

Grammar: most frequently asked questions

1-Past VS present perfect

examples:

It happened two years **AGO** (*il y a*) PAST

It **has** happened **FOR ten years** (*depuis*) PRESENT PERFECT **SINCE 2006** (*depuis*)

<http://usefulenglish.ru/grammar/tenses-exercise-five>

2-When / as soon as + present = future

example:

"I'll call when / as soon as I arrive" = he will call **when /as soon as he arrives**

concordance:

he **said** he **would call** when he arrived

<http://usefulenglish.ru/grammar/tenses-exercise-seven>

<http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-simple-future-simple-exercise-1.html>

3-Passif = BE + V participe passé

-it was discovered in the 1960s (a été découvert...)

-it is said to be / it is thought to be a very important innovation (*on dit que / on pense que*)

-he was told to keep quiet (on lui a demandé de...)

<http://usefulenglish.ru/grammar/tenses-exercise-eight>

4- Had better / would rather

Même sujet :

You had better (not) GO now (*tu ferais mieux de (ne pas) ...*)

I would rather (not) LEAVE now (*je préférerais (ne pas) partir...*)

Deux sujets différents:

! I'd rather you left / I'd rather you didn't come (*je préférerais que TU partes / que TU ne viennes pas...*)

<http://www.autoenglish.org/gr.better.i.htm>

<http://baladre.info/english/sedaviwebfront/hadbetter.htm>

5- Prétérit irréal

I wish I were rich / if I were you, I wouldn't go

it's high time you thought about your family

<http://usefulelenglish.ru/grammar/subjunctive-mood-exercise-six>

<http://usefulelenglish.ru/grammar/subjunctive-mood-exercise-seven>

6- auxiliaires modaux et conjugaison

Will / Would / Can / Could / may / might / must

It **must be** hard for you to work so much. (present)

It **must have been** difficult to leave your family (past)

<http://usefulelenglish.ru/grammar/modal-verbs-exercise-seven>

<http://usefulelenglish.ru/grammar/modal-verbs-exercise-eight>

He **will be able to** come. (future + capacity)

he **will have to** make progress (future + obligation)

7- need / dare / ought to

You **needn't worry** so much / I **daren't ask** if he's all right (auxiliaire modal)

You needn't have worried (it was not necessary, but you didn't know)

you ought to relax (you should relax. . .)

You don't need to worry.

You **didn't need to** worry / I **didn't dare to** ask. (verbe)

<http://www.esl-lounge.com/student/grammar/3g7-neednt-have-exercise.php>

8- used to V/ be used to Ving

He **used to work** here. Now he's retired. (past, no longer true)

She **is used to working** hard, she'll manage. (habit)

http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-used-to.php

9- Négation

Didn't she call ? She called, didn't she ? (*questions*)

It was **neither** her, **nor** him. (*ni.... ni*)

Not to go would have been a mistake. (*ne pas y aller....*)

either ...or / neithernor

http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-either-or-neither-nor.php

NB : inversions : <http://usefulelenglish.ru/miscellany/misc-exercise-three>

10- Comparaisons / Superlatifs

As + adj + as = *égalité*

more / less / fewer than / better / worse... than (*comparatif + & -*)

The most / the least / the best / the worst (*superlatif + & -*)

comparatives : http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-grammar-comparatives-superlatives.php

fewer / less : http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-fewer-less.php

The sooner, the better / **the more** they work, **the less** they forget (*Plus ils.... Moins ils....*)

it's **all the more important AS / since** you will need that information (*d'autant plus ...que*)

11-Chiffres et pluriel

4 million people were there (*adjectif = invariable*)

a **4-million** crowd gathered

a **6 year-old** kid

60-year-old new pensioners....

Ø **millions OF** people went to the demonstration (*nom pluriel*)

Ø **tens of thousands** of them have already arrived.

Written forms / irregular plurals:

n° 1 : http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-plural.php

n° 2 : http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-plurals.php

12- quantités dénombrables = many / few / any / indénombrables = much / little / some

Many people have too **few** objectives

Much help is needed, but there's **little** enthusiasm

I need **some help** / are there **any people** in the building ?

http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-many-lot.php

http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-little-few.php

! tournures spéciales !

There's **one book too many**. (*un de trop*)

There are **a great many people** in this room (*un grand nombre de / accord du verbe avec "many people", au pluriel*)

Many **a person wants** to study (*bien des gens / accord du verbe avec "a person", au singulier*)

13- quantité / totalité

Most of them / Most people wanted the situation to change (*la plupart*)

All of them / all the people (*la totalité+ pluriel*) **The whole world** wants progress.... Hopefully (*la totalité+ singulier*)

http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-quantifiers.php

https://elt.oup.com/student/englishfile/upperint3/grammar/file10/nef_int_grammar10_a01?cc=fr&seILanguage=en

Both (his) parents / Both of them were there (*les deux*)

14- Pronoms relatifs

Who / That / Whom / Whose / Which / What / Where / When

<http://usefulexenglish.ru/grammar/sentences-exercise-six>

15- mots de liaison : la contradiction

however / whereas / nevertheless / although = though / even though / despite / in spite of

http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-although.php

autres conjonctions :

http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-conjunctions.php

16- prépositions & phrasal verbs -Without / before / after /from / of + V-ing

prevent him from making a mistake / accused of stealing an apple / before leaving

responsible FOR / interested IN / guilty OF / agree WITH (to learn and remember!)

adjectives + preps : <http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/adjectives-and-prepositions-exercise-1.html>

phrasal verbs : http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-phrasal-verbs-2.php

<http://www.eclecticenglish.com/gapfillers/Prepositions.html>

17- ing or TO

I **want TO speak** Chinese, to be able to understand their worldview better. (objective, aim)

Learning a new language is fascinating ; I **love speaking** Italian. (focus on the activity of doing something)

Level 1 : **easy** <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/beginner-to-pre-intermediate/verbs-followed-by-ing-or-by-to-infinitive-1>

Level 2 : **intermediate** <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/verbs-followed-by-ing-or-by-to-infinitive-2>

Level 3: **upper intermediate / advanced**

Sometimes, you can find a mix of both : **to** can be followed by a verb in **ING**, when **to** is a preposition (like “by, without, after, before” : before entering, after leaving etc.)

To object to doing / to look forward to seeing / to be used to writing

[Short lesson](#) (video)

[Exercise](#) (bottom of the page, but you can read the explanations as well)

Sites :

Practice your English : http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/exercises.php

Eclectic English free exercises : <http://www.eclecticenglish.com/index.html>

Usefulenglish : <http://usefulenglish.ru/vocabulary/synonyms-exercise-ten>

Perfect English : <http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/index.html>

Oxford University Press:

<https://elt.oup.com/student/englishfile/upperint3/grammar/?cc=fr&selLanguage=en>

(select a file from 1 to 10 and then an exercise)

Other grammar exercises:

intermediate : <http://www.esl-lounge.com/student/grammar-exercises-intermediate.php>

advanced : <http://www.esl-lounge.com/student/grammar-exercises-advanced.php>