONOUNS

English uses different relative pronouns to talk about people and things.



## 81.3 SUBJECTS AND OBJECTS IN DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

Relative clauses are made up of a subject, a verb, and usually an object. They usually start with a relative pronoun, which can be the subject or the object of the relative clause.

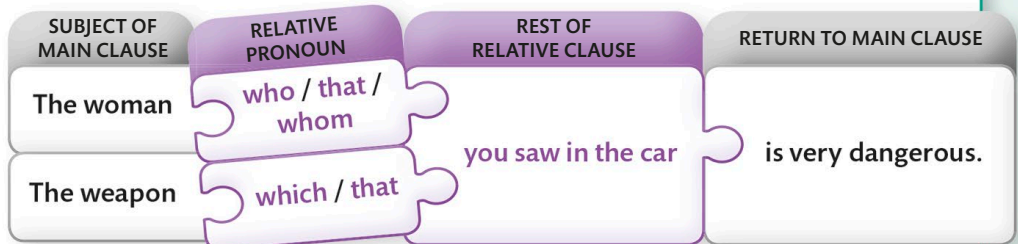


## HOW TO FORM

If the relative pronoun is the subject of the relative clause, it must appear in the sentence.



If the relative pronoun is the object of the relative clause, it can be left out. "Whom" is sometimes used when a person is the object, but this is very formal.



# 85 "There"

"There" can be used with a form of "be" to talk about the existence or presence of a person or thing. Sentences with "there" can be used in many different tenses.

**See also:**

Present perfect simple **11** Future with "going to" **17**  
Future with "will" **18** Singular and plural nouns **69**

## 85.1 "THERE" IN THE PRESENT SIMPLE

"There is" is used to talk about singular or uncountable nouns, and "there are" is used to talk about plural nouns.

**There is** a hospital in my town.



**There are** three hospitals in my town.



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**There is** a market every Saturday.

**There is** always traffic in the city.

Uncountable noun.

**There are** several schools and colleges.

**There are** some restaurants and bars.

### HOW TO FORM





## 85.2 "THERE" IN THE PAST SIMPLE

In the past simple, "there was" is used to talk about singular or uncountable nouns, and "there were" is used to talk about plural nouns.



**There was** a party here last night.

**There were** 150 people at the party!

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**There was** singing and dancing.



**There were** balloons and streamers.



**There was** a clown to entertain the children.



**There were** speeches after the meal.



**There was** a huge mess to clean afterwards.



**There were** waiters to refill the guests' drinks.



### HOW TO FORM



### 85.3 "THERE" IN THE PRESENT PERFECT

In the present perfect, "there has been" is used to talk about singular or uncountable nouns, and "there have been" is used to talk about plural nouns.

**There has been** a decrease in client satisfaction.



**There have been** lots of complaints recently.



↖ "Been" doesn't change form.

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**There has been** increased pressure on employees.



**There have been** many new jobs advertised.



**There has been** a steady rise in unemployment.



**There have been** some thefts in the office.



**There has been** a decrease in petty crime.



**There have been** more training days for staff.



**There has been** success in hiring graduates.



**There have been** big bonuses this year.



#### HOW TO FORM

"THERE"

"HAS BEEN"

SINGULAR NOUN

REST OF SENTENCE

There

has been

a decrease

in client satisfaction.

"THERE"

"HAVE BEEN"

PLURAL NOUN

REST OF SENTENCE

There

have been

lots of complaints

recently.

## 85.4 "THERE" IN THE FUTURE

In the future with "will," "there will be" is used to talk about both singular and plural nouns.

**There will be** a fire drill on Monday.

**There will be** fire wardens around to help.



In the future with "going to," "there is going to be" is used to talk about singular nouns, and "there are going to be" is used to talk about plural nouns.

**There is going to be** a big announcement.

**There are going to be** big changes!



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**There will be** a train strike next week.

**There is going to be** a meeting at the office.

**There will be** replacement bus services.

**There are going to be** severe delays.

### HOW TO FORM



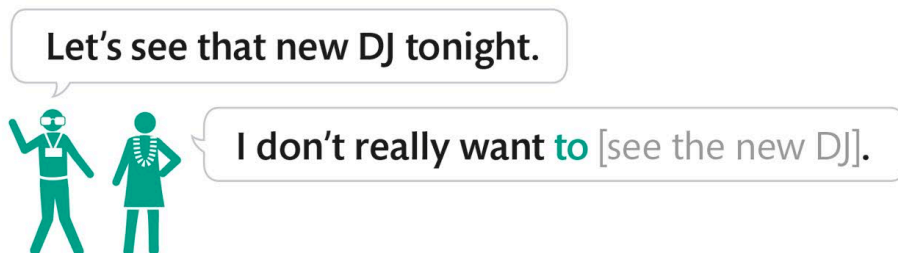
# 90 Shortening infinitives

Phrases with infinitives can sometimes be reduced or shortened to prevent repetition. This helps language to sound more natural.

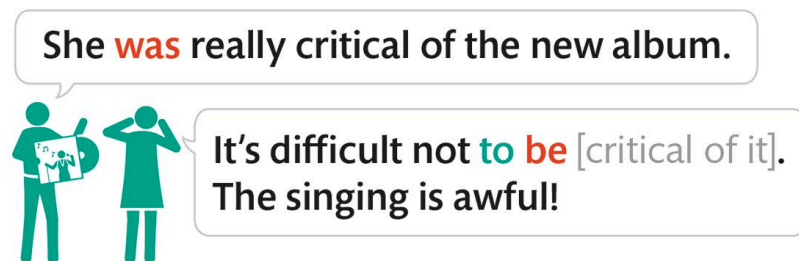
See also:  
Infinitives and participles 51

## 90.1 REDUCED INFINITIVES

Instead of repeating the whole infinitive clause, "to" can be used on its own if the meaning remains clear.



If the previous sentence or clause contains the verb "be," then the full infinitive "to be" must be used, rather than just "to."



## FURTHER EXAMPLES



He asked me if I wanted to cook tonight, but I'd prefer not to.



All my friends are going to the basketball game, but I don't want to.



I was going to bring an umbrella, but I decided not to.



There **are** more flowers in the garden than there used to **be**.



This packaging **isn't** recyclable, but it ought to **be**.

## 90.2 DROPPING THE ENTIRE INFINITIVE CLAUSE

The entire infinitive clause can be dropped, or “to” can be kept on its own after some verbs, such as “agree,” “ask,” “forget,” “promise,” “start,” and “try.”



Chris is going to come to the show. He **promised** [to come].  
**promised to** [come].

The same structure can also be used after some nouns, such as: “chance,” “plans,” “promise,” “idea,” and “opportunity.”

I haven't seen this band before. I'd love the **chance** [to see them].  
**chance to** [see them].

The same structure can also be used after certain adjectives, such as “delighted,” “afraid,” “willing,” and “determined.”

I want to perform on stage, but I'm **afraid** [to perform on stage].  
**afraid to** [perform on stage].

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

We need to leave soon, but I'm not **ready**.



They told me I could join the team if I **wanted to**.



I would travel the world if I had the **money**.



I'm going to pass my driving test. I'm **determined to**.



I want to go out, but I haven't got any **plans**.



Remind me to lock the door, or I'll **forget to**.



I would never do a bungee jump. I don't have the **courage**.



Thanks for asking me to come to your wedding. I'd **love to**.



### 90.3 VERBS WITH COMPLEMENTS

The entire infinitive clause cannot be left out after verbs that have complement clauses (phrases that complete their meaning), such as: "advise," "afford," "be able," "choose," "decide," "expect," "hate," "hope," "love," "need," and "prefer." "To" must be used after these.

We want to see a band tonight,  
but we really can't **afford to**.



#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

I tried to get to the front of the crowd, but I **wasn't able to**.



You could bring some snacks along, but you don't **need to**.



I had piano lessons as a child, but I didn't **choose to**.



I have never been to the opera, but I would **love to**.



### 90.4 "WANT" AND "WOULD LIKE"

The "to" of the infinitive clause is not usually dropped after "want" or "would like."

He asked if I wanted to go,  
and I said I **would like to**.



In "if" clauses, however, "to" can be used on its own or the whole infinitive can be dropped after "want" or "would like."

You can come with us **if you** { **want.**  
**want to.**

The "to" cannot be dropped in a negative clause.

Don't go to the concert if you **don't want to**.

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

We could play golf this weekend, if you **want**.



I asked my friends to play, but they **didn't want to**.



## 90.5 SHORTENING INFINITIVES

Sometimes "to" can be used instead of repeating the whole infinitive.

Do you go to Spain every year?



We **used to**.

[We used to go to Spain every year.]

After nouns and adjectives, sometimes the whole infinitive can be left out.

Are you ready to leave?



No, I'm **not ready yet**.

[I'm not ready to leave yet.]

However the verbs "be" and "have" are not usually omitted when they are used for possession.

She isn't paid much, but she **ought to be**.

"She ought to" is wrong.

[She ought to be paid more.]



It's also not usually possible to leave out "to" after "like," "love," "hate," "prefer," "want," and "choose."

Do you want to go to the festival?



I'd **like to**.

"I'd like" is wrong.

Do you want to cook tonight?



I'd **prefer not to**.

"I'd prefer not" is unlikely.

# 94 Comparative adjectives

Comparative adjectives are used to compare two things. They can either be formed by adding the suffix “-er,” or by putting “more” or “less” before the adjective.

See also:  
Singular and plural nouns 69  
Adjectives 92

## 94.1 COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

For most adjectives with one or two syllables, “-er” is added to make the comparative.

Ahmed is **tall**.  
Ahmed is **taller than** Jonathan.



“-er” is added to make the comparative.

“Than” is used to introduce the thing that the subject is being compared to.

## FURTHER EXAMPLES



Dean is **stronger than** Carlos.

A plane is **faster than** a train.



5°F is **colder than** 85°F.

Sanjay is **younger than** Tina.



Emma is **older than** Sharon.

My friends are **quicker than** me.



## ! COMMON MISTAKES “THAN” WITH COMPARATIVES

“Then” and “than” can easily be confused because they sound similar, but it is never correct to use “then” to form a comparative.

Ahmed is **taller than** Jonathan. ✓

The correct word to use in comparatives is “than.”

Ahmed is taller **then** Jonathan. ✗

“Then” sounds similar to “than,” but it is not correct to use “then” after a comparative.



## 94.2 FORMING COMPARATIVES

There are different rules for forming comparatives depending on the ending of the simple form of the adjective.

ADJECTIVE

close

early

big

COMPARATIVE

closer

earlier

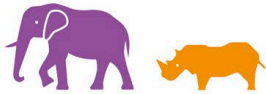
bigger

If the adjective ends in “-e,” just an “-r” is added.

For some adjectives ending in “-y,” the “-y” is removed and “-ier” added.

For single-syllable adjectives ending consonant-vowel-consonant, the final letter is doubled and “-er” added.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES



An elephant is **larger** than a rhino.



My bedroom is **tidier** than my sister's.



Spain is **hotter** than England.

## 94.3 IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES

Some common adjectives have irregular comparatives.

ADJECTIVE

good

bad

far

COMPARATIVE

better

worse

farther (US)  
further (UK)

**TIP**  
In US English, “further” and “furthest” are used to describe figurative (not physical) distances.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES



The house is **farther** away than the tree.



Jill got a **better** grade than John.



London has **worse** weather than Paris.

## 94.4 COMPARATIVES WITH LONG ADJECTIVES

For some two-syllable adjectives and adjectives with three syllables or more, "more" and "than" are used to make the comparative.



This beach is **more beautiful** than that one.

The adjective "beautiful" has three syllables, so "beautifuller" is not correct.

"More" can be replaced by "less" to give the opposite meaning.



This beach is **less beautiful** than that one.

### HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT + VERB

"MORE / LESS"

ADJECTIVE

"THAN"

REST OF SENTENCE

This beach is

more

beautiful

than

that one.

less

### FURTHER EXAMPLES



Spiders are **more frightening** than wasps.



For me, history is **less difficult** than science.



This book is **more interesting** than that one.



Walking is **less tiring** than running.



This dress is **more glamorous** than I expected.



My job is **less exciting** than I'd hoped.

## 94.5 TWO-FORM COMPARATIVES

Some two-syllable adjectives have two possible comparative forms. Either the comparative ending can be added, or "more" can be used before the adjective.



My cat is { **friendlier**  
**more friendly** } **than** my dog.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

The garage is { **narrower**  
**more narrow** } **than** the car.



The lake is { **shallower**  
**more shallow** } **than** the sea.

This puzzle is { **simpler**  
**more simple** } **than** that one.



My parrot is { **quieter**  
**more quiet** } **than** yours.

This party is { **livelier**  
**more lively** } **than** yours.



The driver is { **angrier**  
**more angry** } **than** the cyclist.

### ⚠ COMMON MISTAKES FORMING COMPARATIVES

When forming comparatives, it is incorrect to add "more" before the adjective if it already has a comparative ending.

He's **more friendly** than her. ✓


He's **friendlier** than her. ✓

"Friendlier" and "more friendly" are correct, but "more friendlier" is not.

He's **more friendlier** than her. ✗

## 94.6 ADJECTIVES WITH MODIFIERS

Modifiers can go before comparatives to make comparisons stronger or weaker.

The tree is **a lot much** taller than the building. 

These modifiers mean there is a big difference between the things you are comparing.

Modifier  
Comparative

These modifiers mean there is only a small difference between the things you are comparing.

The tree is **a bit slightly** taller than the building. 

The palace is **much far** more beautiful than the factory. 

With long comparatives, the modifier goes before "more."

Form long comparatives by putting "more" before the adjective.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

The mountain is **much** taller than the hill. 

The house is **a bit** taller than the statue. 

The castle is **slightly** bigger than the hotel. 

The dress is **a lot more** expensive than the shoes. 

### ⚠ COMMON MISTAKES USING "VERY" WITH COMPARATIVES

It is incorrect to modify comparatives with "very."

The tree is **much taller than** the building. ✓

The tree is **very taller than** the building. ✗

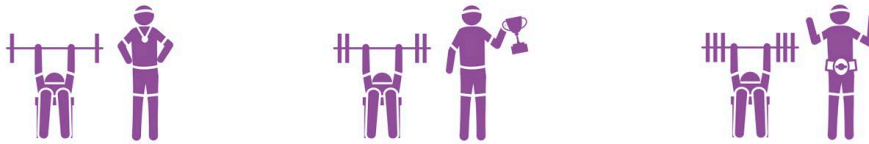
# 95 Two comparatives together

Two comparatives can be used together in a sentence to show the effect of an action. They are also used to show that something is changing.

See also:  
Comparative adjectives 94

## 95.1 COMPARATIVES SHOWING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Pairing two phrases that use comparative adjectives is a way of making comparisons that show cause and effect.



The **harder** I train, the **stronger** I get.

Implies that training results in getting stronger.

## FURTHER EXAMPLES

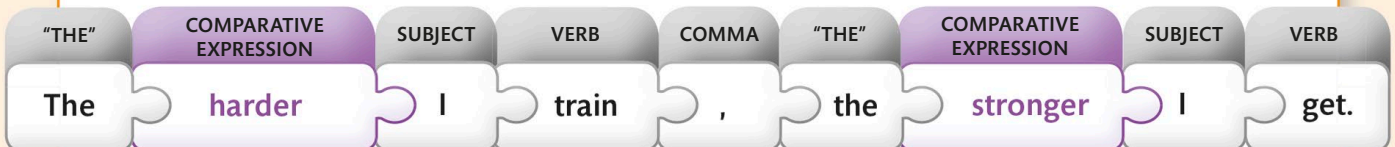


The **worse** the children behave, the **angrier** the teacher gets.



The **louder** the cat meows, the **louder** the dog barks.

## HOW TO FORM



## 95.2 SHORTENING COMPARATIVE PHRASES

Double comparatives that end with “the better” are often shortened where the context makes the meaning obvious to the listener.

How do you like your tea?



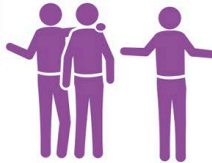
The **stronger** the **better**.

The **stronger** [the tea is,] the **better** [it tastes].

These words are implied, or understood, and can be left out.

“The more the merrier” is a phrase that means when more people are at an event, the better it will be.

Can I bring my brother along?

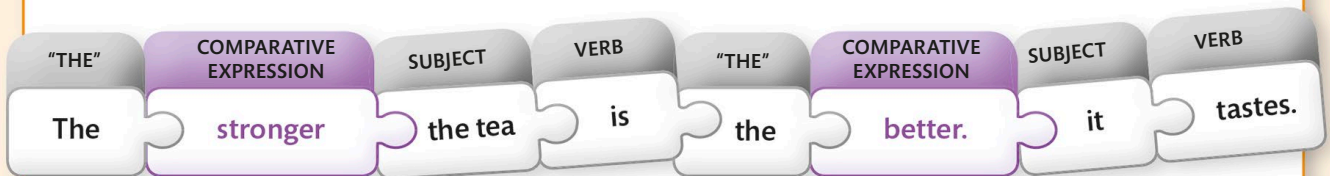


Sure! The **more** the **merrier**.

This expression means people are welcome.

The **more** [people come,] the **merrier** [the party will be].

### HOW TO FORM



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

What time do we need to leave?



The **sooner** the **better**.

Do we need to take a big suitcase?



Yes. The **bigger** the **better**.

### 95.3 COMPARATIVES SHOWING CHANGE

A comparative can be repeated to show that something is changing. This expression emphasizes the change, and is often used to describe extremes.



The weather is getting **colder and colder**.

The repetition emphasizes that the change is continuing.

"And" goes between the repeated comparatives.

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

The tree outside my house is growing **taller and taller**.



The car went **faster and faster** down the hill.



### 95.4 LONG COMPARATIVES SHOWING CHANGE

In two comparatives that go with long adjectives, "more" is repeated but the adjective is not.



Houses are getting **more and more expensive**.

"More" is repeated.

The adjective is only used once, after the second "more."

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES



His music is getting **more and more annoying**.



My job has become **more and more stressful**.

# 96 "As... as" comparisons

Comparisons using "as... as" constructions can be used to discuss degrees of similarity and difference. They can be modified with adverbs to make them stronger or weaker.

See also:  
Adjectives 92  
Adverbs of degree 100

## 96.1 "AS... AS" COMPARISONS

"As... as" comparisons are used with an adjective to compare things that are similar.

Lisa is **as tall as** Marc.

The adjective is in its normal form.



Penny is **not** **as so** tall **as** Marc.

"Not" makes the sentence negative.

"So" is only used in negative comparisons.



### HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT + VERB

Lisa is

"AS"

as

ADJECTIVE

tall

"AS"

as

REST OF SENTENCE

Marc.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES



Will today be **as hot as** yesterday?



Your desk is **as messy as** mine.



The bus is **not so crowded as** the train.



Jenny is **not as busy as** Will.



## 96.2 "AS... AS" COMPARISONS WITH MODIFIERS

Modifiers can be added to "as... as" comparisons to make them more detailed or to add emphasis.



Emphasizing equality.

Bottled water is **just as** expensive **as** coffee.



Comparing similarity.

The girls were **almost as** loud **as** the boys.



This has a very similar meaning to "almost as" but contrasts the difference rather than comparing the similarity.

The movie is **not quite as** good **as** the book.



Specific degree of difference.

The bike is **half as** long **as** the car.



Emphasizing difference.

The mouse is **nowhere near as** big **as** the bird.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

Sita is **almost as** frightened **as** Justin.



George is **almost as** tired **as** Hetty.



I think fruit is **just as** delicious **as** cake.



Seth is **nowhere near as** old **as** Mabel.



The door is **half as** wide **as** the window.



The skyscraper is **not quite as** tall **as** the mountain.



Adverbs of frequency show how often something is done, from something done very frequently (“always”) to something not done at all (“never”).

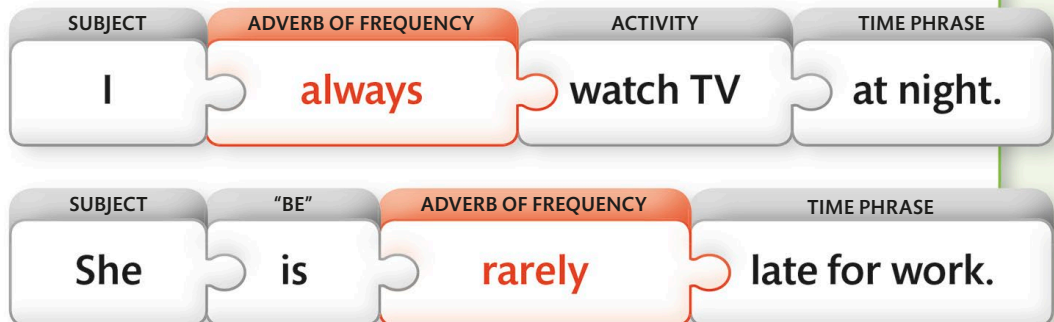
See also:  
Forming questions 34

### 102.1 ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY



### HOW TO FORM

Adverbs of frequency usually go between the subject and the main verb. The time phrase usually goes at the end of the sentence.



## 102.2 ADVERBS AND EXPRESSIONS OF FREQUENCY

Frequency can also be described with more precise expressions.  
Unlike adverbs of frequency, these must sit at the end of a phrase.



The adverb of frequency usually goes before the verb.

I { **often**  
**regularly**  
**hardly ever** } go running.

Precise frequency expressions usually go at the end of a phrase.

I go running { **five times a week.**  
**every Tuesday.**  
**once a year.** }

## 102.3 QUESTIONS ABOUT FREQUENCY

"How often" is used to ask about how often someone does an activity.  
"When" is used to ask about the day or time it is done.

How often do you go away?



I usually go away once a year.

When do you go running?



I go on Thursday nights.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

How often do you go to the beach?



Not very often.

How often do you see your friends?



All the time.

When do you go to the gym?



On Tuesdays and Fridays.

When does your family eat dinner?



At 6pm every evening.

# 103 "So" and "such"

"So" and "such" are adverbs which can be used with certain words to add emphasis. They are similar in meaning, but they are used in different structures.

See also:

Adjectives 92 Comparative adjectives 94 Adverbs of manner 98 Comparative and superlative adverbs 99

## 103.1 "SO" AND "SUCH"

Unlike most adverbs, "such" can be used before a noun to add emphasis. It can also be used before an adjective and noun combination.

"SUCH" + "A / AN" + NOUN

The trial was **such** a success.



"SUCH" + "A / AN" + ADJECTIVE + NOUN

It was **such** an important experiment.



### TIP

"Such" + "a / an" is more common with extreme nouns rather than neutral ones.

"So" can be used before an adjective or an adverb to add emphasis.

"SO" + ADJECTIVE

The reaction is **so** dangerous.



"SO" + ADVERB

The surgery went **so** well!



### TIP

"So" is never used on its own before comparative words.

"So much" is used before a comparative adjective or a comparative adverb to add stronger emphasis.

"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE

This hospital is **so much** cleaner than that other one.



"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADVERB

Diseases spread **so much** faster as a result of air travel.



## 103.2 "SO" AND "SUCH" WITH "THAT"

"That" can be used with "so" and "such" to introduce a particular result caused by the fact being emphasized.

"SUCH" + "A/AN" + NOUN + "THAT"



The disease is **such** a mystery **that** it doesn't even have a name yet.

"SUCH" + "A/AN" + ADJECTIVE + NOUN + "THAT"



This is **such** a strange injury **that** it is hard to diagnose.

"SO" + ADJECTIVE + "THAT"



Medical research is **so** expensive **that** drugs are often costly.

"SO" + ADVERB + "THAT"



He recovered **so** quickly **that** he was able to go home the next day.

"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE + "THAT"



The new treatment was **so much** more effective **that** he felt better the same day.

"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADVERB + "THAT"



Hospitals are now being built **so much** more quickly **that** more people can be treated.

# 104 “Enough” and “too”

“Enough” is used when there is the correct degree or amount of something. “Too” is used when something is more than necessary or wanted.

See also:

Countable and uncountable nouns **70**  
Adjectives **92** Adverbs of manner **98**

## 104.1 ADJECTIVE / ADVERB + “ENOUGH”

“Enough” can be used after an adjective or adverb to show that it’s the right degree.

ADJECTIVE + ENOUGH

This house is **big enough** for us.



ADVERB + ENOUGH

She isn’t speaking **loudly enough**. I can’t hear her.



## FURTHER EXAMPLES



This food isn’t **hot enough** to eat.



My bag is **big enough** for my books.



The traffic isn’t moving **quickly enough**.



I didn’t read the instructions **carefully enough**.

## 104.2 NOUN + “ENOUGH”

“Enough” and “not enough” can be used to talk about quantities of countable and uncountable nouns. “Enough” comes before the noun.

Do we have **enough balloons**?

Balloons are countable.



We only have two. That’s **not enough**.

“Enough” can also be used without a noun.

Do we have **enough food**?

Food is uncountable.



We have these snacks. That’ll be **enough**.



### 104.3 "TOO" + ADJECTIVE / ADVERB

"Too" can be used before an adjective or adverb to show that it's more than enough.

TOO + ADJECTIVE  
That meal was **too big**. I'm so full. 

TOO + ADVERB  
This bus is going **too slowly**. I'm going to be late. 

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

"Far" and "much" can be used before "too" for emphasis.

 In winter my house is far **too cold**.  Jo takes her job much **too seriously**.

 My coat is **too big** for me.  Jessica talks far **too quietly**.

 Don't go swimming in the lake. It's **too dangerous**.  I'm never on time for work. I always wake up **too late**.

### 104.4 "ENOUGH" AND "TOO" WITH AN INFINITIVE CLAUSE

In English, "enough" and "too" are used with infinitive clauses. They state whether something is to the right degree or extent for the infinitive clause to happen.

Is this mango ripe **enough** to eat?



Yes, it's ripe **enough** to eat.



No, it's **not** ripe **enough** to eat.



No, it's **too** ripe to eat.



# 105 Prepositions

Prepositions are words that are used to show relationships between different parts of a clause, for example relationships of time, place, or reason.

**See also:**

Infinitives and participles **51** Verbs with prepositions **54**  
Singular and plural nouns **69** Personal pronouns **77**

## 105.1 SIMPLE PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions describe the relationship between two other words. They are usually part of a prepositional phrase, which is made up of a preposition followed by an object (a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase).

There's a beautiful park **by** my house.

"By" describes where the park is in relation to the house.



Chrissy goes to the gym **on** Wednesdays.

"On" helps to describe when Chrissy goes to the gym.



## 105.2 COMPLEX PREPOSITIONS

Some prepositions are made up of two words which act as a single unit. They behave the same way as one-word prepositions.

The bank is **next to** the library.



## 105.3 PARALLEL PREPOSITIONS

When the same preposition applies to more than one word in a list, the preposition only needs to be used once.

I sent presents **to** Al and [to] Ed.



When different words need different prepositions, each preposition must be used.

Look **at** and listen **to** the teacher.





## 105.4 PREPOSITIONS AND GERUNDS

If a verb comes immediately after a preposition, it has to be a gerund, which is the “-ing” form of a verb.



**After** **graduating**, I worked in a hospital.

Preposition

Gerund



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

**Instead of** **applying** for a job, I went to college.



**After** **seeing** the job listing, I wrote a cover letter.



## 105.5 PREPOSITIONS AT THE END OF SENTENCES

Prepositions can come in many different places in a sentence, including at the end.

I'm listening **to** some music. ✓

I like having something to listen **to**. ✓



## 105.6 "TO"

“To” can cause confusion because it can be a preposition, but it is also used to form infinitives.

Here, “to” is part of the infinitive verb “to see.” When used like this, it is not a preposition.

Here, “to” is part of the phrasal verb “look forward to,” and is a preposition. Therefore, it must be followed by a noun, pronoun, or gerund.

I'm going **to** see my friends tonight.

I'm looking forward **to** seeing them.

Gerund



In English, there are several phrases which sound or look similar, but have different meanings. It is important not to get these confused.

**See also:**

Present simple **1** Present continuous **4**  
"Used to" and "would" **15**

### 116.1 "GET USED TO" AND "BE USED TO"

To **"get used to (doing) something"** describes the process of adapting to new or different situations until they become familiar or normal.

**Waking up early for my new job was difficult at first, but eventually I **got used to** it.**



To **"be used to (doing) something"** means that something has been done for long enough that it is normal and familiar.

**I've lived in the city for years, so I **am used to** the bad pollution.**



#### TIP

These phrases should not be confused with "used to" (without "be" or "get"), which is used when talking about a regular past action.

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES



**When I travel, I **get used to** different customs very quickly.**

[I find it easy to adapt to different customs when I travel.]



**I **got used to** the cold weather within a couple of weeks.**

[I adapted to the cold weather within two weeks.]



**I **am used to** spicy food as I've always eaten it.**

[I am accustomed to eating spicy food.]



**We **were used to** the old teacher, so it was a shame when she left.**

[We were accustomed to our previous teacher, but then she left.]

## 116.2 "HAVE / GET SOMETHING DONE"

"Have" and "get" can be used with a noun and the past participle to talk about something someone does for someone else. "Get" is less formal than "have."

Did you **get** your computer updated?

[Did somebody update your computer for you?]



Yes, the company **has** the computers updated regularly.

[Yes, somebody regularly updates them for the company.]

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

The structure is used with "should" to give advice.

You **should get** your connection checked.

[I think you should arrange for someone to check your connection.]

They haven't **had** the locks changed yet.

[They haven't arranged for somebody to change the locks for them.]

Will you **get** the oven fixed soon?

[Will somebody fix the oven for you soon?]

The store **has** its produce checked daily.

[Somebody checks the store's produce each day.]

I need to **get** my hair cut.

[I need someone to cut my hair.]

Most people **have** burglar alarms installed.

[Most people have someone fit them a burglar alarm.]

### HOW TO FORM



"Have" and "get" can appear in different tenses.

The action happens to the object.

# 119 Deciding and hedging

English uses a number of words and phrases to discuss the different sides of an argument or to make sentences sound less definite.

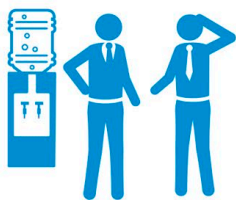
See also:

Infinitives and participles 51 More linking words 112 Making conversation 120

## 119.1 DISCUSSING ARGUMENTS

There are specific words and phrases which are used to discuss or compare the good and bad sides of an argument.

I'm not sure whether to go to the party tonight.



On the one hand, I'd have a great time.  
On the other hand, I have work to do.

## FURTHER EXAMPLES

**Although** my friends will be at the party, I don't want to stay up late.



I could go to the party. **Alternatively** I could stay in and study.



**Of course**, there is going to be good music and lots of food.



I don't want to study Art. **However**, my teacher thinks I'm good at it.

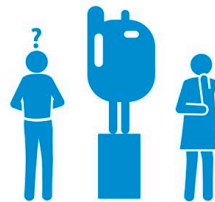


**Despite** my reservations, I think I'll go to the party anyway.



## 119.2 HEDGING

Hedging words and phrases can be added to a sentence to make its meaning less definite, direct, or strong.



Polls **{ suggest  
indicate }** that locals dislike the new statue.

Hedging verbs.

It is **{ arguably  
potentially }** the strangest statue around.

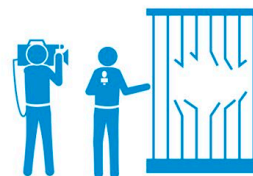
Hedging adverbs.

**{ To a certain degree,  
To some extent, }** locals feel their views are being ignored.

Hedging phrases.

## 119.3 "SEEM" AND "APPEAR"

"Seem" and "appear" are words used to distance oneself from a statement. This is useful when it is not certain if the statement is true.



The prisoners **{ seem  
appear }** to have vanished.

"Seem" and "appear" are often followed by another verb in the infinitive.

It **{ seems  
appears }** that the prison cell was left unguarded.

"It seems" or "It appears" can be followed by a "that" clause.

It would **{ seem  
appear }** that a file was used to break the bars.

"Would" adds even more distance or uncertainty.