

# GET IT RIGHT!

## UNIT 1

### Present simple vs. present continuous

It's common to confuse the present simple and present continuous.

We use the present simple to describe facts, routine activities and opinions.

✓ I **usually go** there on foot.

✗ I'm ~~usually going~~ there on foot.

We use the present continuous to describe events that are happening now or around now.

✓ I'm **sending** you a photo of my new bike.

✗ I ~~send~~ you a photo of my new bike.

Find the error in each of these sentences. Rewrite the sentences correctly.

- 0 I know how hard you try to get on the team.

I know how hard you are trying to get on the team.

- 1 I think I am the person you look for.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 I'm playing tennis on Tuesdays.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 At the moment I write a letter to a friend.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 I like what you wear today.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5 I know what you mean and are appreciating your help.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6 We are playing football during most school breaks.

\_\_\_\_\_

## UNIT 2

### Present perfect vs. past simple

Students often confuse the present perfect and past simple tenses.

We use the past simple when we include a past time expression to say when in the past an event took place.

✓ Yesterday I **ate** rice.

✗ Yesterday I ~~have eaten~~ rice.

We use the present perfect to talk about past events when we don't say exactly when they took place and with expressions such as *yet*, *before*, *ever* and *never*.

✓ I've **never been** to London before.

✗ I ~~didn't go~~ to London before.

Make sentences using the prompts below.

- 0 we / see / the advertisement at the bus stop / yesterday

We saw the advertisement at the bus stop yesterday.

- 1 I / not see / the new Hobbit film / yet

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 you / ever / go / to Spain?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 John / take / his exam / last week

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 Nina / get / here / a few minutes ago

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5 they / not eat / at this restaurant / before

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6 I / not eat / breakfast / so I'm really hungry and it's two hours till lunchtime!

\_\_\_\_\_

## Past continuous vs. past simple

Learners sometimes confuse the past continuous with the past simple.

- ✓ I was happy when I **came** first in the race.  
 ✗ I was happy when I **was coming** first in the race.

Which of these sentences are correct and which are incorrect? Rewrite the incorrect ones.

- Last time I was visiting the library, I couldn't find the book I was looking for.  
*Last time I visited the library, I couldn't find the book I was looking for.*
- When she arrived, I cooked dinner so I was a bit distracted.
- After that, I watched TV for about an hour.
- As usual, we were arriving at about 6 pm, then we had dinner.
- My teacher came to see how our project went.
- I'll never forget the time I was spending in Nepal.
- The police saw the men and asked them what they did there.

## UNIT 3

### have to vs. had to

Learners sometimes confuse *have to* and *had to*.

We use *have to* to talk about an obligation in the present, and *had to* to talk about an obligation in the past.

- ✓ Shopping is stressful, especially if you **have to** find a particular item of clothing.  
 ✗ Shopping is stressful, especially if you **had to** find a particular item of clothing.

Which of these sentences are correct and which are incorrect? Rewrite the incorrect ones.

- The trains were fully booked so we have to forget about that trip.  
*The trains were fully booked so we had to forget about that trip.*
- I'm sorry I can't attend class tomorrow because I had to go to the doctor.

- My dad was going to work for another company so we have to move house.
- If you want a drink after swimming, you have to go somewhere else.
- If I have to choose between going to a small school or a large one, I would choose a large one.
- Do we have to bring any money for the trip next week?
- Yesterday we had to write an essay about Barack Obama.

### don't have to vs. mustn't

Learners sometimes make errors with *don't have to* and *mustn't*.

Although *have to* and *must* both mean something is necessary, *don't have to* means that something is **not necessary**, whereas *mustn't* means that something is **prohibited**.

- ✓ I **don't have to** work tonight, as I've already finished everything.  
 ✗ I **mustn't** work tonight, as I've already finished everything.  
 ✓ I **mustn't** fail my exam, or I'll have to retake it.

Write the sentences with *mustn't* or *don't have to*.

- You / stay out late or you'll be really tired tomorrow.  
*You mustn't stay out late or you'll be really tired tomorrow.*
- You / finish your essay now. Mr Jenkins said that we can hand it in next Friday.
- You / bring anything to the party – just bring yourself!
- You / eat food in class – it's against the rules.
- You / talk during exams.
- You / revise every unit. The exam only includes Units 1 to 3.
- You / use your phone in class. It'll be confiscated.



## UNIT 4

### if vs. when

Learners often confuse *if* with *when*.

We use *if* to indicate possible actions or events.

✓ It'll be best for us *if* everyone goes by bicycle.

Car parking facilities are limited.

✗ It'll be best for us *when* everyone goes by bicycle.

Car parking facilities are limited.

We use *when* to indicate events which have happened in the past or are going to happen in the future.

✓ I can pass on your message. I'll tell him *when* I see him tomorrow.

✗ I can pass on your message. I'll tell him *if* I see him tomorrow.

Complete these sentences with *if* or *when*.

- 0 I was very pleased when I read your letter.
- 1 I had a great time \_\_\_\_\_ I went to New York.
- 2 Would it be OK \_\_\_\_\_ I invited my friend?
- 3 I'll call you \_\_\_\_\_ I get home tonight.
- 4 Do you mind \_\_\_\_\_ we meet at 5.00 instead of 4.00?
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ you're free on Saturday, come to the cinema with us!
- 6 He went to Africa \_\_\_\_\_ he was 21 because of his job.
- 7 How much would it cost \_\_\_\_\_ we were a group of ten?

## UNIT 5

### Relative pronouns

Learners sometimes confuse *who* and *which*.

We use *who* to refer to people and *which* to refer to things.

✓ Next week I'm going to visit my Uncle Joe, *who* lives in Manchester.

✗ Next week I'm going to visit my Uncle Joe, *which* lives in Manchester.

Complete the sentences with *who* or *which*.

- 0 There are several problems which can't wait any longer.
- 1 My friend Paul, \_\_\_\_\_ I've known since primary school, is coming.
- 2 Animals \_\_\_\_\_ can protect themselves shouldn't be kept in a zoo.
- 3 My dad works for a company \_\_\_\_\_ sells dental products.

- 4 It's a great film but it's really sad. It's about a soldier \_\_\_\_\_ goes to war.
- 5 She was the only one \_\_\_\_\_ talked to me.
- 6 He's currently working for a charity \_\_\_\_\_ helps elderly people.

## UNIT 6

### absolutely vs. very

A common mistake is using intensifiers like *absolutely* and *very* with the wrong types of adjectives.

We use *absolutely* to modify non-gradable adjectives or adjectives with a strong or extreme meaning.

✓ It's *absolutely* delicious.

✗ It's *very* delicious.

We use *very* to modify gradable adjectives.

✓ I was *very* disappointed with it.

✗ I was *absolutely* disappointed with it.

Complete the sentences with *absolutely* or *very*.

- 0 In my opinion, the countryside is very relaxing.
- 1 This museum is \_\_\_\_\_ fascinating.
- 2 The view from the top was \_\_\_\_\_ amazing.
- 3 I thought the documentary was \_\_\_\_\_ interesting.
- 4 I was \_\_\_\_\_ thrilled to get an 'A' on that assignment.
- 5 This food is \_\_\_\_\_ tasty.
- 6 She's a \_\_\_\_\_ good singer.

## UNIT 7

### make vs. let

Learners sometimes confuse *make* and *let* in phrases such as *let me know*.

✓ You were on TV and you didn't *let* us know!

✗ You were on TV and you didn't *make* us know!

Complete the sentences with the correct form of *make* or *let*.

- 0 There are great views which will make you feel very comfortable.
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ me help you with that bag. It looks really heavy.
- 2 The band came on stage late. They \_\_\_\_\_ us wait over an hour.
- 3 That TV documentary about diet and health really \_\_\_\_\_ me think about doing more exercise.
- 4 Mum, can you write a note to my teacher to \_\_\_\_\_ her know why I won't be in class tomorrow?

- 5 It's so important to \_\_\_\_\_ people aware of the disease so that we can raise money to help prevent it.
- 6 It was very kind of you to \_\_\_\_\_ us stay over, Mrs Johnson. Thanks very much for having us!

## UNIT 8

### say vs. tell

Learners sometimes confuse *say* and *tell*.

The meaning of *say* and *tell* is exactly the same but we use them differently.

We *tell* someone (something) and we *say* something (to someone).

✓ I didn't *say* anything to my brother about it.

✗ I didn't *tell* anything to my brother about it.

We can also use a *that* clause immediately after *tell*, but not after *say*.

✓ Tell her *that* I'll phone her.

✗ Say her *that* I'll phone her.

There are some collocations we can use with *tell* that don't follow the above rules: we can *tell a lie / the truth / a story*.

Complete each of these sentences with the correct form of *say* or *tell*.

- 0 Everybody said something about himself, and so did I.
- 1 I have to \_\_\_\_\_ that this is a great piece of writing. Well done!
- 2 You're going to have to \_\_\_\_\_ him that you can't play in Saturday's match. You're injured.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ us the story of how you met.
- 4 Did he \_\_\_\_\_ why he lied?
- 5 My mum \_\_\_\_\_ that we were going to move house.
- 6 I'd like to \_\_\_\_\_ a big thank you for all your help this year.
- 7 I knew that he \_\_\_\_\_ the truth.

## UNIT 9

### Modals of deduction in the present

It is a common error to use *can* as a present modal of deduction, where *could* is required. In the negative, however, it is possible to use *can't* as well as *couldn't*.

✓ I'm not sure why they decided not to buy tickets to see the band, but it *could be* due to lack of money.

✗ I'm not sure why they decided not to buy tickets to see the band, but it *can be* due to lack of money.

✓ The reason *can't be* a lack of interest.

Which of these sentences are correct and which are incorrect? Rewrite the incorrect ones.

- 0 Where's John? He can be at home.  
Where's John? He could be at home.
- 1 A Do you have a better idea for how to get there?  
B Well, I think another route can be better.
- 2 A Does he need help?  
B He can do. It looks like he might be waving for us to stop.
- 3 A How does that car go so fast?  
B It can be because it's so light. Just a guess!
- 4 A What do you think is going to happen in the game?  
B They could still win or maybe it'll be a draw.
- 5 A Is Dad still at work?  
B The car's outside. He can't be.
- 6 A Who made the complaint?  
B It could be Nick – he didn't think there was a problem.

## UNIT 10

### Future continuous vs. future simple

Learners often confuse the future continuous with the future simple.

We use the future continuous to talk about events which will be in the process of happening at some time in the future.

✓ This time next week I'll *be sitting* on the beach in Cádiz.

✗ This time next week I'll *sit* on the beach in Cádiz.

Decide if the sentences can be written in the future continuous. If so, rewrite them using this tense. What's the difference in meaning between the future simple and future continuous form in these cases?

- 0 When you get to the station, I'll wait for you at the main entrance.  
When you get to the station, I'll be waiting for you at the main entrance.
- 1 This time next year we'll be at university and we'll live away from home.



- 2 I'll have a look in my diary and see if I'm free on the 5th.
- 3 This time next week I'll do my final exams. Scary!
- 4 Some people think that tablets will soon replace laptops.
- 5 I'll play hockey when you arrive at the station tomorrow but Chloe can meet you.
- 6 I think you'll have a good time when you go to Spain.

## UNIT 11

### Verbs patterns

Learners sometimes make errors with verb patterns, using **to + infinitive** when it should be a **gerund** and vice versa.

- ✓ *I don't mind **going** home first.*
- ✗ *I don't mind **to go** home first.*

Which of these sentences are correct and which are incorrect? Rewrite the incorrect ones.

- 0 He's always had problems to focus on one task.  
*He's always had problems focussing on one task.*
- 1 Do you need more time finishing your work?
- 2 Lately I've been spending a lot of time to watch TV.
- 3 I need to start working on my essay as soon as possible.
- 4 It was a very heavy film, but we enjoyed to learn about history.
- 5 It's best studying new vocabulary regularly.
- 6 I had real difficulties downloading this app but I got there eventually.

## UNIT 12

### Phrasal verbs

Learners sometimes avoid using phrasal verbs, using single, often Latinate, verbs instead. Using phrasal verbs can make you sound more natural and increase the variety of your English.

- ✓✓ *Students were **put up** in hotels.*
- ✓ *Students were **accommodated** in hotels.*

Replace the verbs in bold with phrasal verbs from the list.

put up with | put on | put up (x3) | put off

- 0 Before I went to the beach, I **applied** sun cream.  
*Before I went to the beach, I **put on** sun cream.*
- 1 Our family has agreed to **host** a foreign student for a month during the summer.
- 2 One advantage of taking the train is that you don't have to **tolerate** traffic jams.
- 3 I don't get to exercise so much anymore and I'm worried about **gaining** weight.
- 4 Good news! We're going to have to **postpone** today's test until next Friday.
- 5 Cinema tickets were already expensive and now they've just **increased** the prices again.
- 6 We **displayed** posters to advertise the event.