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MURPHY, R. (2004). *English Grammar in Use with Answers. A Self-study Reference and Practice Book for Intermediate Students of English*. (3rd revised edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [henceforth referred to as *EGU*]

Please, do always study the grammar sections provided in your textbook corresponding to each grammar topic: JONES, L. (2003). *New Progress to First Certificate. Self-Study. Student's Book*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [henceforth referred to as *NPFC*]

Please note that all the topics of this grammar file have been been uploaded on SUMA (our virtual campus) during the first semester.



QUESTION TAGS

1) PURPOSE:

It's a nice day, isn't it?: ↓

NOT ASKING A QUESTION BUT INVITING THE LISTENER TO AGREE WITH YOU. THE STATEMENT IS CLEARLY TRUE.

We're going the right way, aren't we?: ↑ ASKING A REAL QUESTION; ASKING FOR REASSURANCE

- See *NPFC*, p. 184, point 4

2) STRUCTURE:

REMEMBER: 3 MAIN STRUCTURES

1) + statement, - tag:

It's your birthday today, isn't it?

2) - statement, + tag:

It isn't your birthday today, is it?

3) + statement, + tag:

It's your birthday today, is it?

THE FORM OF THE TAG DEPENDS ON THE SUBJECT AND THE AUXILIARY OF THE MAIN CLAUSE.

3. THE 3 STRUCTURES IN MORE DETAIL.

1) + statement, - tag:

It's your birthday today, isn't it?

What's the (pragmatic) function of this question tag?

NOT REALLY A REQUEST FOR INFO BUT AN INVITATION TO THE HEARER TO RESPOND. THE STATEMENT IS CLEARLY TRUE.

- Also: *You're Italian, aren't you? Yes, I come from Milan. I'm staying here with some friends.*

- REMEMBER THE DIFFERENCE IN INTONATION:

It's cold today, isn't it? ↓ (FALLING INTONATION)

We're going the right way, aren't we? ↑ (RISING INTONATION)



2) - statement, + tag:

It isn't your birthday today, is it?

- 2.a.) Same observations as in 1).

- 2.b.)

You couldn't do me a favour, could you? ↑

(ASKING S'BODY TO DO S'THING)

It depends on what it is.

You haven't heard the test results, have you? ↑

(ASKING FOR INFORMATION)

No, sorry, I haven't.

3) + statement, + tag:

It's your birthday today, is it?

Less usual than 1) and 2).

I'll go off to Australia soon, as usual.

You go there every year, do you? ↓

What's the (pragmatic) function of this question tag?

EXPRESSING INTEREST; INVITING THE FIRST PERSON TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION AND GIVE HIM/HER MORE DETAILS

4. MORE THINGS ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF QUESTIONS TAGS:

1) *There were lots of people at the carnival, weren't there?*

2) *That was lucky, wasn't it?*

3) *These plates aren't very expensive, are they?*

4) *Anyone could just walk in here, couldn't they?*

5) *Nobody likes going to the dentist, do they?*

6) *Something fell out of your bag, didn't it?*

7) *Let's have a drink, shall we? ↑*

8) *I'm right, aren't I?*

HOW DO WE MAKE QUESTION TAGS IN THESE CASES?

Get out your books, will/would/can/could you? ↓ (order)

Don't forget your key, will you? ↓ (reminder)

Have a nice holiday, won't you? ↓ (good wish).



PRESENT TENSES

- What's the difference between?:
 - a. *We eat in the canteen most days* (routine or habit).
 - b. *We're eating lunch at the moment* (something we're in the middle of).
 - c. *Do you sleep a lot?* (general habit).
 - d. *Are you sleeping enough (these days)?* (a temporary situation).
 - e. *At seven we're usually having supper* (= at seven we're usually in the middle of supper).
 - f. *At six thirty we usually have supper* (= six thirty is our usual time for supper).
 - g. *Our teacher always gives us a test* (every lesson).
 - h. *Our teacher is always giving us tests* (very often).
- Which is the correct sentence in these two pairs?:
 - i. *I'm preferring/I prefer R&B to folk music.* → I prefer.
 - REMEMBER STATE VERBS. See *NPFC*, p. 182, point 3 and *EGU*, unit 4A.
 - j. *The weather looks / The weather is looking better today.* → Both.
- Can we say?: YES.
 - k. (e.g. if on holiday): *We're having a great time.*
 - l. *I'm seeing my boss tomorrow (I'm meeting him).*
 - m. *My brother is seeing Pat. (He's dating her).*
 - n. And what about *I'M LOVING IT?* Yes.
- REMEMBER: WE USE THE PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS TO EXPRESS FUTURE TIME:
 - PRESENT CONTINUOUS:

Fixed and near future arrangements (+ future time expressions: *this evening, tomorrow night, etc.*)

What are you doing on Friday night? I'm having dinner with my friends.
Sorry, I can't help you. I'm leaving in the morning.
 - PRESENT SIMPLE:

Timetables, laws...

The train to Victoria leaves at 8:00.
 - Time expressions
 - See *NPFC*, p. 182, point 2.
 - Adverbs of frequency go before the main verb but after *be*.

You're always making noise.
I always double-check my translations.
 - Frequency expressions (*once a week, etc.*) usually go at the end of the sentence.

He goes to the cinema once a week.



- Can we say?:

Ronaldinho passes the ball to Pujol, but Raúl wins it back to Real.

- YES: SPORTS COMMENTARY OR A DEMONSTRATION.
- Also INSTRUCTIONS: *You pull down the File menu and choose Print.*

- Can we say?: YES.

*In Chapter 5, Tom goes to the cinema and meets Sarah (plot summary).
1789. The French Revolution begins (historical tables).*

See also the PRESENT PERFECT AND PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSES below.



PAST TENSES (1)

- 1) PAST SIMPLE
- 2) PAST CONTINUOUS
- 3) PRESENT PERFECT
- 4) PRESENT PERFECT vs PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS
- 5) PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

1) PAST SIMPLE

What's the difference between?:

I wanted to ask him something yesterday. (time period: past).

I wanted to ask you something (time period: present. Politeness).

Compare against:

I want to ask you something.

Are we expressing past time in the following example?

- *I wish I was rich. If I had some money, I could buy a nice house.*

What's the difference in context between?:

- *In Chapter 5, Tom goes to the cinema and meets Sarah* (plot summary).
- *Once upon a time a Princess went into a wood and sat down by a stream* (story telling).

SOME TYPICAL TIME EXPRESSIONS THAT GO WITH THE PAST SIMPLE TENSE:

Yesterday, this morning/this evening, last week/last year, a week/a month ago, that day/afternoon, the other day/the other week, at eleven o'clock, on Tuesday, in 1990, just, recently, once, earlier, then, next, after that.

2) PAST CONTINUOUS

- *At three o'clock in the morning I was lying there wide awake.*

What's the difference between?:

- *I was travelling around the world* (I was in the middle of my journey).
- *I travelled round the world last year. It was a marvellous experience* (a complete action in the past).

Can we say?: YES

- *The rescue services were working all night* (emphasis on an action going on over a whole period).
- *The rescue services worked all night* (a past action from the past).

What do the past simple and past continuous refer to in this sentence?:

- *Debbie was washing her hair when the doorbell rang.*

Longer action: Debbie washing her hair.

Shorter and complete action: the telephone ringing.

The shorter action can 'interrupt' the longer one.

The telephone ringing happened in the middle of Debbie washing her hair.



Which of the following sentences is not correct?: NONE. When two actions went on at the same time, we can use either tense in either clause.

- 1) *Debbie was washing her hair while Tim was tidying up the flat.*
- 2) *Debbie washed her hair while Tim was tidying up the flat.*
- 3) *Debbie was washing her hair while Tim tidied up the flat.*
- 4) *Debbie washed her hair while Tom tidied up the flat.*

Can we say?:

- *When Karen arrived, we had lunch.*

What's the difference between the previous sentence and the following one?:

- *When Karen arrived, we were having dinner.*

<p><i>When Karen arrived, we were having dinner.</i></p> <p>(= we had already started before she arrived).</p>	<p><i>When Karen arrived, we had dinner.</i></p> <p>(= Karen arrived, and then we had dinner; one complete action followed another).</p>
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See EGU, p. 8, section A.

- *My grandmother loved this house.*
- **My grandmother was loving this house.*
- *I didn't know what to do next.*
- **I wasn't knowing what to do next.*

Remember:

TEMPORARY STATE

- *I'm using the manager's office while she's away.*
- *I was using the manager's office while she was away.*
- **ARRANGEMENT**
- *I'm on the way to the club. I'm meeting someone there.*
- *I was on my way to the club. I was meeting someone there.*

ANNOYING HABIT

- *Those children are always getting into trouble.*
- *When I was younger, I was always getting into trouble.*

3) PRESENT PERFECT. Uses

A) The café has just opened./Ow! I've cut my finger.

PRESENT RESULTS OF A RECENT EVENT.

The café is open NOW. I'm bleeding NOW.

B) The café has been open for about ten minutes./I've had this grammar book for years.

A STATE LASTING UP TO THE PRESENT TIME:

The café is still open. I still have this grammar book.

C) I wonder if anyone has ever said that before./Have you ever ridden a horse?

EXPERIENCE. NO DEFINITE TIME IN THE PAST IS GIVEN OR KNOWN. Compare against:

I wonder if anyone said that at the meeting (last Tuesday)./ When I was 10 I rode a horse but I didn't like it.

See NPFC, p. 180: *I have (already) read 100 pages of the book.*

D) I've ridden horses lots of times.

REPEATED ACTIONS BEFORE NOW.



PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS	PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE
<p><i>Susan's clothes are covered in paint.</i> <i>She <u>has been painting</u> the ceiling.</i></p> <p><i>We are interested in the activity. It does not matter whether something has been finished or not.</i></p>	<p><i>The ceiling was white. Now it is blue.</i> <i>She <u>has painted</u> the ceiling.</i></p> <p><i>Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. "Has painted" is a completed action.</i></p> <p><i>We are interested in the result of the activity (the painted ceiling), not the activity itself.</i></p>
<p><i>My hands are very dirty.</i> <i>I've been repairing the car.</i></p>	<p><i>The car is OK now. I've repaired it.</i></p>
<p><i>How long (for an activity that is <u>still</u> happening):</i> <i>How long have you been reading that book?</i></p>	<p><i>How much, how many, how many times (completed actions):</i> <i>How many pages of that book have you read?</i></p>

4) PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- *Where have you been? I've been waiting here for half an hour.*
**I'm waiting here for half an hour.*
- *Where is he? I've been waiting half an hour. (I'm still waiting).*
- *Mary is a very good tennis player. She's been playing since she was seven.*

THIS EMPHASISES A SERIES OF REPEATED ACTIONS IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE PRESENT.

(Focus on the activity/process itself which is still true/happening)

- *I've ridden horses lots of times.*

REPEATED ACTIONS BEFORE NOW.

(Focus on complete actions + no time point given/known)

- WHEN WE FOCUS ON "HOW LONG", THE CONTINUOUS IS MORE USUAL

Remember:

1)

- *I've always hated hospitals.*
- **I've always been hating hospitals.*

2) Which of the following sentences is correct in each pair?: BOTH.

We've been living here since May.

We've lived here since May.

I've been working there for six weeks.

I've worked there for six weeks.

But: I've always lived in Spain.

3)

- *It's two years since I last went to the cinema.*
- *It's been two years since I last went to the cinema.*
- *It's ages since I went to the cinema.*



PAST TENSES (2)

- 5) PAST SIMPLE vs PRESENT PERFECT
- 6) ADVERBIALS OF TIME WITH THE PAST SIMPLE AND PRESENT PERFECT
- 7) PAST PERFECT
- 8) PAST PERFECT vs PAST SIMPLE
- 9) PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS
- 10) PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS vs PAST PERFECT and PAST CONTINUOUS

5) PAST SIMPLE vs PRESENT PERFECT

What's the difference between these actions?:

- *The car broke down* (e.g., yesterday). We don't know whether it is alright or not.
- *The car has broken down* (= it is out of action now).

What's the difference between these repeated actions?:

- *Brian acted in more than fifty films* (= his career is over).
- *Brian has acted in more than fifty films* (= his career has continued up to the present and may or may not go on in the future).

6) ADVERBIALS OF TIME WITH THE PAST SIMPLE AND PRESENT PERFECT

a) JUST, RECENTLY AND ALREADY

I've just heard the news./I just heard the news.

I've already heard the news (= before now).

I already knew before you told me (= before then).

b) EVER, NEVER

Have you ever visited our conference room?

Did you ever visit our conference room?

c) THIS MORNING, TODAY, ETC.

What's the difference between?:

- *It has been windy this morning* (= the morning is not yet over).
- *It was windy this morning* (= it is now afternoon or evening).
- *It has been windy today.*
- *It was windy today.*

Both sentences are spoken late in the day.

D) FOR, SINCE

- See *EGU*, unit 12
- Can we say? YES.
 - *I've been here for a month now* (= I arrived a month ago).
 - *I'm here for a month* (= I'm staying here for a month in total).

HOW WOULD YOU TRANSLATE THE PREVIOUS SENTENCES?

7) PAST PERFECT

- See *EGU*, unit 15



8) PAST PERFECT vs PAST SIMPLE

ONE ACTION COMES IMMEDIATELY AFTER ANOTHER

a) *When the shot rang out, everyone threw themselves to the floor.*

SOMEONE FINISHED ONE ACTION AND THEN DID SOMETHING ELSE

b) *When Miranda had typed the message, she mailed it to Max.*

c) *After Miranda typed/had typed the message, she mailed it to Max.*

Watch out for the difference in meaning:

1) *When the boss arrived, the meeting began.*

(The boss arrived and then we had the meeting).

2) *When the boss arrived, the meeting had begun.*

(The meeting began before the boss arrived).

3) *When Max spoke, Miranda put the phone down.*

(When Max started speaking...).

4) *When Max had spoken, Miranda put the telephone down.*

(When Max finished speaking...).

- *The printer went wrong before it printed/had printed.*
- *We didn't want to stop until we finished/we had finished.*

9) PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- See EGU, unit 16
- *The driver who died in the accident had been drinking.*

10) PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS vs PAST PERFECT and PAST CONTINUOUS

What's the difference between?:

1) *The volunteers had collected hundreds of pounds* (= focus on the result of the action).

The volunteers had been collecting thousands of pounds (= focus on the action going on).

What's the difference between?:

2) *When I saw Alice, she was playing golf.*

(= I saw her in the middle of playing golf).

When I saw Alice, she'd been playing golf.

(= I saw her after the game).

FOR USED TO DO, SEe EGU, unit 18

Watch out when reporting news (either in writing or in a conversation):

- *There has been a serious accident on the M6. It happened at ten o'clock this morning when a lorry went out of control and collided with a car.*
- *I've just been on a skiing holiday.*
- *Oh, where did you go?*



B. FUTURE TIME

1. WILL
2. GOING TO
3. PRESENT CONTINUOUS AND FUTURE TIME
4. PRESENT SIMPLE AND FUTURE TIME
5. USES OF WILL OTHER THAN EXPRESSION OF UNPLANNED DECISIONS AND PREDICTION
6. SHALL
7. THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS
8. FUTURE PERFECT AND FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS
9. TO BE LIKELY TO + DO
10. TO BE ABOUT TO + DO
11. BE TO DO
12. TO BE DUE TO DO
13. TO BE BOUND TO DO

1) WILL

Which future expression do you use here?:

My father will definitely be in hospital for at least two weeks.

Most of you will be 19 next year.

FUTURE FACTS WHICH WE CANNOT CONTROL. NO SENSE OF WISH OR INTENTION.

2) WILL, GOING TO

2.1.) PREDICTIONS

2.1.1.) What's the difference between?:

- *It'll probably rain. It usually rains at weekends.*
- *It's going to rain. Look at those clouds.*

GOING TO: PREDICTIONS BASED ON THE PRESENT SITUATION

NPFC, p. 174/2.: *My wife is going to have a baby.*

2.1.2.) Sometimes there's not much difference between *will/going to*:

I think Spain will win/are going to win.

2.1.3.) SPECIAL COLLOCATIONS: PREDICTIONS BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE/OPINION + OTHER CASES (WILL)

- **Probably:** *She'll probably be home late this evening*
- **Maybe:** *Maybe I'll go to England next summer.*
- **I expect:** *I haven't seen Roger today. I expect he'll phone this evening.*
- **(I'm) sure:** *Don't worry about your finals. I'm sure you'll pass.*
- **think:** *Do you think Sarah will like the present we bought her?*
- **don't think:** *I don't think he'll be a butcher like his Dad when he grows up.*
- **Think + ever:** *Do you think you will ever adopt a child?*
- **I wonder:** *I wonder what will happen.*



VERY IMPORTANT!!!
NPFC, p. 174: will + time conjunction

Will or going to?:

- *Let's have a party.*
- *Cool! We (will/are going to) invite lots of people.*
- *Dave and I have decided to have a party. We (will/are going to) invite lots of people.*

Going to: planned decisions

When I finish my degree, I'm going to start looking for jobs in Madrid.

Will: unplanned decisions

I've got a problem.

I'll help you.

Did you phone Eric?

Oh no. I'll ring him now.

How would you translate the I-will sentences?

You cannot use the present tense here:

**I help you.*

**I phone him now.*

3) PRESENT CONTINUOUS AND FUTURE TIME

What's the difference between?:

- *They are going to get married one day.*
- *They are getting married.*

3.1.) PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS

What's the difference between?:

- *They are going to get married one day.*
(This is a general intention, but has not been arranged).
- *They are getting married.*
(The wedding is already arranged).

3.2.) Use the present continuous for already planned decisions referring to a nearby future:

*a) I'm going to England on Sunday. (*I'll go to England)*

Going to is also possible from a semantic point of view, but it sounds awkward. The same applies to come (i.e., verbs of movement) →

*b) Are you coming tomorrow? (*Will you come tomorrow?) Idem as a)*

3.3) Future already planned and ARRANGED decisions with any other verb:

I'm working next week.

*I'm having dinner with my parents on Friday night (*I will have dinner with my parents on Friday night). Going to is also possible here.*



4. PRESENT SIMPLE AND FUTURE TIME

- Timetables (especially fixed, unchangeable events):
 - *The movie starts at 9:00.*
 - *The London train departs at 9:00 from platform 3.*
 - *The sun rises at 5:16 tomorrow.*

REMEMBER:

- 1) Be going to → both predictions and intentions.
Often the safest choice, especially in conversation.
It's going to be a nice day. We're going to have a picnic.
- 2) Will → instant decisions.
I'll go and switch the computer off.
- 3) Present continuous → arrangements
I'm acting in a play next week.
- 4) Do not use the present simple for plans or intentions.
**I act in a play next week.*

5. USES OF WILL OTHER THAN EXPRESSION OF UNPLANNED DECISIONS AND PREDICTIONS

- A) Offering to do something:
 - *I'll help you, Sir.*
 - *You look tired. I'll get you a cup of tea.*
 - *Can I get you a cup of tea?*
- B) Agreeing to do something:
 - *Could we talk to me when you've finished?*
 - *Don't worry, I'll give you a ring tonight.*
- C) Promising to do something:
 - *I'll email you.*
- D) Asking somebody to do something (REQUESTS). Compare **SHALL AND WILL**:
 - *Shall I shut the door?*
(OFFERING TO DO SOMETHING IN QUESTIONS)
 - *Shall I get you a cup of tea?*
(OFFERING TO DO SOMETHING IN QUESTIONS)
 - *You look tired. I'll get you a cup of tea.*
(OFFERING TO DO SOMETHING IN AFFIRMATIVE STATEMENTS)
 - *Can I get you a cup of tea?*
(OFFERING TO DO SOMETHING)



6. SHALL

- Normally we use *shall* only with *I* and *we*.
- In affirmative statements:
 - *I shall be tired this evening/*
 - *I will be tired this evening*(in spoken English: *will*; usual negative form: *won't* instead of *will not*)
 - What's the negative form of *shall*?
- In interrogative sentences:
asking somebody's opinion (especially in offers and suggestions):
 - *Shall I read it? Shall we go to the cinema?*
- *Thou shalt not murder.*
- *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

7. THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS

- *Mike can't come tonight. He'll be working.*
(HERE WE MEAN THAT WE WILL BE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ACTION).
- *How long will you be using the tennis court? We've booked it until three.*
(ASKING ABOUT SOMEONE'S PLANS TO SEE IF THEY FIT IN WITH OUR WISHES).

8. FUTURE PERFECT AND FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

What's the difference between?:

I'll have written the compo by six, so it'll be on your desk tomorrow afternoon.
(FOCUSING ON THE RESULT OF THE ACTION)

This compo is taking ages. I'll have been writing it for a week by the time I finish.
(FOCUSING ON THE ACTION GOING ON).

What about the following?:

- *You'll have met my brother – he was at the party you went to.*
AN ASSUMPTION ABOUT THE PAST

9. TO BE LIKELY TO + DO

We use it when we think something will / won't probably happen:

- *People in the next century are likely to live longer.*
- *The economy isn't likely to improve next year.*

10. TO BE ABOUT TO DO

When do we use it?

When something will happen very soon or immediately.

- *She's about to have a baby.*



11. BE TO DO

When do we use it?

- *The Prime Minister is to visit Washington D.C.*
(OFFICIAL ARRANGEMENT)
- *No one is to leave this building.*
(A RULE OR AN ORDER BY A PERSON IN AUTHORITY).

12. TO BE DUE (TO DO)

We use it for something that is arranged or expected:

- *The plane's due to take off in a couple of minutes.*
- *I'm due at the dentist in half an hour.*
- *You are due to hand in your compositions in a week's time.*

13. TO BE BOUND TO + infinitive

When do we use it?:

- The Prime Minister is bound to resign.*
(= *The Prime Minister is sure/certain to resign*).



C. MODAL VERBS

1) OBLIGATION/NECESSITY AND RECOMMENDATION:

must, have to, don't have to, needn't, mustn't, should, ought to, had better do

2) ABILITY:

can, could, be able to, manage to
+ other senses of *can, could, can't*

3) POSSIBILITY/CERTAINTY AND LOGICAL DEDUCTION:

Could, may/might
Could have been, may/might have been
Can't, couldn't have been
Must, must have been, mustn't have been

4) PROBABILITY:

Should

5) WOULD, WOULD RATHER

1) OBLIGATION/NECESSITY AND RECOMMENDATION

1.1.) MUST, HAVE TO

1.1.1.) What's the difference between?:

- *We must be more careful.*
 - Personal feelings. *You must do something = I (the speaker) say it is necessary.*
- *Their little six-year-old daughter speaks French perfectly. She must go to a bilingual school.*
 - Logical deduction.
- How would you translate the sentences above?

1.1.2.) What's the difference between?:

- *We must be more careful.*
 - Personal feelings. *You must do something = I (the speaker) say it is necessary; I (the speaker) decide what is necessary.*
- *We have to take the exam again./We have got to take the exam again.*
 - Impersonal actions or facts. *You have to do something because of a rule or situation.*

1.1.3.) What's the difference between?:

- *You must fill in a form. (I'm telling you to do it).*
- *You have to fill in a form. (That's the rule).*

1.1.4.) What's the difference between?:

- *You mustn't eat any chocolate. (It is necessary that you do *not* do it (so, don't do it)).*
- *You don't have to/needn't eat the chocolate left. (You don't need to do it (but you can do it if you want)).*



1.1.5.) Compare needn't (do) and needn't have (done):

- *That shirt isn't dirty. You needn't wash it. (You don't need to wash it).*
- *Why did you wash that shirt? It wasn't dirty. You needn't have washed it. (So, you didn't need to wash it).*

1.1.6.) Are we expressing obligation/necessity here? NO, but RECOMMENDATION

- *You really must watch Cold Case. It's fascinating.*
- *Cold Case is a must.*

1.1.7.) What's the past form of the following sentences?:

- *We must go home.*
- *We have to take the exam again.*

- *We had to go home.*
- *We had to take the exam again.*

1.1.8.) SHOULD and OUGHT TO

What's the function of should and ought to?:

- *There aren't enough hospitals. They should build / They ought to build more of them.*

They describe "what is a good idea" and can be used to give advice, or polite instructions.

- *People shouldn't leave litter all over the place, should they?*
- *Who should we invite to the wedding?*

So *ought to* is not normally used in negatives and interrogatives.

1.1.9.) What's the function of *should* here?:

- *You should try this ice cream – it's delicious.* RECOMMENDATION
- *I think Spain should win.* EXPRESSING EXPECTATIONS

- *Should* is often used with I think/I don't think/Do you think...?:
 - *I think the government should do more to help homeless people.*
 - *I don't think you should work so hard.*
 - *Do you think I should apply for this job? Yes, I think you should.*

1.1.10.) Compare:

- *You look tired. You should go to bed.*
- *You went to bed very late last night. You should have gone to bed earlier.*
 - (You made a mistake).

1.1.11.) See EGU, unit 34, sections A, B, C.

- *It's essential that everyone should be here on time.*
- *It's essential that everyone be here on time.*
- *It's essential that everyone is here on time.*
- *They insisted we should have dinner with them.*
- *They insisted we had dinner with them.*

1.1.12) SUGGEST

- *Richard suggested going to the cinema.*
- *Richard suggested that we went to the cinema.*
(NOT * *Richard suggested to go the cinema*)

Is Richard going to the cinema with us? In the first one, yes.

- *Richard suggested that I should go to the cinema to switch off.*
(NOT * *Richard suggested me to go to the cinema*)



1.1.13.) What does the *d* stand for in I'D BETTER DO/YOU'D BETTER DO?

- *Had* is a past form but the meaning is present or future, not past.
- *I'd better do something* = it is advisable to do it. If I don't, there will be a problem or a danger:
 - *I have to meet Diane in ten minutes. I'd better go now or I'll be late.*
 - *Shall I take an umbrella? Yes, you'd better .*
 - *Are you going out tonight?*
 - *I'd better not. I've got a lot of work to do.*

1.1.14.) HAD BETTER and SHOULD:

- HAD BETTER → only a particular situation.
- SHOULD → things in general. "It is a good thing to do" (but no danger or problem if you don't do it).
 - *It's cold today. You'd better wear a coat when you go out.*
 - *It's a great movie. You should go and see it.*
 - *The film starts at 8:00. You'd better go now or you'll be late.*

2) ABILITY

2.1.) General ability to do something:

Can you speak any foreign languages?

Could we use "be able to" here? YES.

Are you able to speak any foreign languages?

2.2.)

Nadal is an excellent tennis player. He can beat anybody.

If referring to the past, which verb would you use here? Could you use "could beat him"?

(NO):

Nadal and Roger Federer played last Monday. Nadal played very well but in the end Federer WAS ABLE TO BEAT HIM/ MANAGED TO BEAT him.

GENERAL ABILITY: CAN, COULD, BE ABLE TO
SPECIFIC SITUATION: BE ABLE TO/MANAGE TO

What is the negative form of the sentences above?

Federer WAS NOT ABLE TO BEAT HIM/ DID NOT MANAGE TO BEAT him.

2.3.) Sometimes COULD is the past of CAN...

- 2.3.1.) When meaning general ability:
 - *John Paul II could speak 12 languages.*
 - *John Paul II was able to speak 12 languages.*
- 2.3.2.) When accompanied by verbs of perception:
 - *Listen. I can hear something.*
 - *I listened. I could hear something.*
 - *I listened. I was able to hear something.*

2.4.) COULD = CAN: especially when making suggestions

We can/could go for a walk.



2.5.) COULD ≠ CAN: expressing suppositions/possibilities (something is possible now or in the future)

- *The door bell is ringing. It could be Samantha.*
- *My in-laws could arrive at any time.*

Can is not possible here.

2.6.) Something is impossible on a particular occasion; lack of ability (*inability*) (CANNOT / NOT BEING ABLE TO):

- *I'm afraid I can't come to the meeting tomorrow.*
- *I'm afraid I'm not able to come to the meeting tomorrow.*

2.7. Other senses of CAN and COULD:

- Suggestions
 - *We can/could go for a walk*
- Requests
 - *Can/could you lend me that book, please?*
 - *Do you think you could lend me that book, please?*
- Asking for things:
 - *Can/Could I have the salt, please?*
- Asking for permission:
 - *Can/could I use your phone, please?*
- Giving permission:
 - *You can use my phone (= You are allowed to use my phone).*
 - *Can we say "You could use my phone"?*
- Refusing permission:
 - *You can't use my phone. (= You are not allowed to use my phone).*
- Offering to do things:
 - *Can I get you a cup of tea?*

2.7). COULD DO, COULD HAVE DONE

- Compare COULD and COULD HAVE DONE:
 - *I'm so hungry. I could eat a horse.*
 - *I was so hungry. I could have eaten a horse.*
 - *The situation was bad but it could have been worse.*

3) POSSIBILITY/CERTAINTY AND LOGICAL DEDUCTION:

3.1.) MAY, MIGHT, COULD, MAY/MIGHT HAVE BEEN, COULD HAVE BEEN

3.1.1.) What do we express with *may/might*?

- You aren't sure about what is going to happen or that something is a possibility in the present time.
 - *It may/might rain.*
 - *It may/might be Samantha.*
 - *She may/might know.*
 - *You may/might know.*
- Can you use "could" above?
 - *It could rain tomorrow.*
 - *It could be Samantha.*
- What are the negative forms of *may* and *might*? MAY NOT / MIGHT NOT or MIGHTN'T



**COULD DO, MIGHT DO
COULD HAVE DONE, MIGHT HAVE DONE
COULDN'T, MAY NOT
COULDN'T HAVE DONE, MIGHT NOT HAVE DONE**

(by Raquel Criado Sánchez)

- i) + **COULD DO = MIGHT DO** (especially with *it-subject* sentences)
+ **COULD HAVE DONE = MIGHT HAVE DONE**

(when talking about suppositions/possibilities, either
present (**COULD DO = MIGHT DO**)
or past (**COULD HAVE DONE = MIGHT HAVE DONE**))

- *It may/might rain.*
- *It could rain.*
- *I can't find my bag anywhere. I may/might have left in the shop.*
- *I can't find my bag anywhere. I could have left in the shop.*

But:

- ii) **COULDN'T ≠ MAY NOT / MIGHT NOT**

She is too busy. She may/might not be able to talk to you.
(**POSSIBILITY**)

She was too busy. She couldn't talk to you.

(**CERTAINTY DENOTING LACK OF ABILITY**) (*I'm afraid I can't come to the meeting tomorrow*)

COULDN'T (past time)

vs

MAY NOT / MIGHT NOT (present/future time)

- iii) **COULDN'T HAVE DONE ≠ MIGHT NOT HAVE DONE**
(both past time but different meaning)

- **COMPARE:**

- *I was too far away so she couldn't have seen me [that's why I don't believe she told you that I played truant]* (**CERTAINTY**)
- *I was too far away so she might not have seen me [that's why she didn't say hello to me]* (**POSSIBILITY**)

3.2.) **MAY/MIGHT**→ possible actions or happenings in the future:

- *I haven't decided yet where to spend my holidays. I may/might go to Ireland.*
- *I have already decided where to spend my holidays. I'm going to Ireland.*
- *It may/might rain (later).*

- Use *might* when the situation is not real:

- *If I knew them better, I might invite them to the party.*

3.3.) **OTHER SENSES OF MAY/MIGHT:**

3.3.1.) **SUGGESTIONS**

- *What shall we do? Shall we go to the cinema?*
- *We may/might go to the cinema*
- *We can/could go to the cinema.*

Might as well/may as well:

- *What shall we do? Shall we go to the cinema?*
- *We may/might as well. There are lots of good movies going on.*



3.3.2.) ASKING AND GIVING PERMISSION

- *May I come in? (formal)*
- *May I use your phone? (formal)*

Can you use *might* above? NO.

- *You may come in.*
- *You may use my phone.*
- *You can use my phone.*

3.4.) Remember from 1.1.1.).

What's the difference between?:

- *We must be more careful.*
- *Their little six-year-old daughter speaks French perfectly. She must go to a bilingual school.* → LOGICAL DEDUCTION

They must be travelling round Europe.

(+ auxiliary verb (be) + -ing).

They must have been travelling round Europe. (+ auxiliary verb (have been) + -ing).

You must be tired. (+ auxiliary verb (be) + adjective).

You must have been tired. (+ auxiliary verb (have been) + adjective).

3.5.) Which function are we expressing here?

She can't be his wife.

LOGICAL DEDUCTION. SOMETHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

- Are we referring to the same concept in the following sentences?
NO. *Can't* + any other verb doesn't mean deduction:
 - *She can't get that promotion.*
 - *In England you can't drink in pubs until you're eighteen.*

REMEMBER:

- *Must* and *can't* are opposites:
- *The bill can't be that much. There must be a mistake.*

3.6.) Are we expressing future here? NO, BUT PREDICTION ABOUT THE PRESENT:

- *There's someone at the door. It'll be the postman.*

4) Are we expressing "the right thing to do" here? NO, BUT PROBABILITY.

The journey normally takes four hours, so we should get there about six.

We're nearly at the front of the queue. We shouldn't have to wait much longer.

5) WOULD, WOULD RATHER

See *EGU*, unit 36.

5.1.) Regarding section C) in that unit...

What's the difference between?:

Every morning my father would leave the house before I woke up.

I used to come here when I was a child.

Would: rather formal or written English for past habits.

In general, it is safer to use *used to*.



5.2.) What's the meaning of would rather do? EXPRESSING A PREFERENCE

I'd rather walk than hang around for a bus.

I'd rather you didn't tell anyone.

NOTICE THE STRUCTURE!

I'd rather do

I'd/You'd, etc. rather SOMEONE ELSE DID/DIDN'T DO SOMETHING