

ESL English as a second language

Vocabulary, Popular Phrases and Expressions, Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives & More

THE ALPHABET

There are twenty-six letters in the English alphabet:

A B C D E F G H I
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z

MEASURES

Distance

1 inch = 2.54 centimeters
1 foot = 12 inches = 0.3048 meter
1 yard = 3 feet
1 mile = 5,280 feet
3 miles = 4.83 kilometers
1 acre = 43,560 square feet

Weight

1 ounce = 1/16 of a pound
1 pound = 16 ounces

Liquid

1 pint = 0.5505 liter
1 quart = 2 pints
1 gallon = 4 quarts

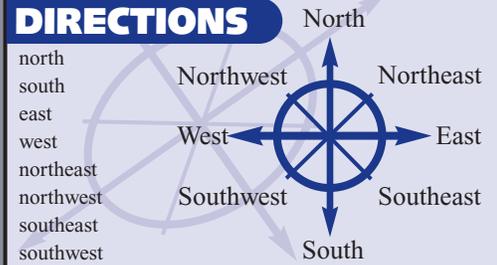
CARDINAL NUMBERS

0- zero
1- one
2- two
3- three
4- four
5- five
6- six
7- seven
8- eight
9- nine
10- ten
11- eleven
12- twelve
13- thirteen
14- fourteen
15- fifteen
16- sixteen
17- seventeen
18- eighteen
19- nineteen
20- twenty
21- twenty-one
22- twenty-two
23- twenty-three
30- thirty
31- thirty-one
32- thirty-two
40- forty
41- forty-one
42- forty-two
50- fifty
51- fifty-one
60- sixty
70- seventy
80- eighty
90- ninety
100- one hundred
200- two hundred
1000- one thousand
10,000- ten thousand
1,000,000 - 1 million
1,000,000,000 - 1 billion

ORDINALS

1st first
2nd second
3rd third
4th fourth
5th fifth
6th sixth
7th seventh
8th eighth
9th ninth
10th tenth
100th one hundredth
124th one hundred and twenty-fourth

DIRECTIONS



DAYS OF THE WEEK

- "What day is it?"
- "Today is January 1st, 2001, a new century!"

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday
the weekend = Saturday, Sunday

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January July
February August
March September
April October
May November
June December

THE SEASONS

spring summer fall winter

TIME

The Past:

- last week
- the day before yesterday
- yesterday

The Present:

- today

The Future:

- tomorrow
- the day after tomorrow
- next week

The Time:

"What time is it?"
"It is a quarter of two."
morning – AM (before noon)
afternoon – PM (after noon)
evening – after 7PM
night
12 PM – noon
12 AM – midnight
2:10 AM – two ten (in the morning)
3:15 PM – three fifteen or quarter past three (in the afternoon)
4:30 PM – four thirty or half past four (in the evening)
5:35 AM – five thirty-five or twenty-five of six (in the morning)
11:45 PM – eleven forty-five or quarter of twelve (in the evening)

WEATHER, CLIMATE

"How's the weather?"
"It's sunny."
"What's the temperature outside?"
"It's cold, it's 20 degrees."
1. It's cloudy.
2. It's freezing.
3. It's cold.
4. It's raining.
5. It's snowing.
6. It's stormy.
7. It's sunny.
8. It's hot.
9. It's thundering.
10. It's windy.

COLORS



A FEW GREETINGS

Hello	GREETINGS	COMMON RESPONSES
Good morning	"How are you?"	"I am fine, thank-you, and you?"
Good evening	"What's your name?"	"My name is Peter."
Good night	"Thank-you."	"You are welcome."
	"Let me introduce you to Mary."	"Hello Mary, delighted to meet you."
	"Speak slowly, please."	"I am sorry."
	"Goodbye."	"Goodbye, it was nice meeting you."

NOUNS

Nouns are names for:

- People: *boy, woman, Mary*
- Places: *New York, Paris, home, store*
- Animals: *dog, horse, worm*
- Things: *car, book, computer*
- Ideas: *honesty, beauty*

There are:

- Common Nouns:** building, planet, boy
- Proper Nouns:** White House, Earth, George

There are two types of nouns:

Count Noun a book, a store	Noncount Noun water, honesty
Count [singular & plural] <i>two</i> books <i>some</i> books <i>a lot</i> of books <i>many</i> books <i>a few</i> books	Noncount [no plural] <i>some</i> water <i>some</i> water <i>a lot</i> of water <i>much</i> water <i>a little</i> water

- In grammar, **noncount** nouns cannot be counted.
- The **verb** following a noncount noun is always **singular**.
- A **lot** of water **passes** under the bridge.
- A **noncount** noun never takes the indefinite article **a/an**.
- Here are a few common noncount noun categories and examples:

Whole groups	Abstract nouns	Small items
mail	beauty	hair
food	luck	salt
traffic	music	sugar
Big masses	Languages	Other
ice	French	weather
smoke	Arabic	heat
paper	Spanish	soccer

- Expressions of quantity come before a noun:
- Some are used with only count nouns.
- Some are used with only noncount nouns.
- Some are used with both.

Expression of quantity:

Count noun:	book
one	book
each/every	books
two/both/a couple of	books
three, etc.	books
a few/several	books
many/a number of	books

Noncount nouns:	water
a little	water
much	water
a great deal of	water

For both count and noncount nouns:

not any/no	book/water
some	books/water
a lot of/lots of/plenty of	books/water
most	books/water
all	books/water

PLURALS OF NOUNS

-For most **regular plurals**, add an **-s** to the word: (coins, apples)

Other Noun Plurals

- When the singular ends in **s, sh, ch, x, z**; add **-es** (classes)
- When the singular ends in **o**, add **-s** exceptions: tomatoes, potatoes, echoes, heroes
- When the singular ends in **y** (preceded by a vowel), only **-s** is added (toys)
- When the singular ends in **y** (preceded by a consonant) **-ies** is added (babies)

Nouns that end in **-f** or **-fe** change to **-ves** endings:

calf, calves	life, lives	shelf, shelves
half, halves	loaf, loaves	thief, thieves
knife, knives	self, selves	wolf, wolves
leaf, leaves	scarf, scarves	

Exceptions: beliefs, chiefs, cliffs, roofs

-Following are some **irregular plurals**:

child, <i>children</i>	mouse, <i>mice</i>
foot, <i>feet</i>	ox, <i>oxen</i>
louse, <i>lice</i>	tooth, <i>teeth</i>
man, <i>men</i>	woman, <i>women</i>

-Some nouns in English come from other languages and have **foreign plurals**:

analysis, <i>analyses</i>	hypothesis, <i>hypotheses</i>
appendix, <i>appendices, appendixes</i>	index, <i>indices, indexes</i>
bacterium, <i>bacteria</i>	medium, <i>media</i>
basis, <i>bases</i>	memorandum, <i>memoranda</i>
cactus, <i>cacti, cactuses</i>	oasis, <i>oases</i>
crisis, <i>crises</i>	parenthesis, <i>parentheses</i>
criterion, <i>criteria</i>	phenomenon, <i>phenomena</i>
curriculum, <i>curricula</i>	stimulus, <i>stimuli</i>
datum, <i>data</i>	syllabus, <i>syllabi, syllabuses</i>
formula, <i>formulae, formulas</i>	datus, <i>theses</i>
	vertebra, <i>vertebrae</i>

ARTICLES

- Articles are words that modify nouns.
- There are two types of articles:

DEFINITE ARTICLES (THE)

Definite articles are used with **singular count nouns, plural count nouns, and noncount nouns.**

- When the noun is **known** to the speakers:
The car I have is very expensive.
The question they want to ask is about homework.

- When the noun is **"the only one"** of its kind:
The sun rises in the east.
The moon is full.
The door is locked. (There is only one door.)

- When the noun is a representative of a **general class** of items.
The computer is the most important invention.
The piano is a beautiful instrument.

INDEFINITE ARTICLES (A, AN)

-*Indefinite articles* are used with **singular count nouns** only: **a** bird, **a** boy, **a** book, **a** dictionary, **a** piece of cake.

- Use **an** with a noun that begins with a **vowel sound**:
an apple, an examination, an hour; (a university, a hotel because "university" and "hotel" begin with a consonant pronunciation).

- When the noun is **unknown** to the speakers:
I have **a** car.
Mary has **a** test tomorrow.
They want to ask **a** question.
- When the noun is being introduced for the first time:
A banana is usually yellow.
A book is a good friend on a long trip.

NO ARTICLE

Plural count nouns and noncount nouns do **not** need *definite articles* when they are referring to ALL of the items.

Plural count nouns:

I love apples.	(apples, in general)
The apples in this box are bad.	(specific apples)
Books are expensive.	(books, in general)
The books in that store are cheap.	(specific books)
That store has computers.	(computers, in general)
The computers they have are old.	(specific computers)

Noncount nouns:

I love coffee.	(coffee, in general)
The coffee in this cup is cold.	(specific coffee)
Japanese enjoy rice.	(rice, in general)
The rice I ate last night was good.	(specific rice)
Water is necessary.	(water, in general)
The water here isn't good to drink.	(specific water)

REMEMBER: A singular count noun CANNOT appear alone.

- It must have;
-an article: **a** book, **the** car, **an** uncle
-a demonstrative: **this** TV, **that** radio, **this** newspaper
OR
-a possessive: **my** pen, **her** key, **Mary's** room

PRONOUNS

Pronouns take the place of a noun; they are **noun substitutes**:

- boy = **he**
- book = **it**
- Mary = **she**

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

- Subject pronouns:** (refer to the subject)
I (I speak English) we
you you
he, she, it they
- Object pronouns:** (refer to the object of the verb)
me (Jan called me.) us
you you
him, her, it them
- Possessive Pronouns:** (indicate ownership)
mine (This book is mine.) ours
yours yours
his, hers, its theirs

-**Reflexive pronouns:** (refer to the subject, sometimes used for emphasis)

- myself (I like to drive myself.) ourselves
- yourself yourselves
- himself, herself, itself themselves

-The expression **by** + a reflexive pronoun usually means **"alone"** (He lives by himself.)

-**Indefinite pronouns (non-specific):**

- everyone (Everyone has his or her idea.)
- everybody
- everything
- someone
- somebody
- something (Did I leave something on the table?)
- anyone
- anybody (Anybody is welcome.)
- anything
- no one (No one attended the meeting.)
- nobody
- nothing

IMPERSONAL PRONOUNS

- One** means "any person, people in general."
(*One should always be on time.*)
- You** means "any person, people in general."
(*I am lost; how do you get to the train station from here?*)

ADJECTIVES

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives give more **information** about nouns:
-The following are called **descriptive** adjectives; they describe the noun.
good student, **bad** student, **intelligent** student, **hot** day, **hot** food, **cold** day, **cold** food.

-The following **endings** are often found on adjectives:
-y (*milky*), **-ous** (*joyous*), **-ful** (*hopeful*), **-able** (*workable*), **-less** (*helpless*)

Example: He is a joyous child.

COMPARISONS

Two nouns with adjectives can be compared:
-In most cases, add **-er** to an adjective to make a comparison.
Earth is big. Uranus is **bigger** (than earth).
Sugar is sweet. Honey is **sweeter** (than sugar).

-In adjectives with more than two syllables, use **more** to compare.
John is handsome. Peter is **more** handsome.
Algebra is difficult. Calculus is **more** difficult.

When comparing more than two nouns with adjectives, use the superlative:

- Add **the** and **-est** to adjectives which use **-er**. Use **the most** with adjectives with more than two syllables.
- Earth is big. Uranus is bigger. Jupiter is **the biggest** of all planets.
- Algebra is difficult. Calculus is more difficult. Nuclear physics is **the most difficult** of all subjects.

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

- Describe ownership:
my (My car is blue.) our
your your
his their
her their
its their

ADVERB CLAUSES

-Adverb clauses are used like adverbs.
 -They answer questions like **when?**, **why?**, **how long?**
 -Adverb clauses show **relationships** between two sentences:
-Time
 I've been here **since** I was young.
 They came **after** we had eaten dinner.
 The student stood **when** the teacher entered.

-Future Time Clauses
 -When talking about the future:
 -The verb in the TIME CLAUSE is always **present** tense.
 -The main verb is **future** tense:
 When I get home, I will call you.
 Mary will be here when she finishes her work.
 When you press this button, the police will come.

-Cause & Effect
 We can't go swimming because it's raining.
 It's raining so we can't go swimming.
-Opposition
 Although it's cold, I'm going swimming.
 She got a good grade even though she didn't study.

-Condition
 If it rains, we will cancel the picnic.
 I would have gone if I had known about the party.

-Purpose
 She came early so that she could get a good seat.

MAKING SENTENCES NEGATIVE

-You can make a sentence negative by putting the word **not** with the **auxiliary** form of the verb.

Verb Tense	Auxiliary	Negative	Contractions
simple present	do/does	do not/does not	don't/doesn't
present continuous	am/are/is	am not/is not/are not	am not/aren't/isn't
simple past	did	did not	didn't
past continuous	was/were	was not/were not	wasn't/weren't
simple future	will	will not	won't
future continuous	will be	will not be	won't be
present perfect	have/has	have not/has not	haven't/hasn't
presperf continuous	have/has been	have not/has not been	hadn't/hasn't been
past perfect	had	had not	hadn't
pastperf continuous	had been	had not been	hadn't been
future perfect	will have	will not have	won't have
futperf continuous	will have been	will not have been	won't have been

-Do not use **DOUBLE NEGATIVES**, they are always incorrect.
 Correct: Don't touch anything.
 Incorrect: Don't touch nothing.

ASKING QUESTIONS

There are two kinds of questions:
1. Yes/No Questions (Require either a "yes" or "no" answer.)

Auxiliary	Subject	Verb(base form)	?
[tense+sing/plur]			
Do	they	live	here?
Are	you and I	going	tomorrow?
Did	he	do	his work?
Will	she	come	next week?
Has	Mary	eaten	yet?

 -Remember that the auxiliary carries tense information and sometimes "number" information about the subject.

Examples	Question with auxiliary
They speak English.	DO they speak English?
He smokes.	DOES he smoke?
I am doing well.	AM I doing well?
She is listening.	IS she listening?
We are leaving now.	ARE we leaving now?
She cooked dinner.	DID she cook dinner?
They arrived late.	DID they arrive late?
It was raining.	WAS it raining?
They were working.	WERE they working?
He will understand.	WILL he understand?
He will be leaving soon.	WILL he be leaving soon?
He has been sick.	HAS he been sick?
They have eaten.	HAVE they eaten?
You have been eating well.	HAVE you been eating well?
It has been snowing a lot.	HAS it been snowing a lot?
They had come early.	HAD they come early?
She had been eating.	HAD she been eating?
You will have been living here one year tomorrow.	WILL you have been living here one year tomorrow?

2. **"WH" Questions** (To ask for specific information.)
 -"WH" questions follow the same pattern as yes/no questions, **except** the first word in a Wh-question is the WH-word, not the auxiliary.

WH-word	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb
?	[tense + sing/plur]		[base form]
When	do	you	eat dinner?
Where	has	he	learned English?
Why	did	Mary	come late?
Whose car [noun]	will	you	borrow?
Which hotel [noun]	have	they	chosen?
How	does	Bob	go to work?
X	X	Who*	is going tomorrow?
Who[m]**	are	you	marrying?
What	has	she	bought me?

***Who** in this sentence is asking a question about the **SUBJECT** of the sentence. When you are asking any kind of **WH-question** about the **SUBJECT** of the sentence, do **not** use an auxiliary in your question.

Three children have been injured. [subject]
HOW MANY CHILDREN have been injured? [no auxiliary]
 She has **three children**. [object]
HOW MANY CHILDREN does she have? [auxiliary needed]
 The **blue car** has more power. [subject]
WHICH CAR has more power? [no auxiliary]
 We prefer the **blue car**. [object]
WHICH CAR do you prefer? [auxiliary needed]

****Whom** is used when asking a question about the **OBJECT** of a sentence.
 -It is often very **FORMAL**.
 -Today, many people do not use the form **whom**; instead, they use **"who."**
 -There is one exception:
Whom are you talking to?
TO whom are you talking to?
 -When a preposition comes **before who**, you must use **WHOM**, such as, for **whom**, by **whom**, with **whom**, against **whom**, etc.

WH-word	Meaning/use	Example Answers
when	time	Tomorrow. Two weeks ago. Now.
where	place	At home. Here. In New York.
why	reason	Because I'm sick. To eat lunch.
whose	possession	Mary's book. The man's car.
which	choice	The math homework.
how	manner	Quickly. By bus. Very well.
who	person [subject]	The boy. Mary and John.
whom	person [object]	The boy. Mary and John.
what	things	The dog. The car. The radio.

TAG QUESTIONS

-**Tag questions** are added to the **end** of a sentence to make sure the information is correct or to seek agreement:
 Mary can go, **can't she?**
 Robert can't come, **can he?**
 -Affirmative sentence + negative tag = affirmative answer
you like coffee, don't you? = yes, I do
 -Negative sentence + affirmative tag = negative answer
you don't like coffee, do you? = no I don't

NEGATIVE QUESTIONS

-When asking a negative question, use **not** with the auxiliary and follow the same procedure for asking either "yes/no" or "WH" questions.

Questions	Answers
Didn't you go last night?	No, I didn't.
Why weren't you in class?	I was sick.
Hasn't the mail come?	Yes, it has.
Who didn't come yesterday? [subject]	John & I didn't.

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CREDITS

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NOTE TO STUDENTS

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