

USEFUL WEBSITES

GRAMMAR CHARTS

- => chart: <http://englishwell.info/past-simple-verbs-chart.html> List of irregular verbs
- => chart: <http://baanajarn.com/english-language/the-12-verb-tenses/> List of tenses
- => search: <http://images.google.com/> (Use Google Images to search for whatever you need.)

GRAMMAR POINTS

- => videos: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/grammar-vocabulary/grammar-snacks>
- => videos: <http://www.engvid.com/english-lessons/> On the left side, *choose your level, choose grammar, and then choose 'all of the teachers.'*
- => videos: <http://grammarmancomic.com/comicsgman.html>
- => explanations: <http://www.englishleap.com/grammar>
- => explanations & examples: <http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/>
- => explanations, and exercises: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar>
- => explanations and exercises: <http://www.englishgrammarsecrets.com/>
- => range of materials: http://elt.oup.com/learning_resources/subjects/grammar/?view=Standard&cc=global&sellLanguage=en&mode=hub
- => questions & stress: <http://www.cambridge.org/us/esl/touchstone/student/index.html>
- => grammar rules with examples: <http://www.english-grammar-lessons.com/>
- => range of useful information: <http://www.5minuteenglish.com/>
- => explanations and quizzes: <http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/>

GAMES

- => play: <http://elt.oup.com/student/oxfordenglishgrammar/?view=Standard&mode=hub&cc=global&sellLanguage=en> Fun games, great site.
- => play: <http://www.funenglishgames.com/grammargames.html> These are for children, but they are quick and fun.
- => play: <http://www.eslgamesplus.com/verb-tenses-interactive-grammar-game-for-esl-jeopardy-quiz-game/> verb tenses / look more games lower on the page.
- => gapfill and other activities: <http://www.englishpage.com/>

TESTS

- => intermediate: http://www.cambridge.org/other_files/Flash_apps/inuse/EngGramTest/EngGramIndex.htm
- => beginner: http://www.cambridge.org/other_files/Flash_apps/inuse/EssGramTest/EssGramIndex.htm
- => quizzes on a variety of topics: <http://rong-chang.com/ex/contents.htm>

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Tomorrow,
Today
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Language Centre



GRAMMAR



English STUDY GUIDE

WHY IS ENGLISH GRAMMAR SO IMPORTANT?

Grammar helps to standardise language. It serves as a guide to how words, sentences, phrases and expressions should be put together to achieve effective communication.

In short, if language is needed to communicate, then grammar is needed to communicate **well**.

BUT WHY IS IT SO COMPLICATED?

English is admittedly a weird language. Although this weirdness is often due to influence from other languages, in some cases such 'influence' is somewhat forced. For instance,

when the word octopus was introduced into English, it was given the most common English plural suffix (octopuses). Later on, overzealous grammarians changed it to *octopi* to honour the Latin roots of English. However, after realising that octopus actually comes from Greek, etymologists gave it the 'proper' plural, octopodes (ock-TOP-uh-deez).

Complicated or not, getting to know some basic rules always helps!

he-she-it+verb+S
it rains they eat we say I draw they you dream it plays she studies we know

simple active subject passive past future continuous nouns verbs adverbs past perfect present perfect present object

tenses
subject verb agreement

GRAMMAR JARGON

Get to know the more common terms used in grammar explanations, e.g. Adverbs, Adjectives, Determiners, Passives, Infinitives, Agreement, etc.

The table below shows you how to name the various combinations of pronoun (I, you, we, she, etc.) and number (plural or singular).

They can be helpful if you are reading or listening to an explanation about grammar, or do-

Singular	Verbs	Plural	Verbs
First Person (I)	see hear think	am have	see hear think
Second Person (You)	see hear think	are have	see hear think
Third Person (She, He, It)	see hears thinks	is has	see hear think

Look at the following sentences written in **First, Second and Third person singular**:

First Person Singular: "I attack everything in life with a mix of extraordinary genius and naive incompetence..."

Second Person Singular: "You attack everything in life with a mix of extraordinary genius and naive incompetence..."

Third Person Singular: "He attacks everything in life with a mix of extraordinary genius and naive incompetence..."

First Person Plural: "We attack everything in life with a mix of extraordinary genius and naive incompetence..."

Second Person Plural: "You attack everything in life with a mix of extraordinary genius and naive incompetence..."

Third Person Plural: "They attack everything in life with a mix of extraordinary genius and naive incompetence..."

GRAMMAR HAIKU

The best thing about
The definite article
Is that it is the.

- Nicholas Johnson



ENGLISH TENSES ACTIVE / PASSIVE & SIMPLE / CONTINUOUS

SIMPLE ACTIVE	SIMPLE PASSIVE		CONTINUOUS ACTIVE	CONTINUOUS PASSIVE
Class had already ended when I arrived.	Many false details had been published before they were corrected.	PAST PERFECT	They had been talking for about an hour before she arrived.	We had been being driven to work every morning. (*tense rarely used)
She bought a new car yesterday.	The book was written by Douglas Noel Adams.	PAST	He was sleeping soundly when the fire alarm woke him.	The problem was being solved when I arrived late to class.
She has lived in Brunei for her entire life.	The café has been managed by Iman Zayn for the last two years.	PRESENT PERFECT	She has been studying at UBD for three years.	Recently, the work has been being done by Ariani. (*tense rarely used)
He reads the newspaper every day.	The students are taught by the professor.	PRESENT	I am driving at the moment.	Pancakes are being made in the kitchen.

TENSES

1. Use the **PASSIVE** when the subject (who or what) is not important & to avoid using first person in an academic essay.
2. **PAST PERFECT SIMPLE**—for talking about two past actions to show which one is earlier.
3. **PAST SIMPLE**—for an action that has finished.

4. **PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE**—to talk about an action that stretches from the past until the present—often used with 'since' and 'for'.
5. **PRESENT SIMPLE**—for habits and things that usually or often happen.
6. **PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS**—to talk about two past actions to show that one was longer.

7. **PAST CONTINUOUS**—to show that an action was continuing in the past or continuing while something else happened.
8. **PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS**—to emphasise a past action that is continuing in the present.
9. **PRESENT CONTINUOUS**—for something that is happening now.

GRAMMAR TIPS

- ➡ Use the right article definite ('the') or indefinite ('a'/'an')
For general 'a/an': "I went to see a career guidance counsellor for some advice."
For specific 'the': "I went to see the career guidance counsellor again to thank her for her advice."
- ➡ That, who, and which – use commas for non-essential information
"Students who miss many classes tend to have difficulty catching up."
"Anita, who is wearing the red dress, has missed a lot of classes."
- ➡ Always use a comma after an introductory or prepositional phrase
"According to recent findings, the theory has been rendered invalid."

- ➡ Use the semicolon to replace a full-stop or link two independent clauses
"The hypothesis was so complex it confused even the brightest students; many would give up and move on to the next chapter."
- ➡ Pay attention to apostrophes
Possessive case or contractions: its vs. it's, they're vs. their
- ➡ Memorise homophones
Too vs. two, your vs. you're, accept vs. except
- ➡ Build your vocabulary
Read! Newspaper and magazine articles count too.
- ➡ Spellcheck and proofread
Have someone check your work or quietly read your work aloud to catch mistakes.