



LearnEnglish – British Council

Published by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 2:33pm ·

Hi everyone and welcome to our special Exploring English: Language and Culture Language Clinic! The course educators are here to answer all your questions about the course, about language and about the UK! So post your questions here and we'll answer as many as we can in the next hour!

Neil

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Khulood Al Balushi, Viktoria Odnoyko and 115 others

[Top Comments](#)



LearnEnglish – British Council Thanks for all your great questions! If you have any more, don't forget you can ask them on the timeline, or on the course! Bye for now!

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 11 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 5:14pm



Andres Martinez All the best, thanks

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 6:57pm



Write a reply...



Richard Ndrich Ndambo Hi Neil and all dear educators, Hi fellow learners. I liked the links you shared last week for downloading the novels that can help us to improve our English. Do you have the links about everyday conversations. I would like to thank you once more for helping us.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 11 · March 23 at 2:48pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Richard Ndrich Ndambo, we have lots of downloadable resources for that on our websites. Try these:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/listen-and-watch>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../listening...>

<http://premierskillenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../the...>

<https://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../lea.../skills/speaking-0>

<https://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../skills/listening-0>

Neil



Listen & Watch

Try our video, audio and reading materials. They're fun and accompanied by useful...

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Татьяна Петрушина Good afternoon, our dear course educators! Please, could you explain the rules of correct using of commas in written English. For example, we studied, that non-defining relative clauses are separated by commas at each end of the clause.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 7 · March 23 at 2:38pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Татьяна, that's right, non-defining clauses are always separated by commas. They have lots of other uses in English too, such as in lists, in direct speech, to separate clauses, and after words like however etc. You can find out more here: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/comma>

Neil



Comma (,) - Oxford Dictionaries

Comma (,) - Language reference content from Oxford. Help with language usage, grammar... OXFORDDICTIONARIES.COM

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 4 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 2:42pm



Татьяна Петрушина Thank you, Neil. I love this course so much and I am really happy to learn and improve English with so qualified and nice educators together with highly motivated learners from all parts and regions of our beloved and beautiful Earth.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:15pm



Write a reply...



Ihor Vurd Hi Neil and all educators who are here!

I have doubts in my sentence below in example. Please, could you check this sentence and write correct variant? And, maybe, one variant which looks like a natural/native English. I feel that I have made mistakes in times. And it sounds weird, not as native English. I suggest native speakers would say in another way/manner.

Exmpl:

I would never know how to translate this clause if I do not read this rule in the lesson.

P.S. I feel I have made far more mistakes just in my question :))

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 3:29pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Ihor Vurd, the sentence you need here is a kind of conditional sentence with 'if' - in this case it's the third conditional, describing something in the past. You DO know how to translate it, because you DID read the rule. So you are imagining the situation if you HADN'T read the rule:

'I would never have known how to translate this clause if I had not read this rule in the lesson'

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../third...>

Neil



Third conditional

We use the third conditional (if + past perfect, would + have + past participle) to talk about...

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Ihor Vurd I got started to learn information from the page you've published, so I forgot to say "thank you for answer".

Like · Reply · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Amira H Metwaly What about education in u.k (about the way to educate and university)!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:59pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Amira, it's different in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland - you can read all about it here: <https://eal.britishcouncil.org/parents/education-systems>

Neil



Education systems | EAL Nexus

The four nations of the United Kingdom each have a different education system. In this...

EAL.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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Write a reply...



Nora Ahmed How can I enrich my vocabulary . I need an effective way to do it

I usually memorize 5 words a day and write them on a flash cards ...

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:41pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Nora, the best way to find new vocabulary is in context, by reading and listening to things that interest you in English. As for learning and remembering the new vocabulary you find, there are many different techniques and the important thing is to find what works best for you. Here are some tips and tools for you to try:

Learning new words - <http://bit.ly/LearnNewWords>

Improve your vocabulary - <http://bit.ly/IELTSSpeakingVideo>

Using word cards: <http://bit.ly/LETeensWordCards>

Using mind maps: <http://bit.ly/LETeensMindMaps>

Using tables: <http://bit.ly/LETeensTables>

My Wordbook 2 app: <http://bit.ly/MyWordbook>

Quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/>

Lingro: <http://lingro.com>

Professor Word: <http://www.professorword.com/>

You can find the meaning and pronunciation of new words in these dictionaries and see real examples of how to use words, phrases and collocations in Fraise.it:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com>

<http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>

<http://fraise.it>

Neil

Learning new words

 This section gives you lots of advice and ideas on how you can learn new words. When you're learning a new language it's really important to keep learning new words to improve

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José Alejandro Estrella Is your Language Sillabus working well with children? Are they able to write and enjoy to read at the end of 8 -9 years of school working? Regards

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 2:42pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi José, I would say definitely yes! Why do you ask?

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 4:06pm



José Alejandro Estrella To take some ideas to apply with my children. I think it is not enough to teach "decoding". Students must to use it as tools to understand the world and so on.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 24 at 4:31am



Write a reply...



Olesya Kora What is the best way of learning idioms? Is there any secret?

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 · March 23 at 2:47pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Olesya, idioms are an interesting area. I always advise students against spending too much time on learning long lists of them because idioms are, by nature, often quite local or specific to one age group, one geographical area or one period in time. Some have stood the test of time and are used everyday, but others have changed or died out. Using an idiom that is no longer popular or that is not familiar to the people you're speaking too can be worse than not using any at all! For example. everyone knows 'raining cats and dogs' and every English speaker would recognise it. But the fact is you could spend years in the UK and never hear anyone actually use it! So my advice is to try to watch and listen to up to date TV shows, films etc. read modern novels and identify any idioms that you like or think could be useful for you. Then focus on learning and using those, rather than learning lots of them you may never need!

Neil

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Olesya Kora Thanks for the advice.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · March 23 at 3:03pm



Galina Lukyanova [LearnEnglish – British Council](#), thank you very much for that highly useful approach!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 23 at 3:19pm



Karin Mueller This brings to mind "the early bird catches the worm". It's been more or less literally into German "der frühe Vogel frisst the Wurm" - This translation drives me mad whenever I hear or read it. The early bird actually is a person that rises early in the morning and so can take advantage of time to make good use of it. Is that right? We used to translate this idiom into German "Morgenstund hat Gold im Mund".

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 23 at 3:24pm



Teaching Karen That's right Karin

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 3:36pm



Write a reply...



Mario Nicolý Dobra Carmp Hi, I'd like to know what must I do to brush up my pronunciation ??

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 8:19pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Mario Nicolý Dobra Carmp, listening is very important for this to hear lots of examples of how English should sound - not just individual words, but sentences, rhythm, stress, intonation etc. So try to spend a little time every day listening to some English videos or podcasts from our websites. Then for actual practice, check out these resources:

Pronunciation activities -

<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../skills/pronunciation>

Phonemic Chart -

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/activities/phonemic-chart>

Sounds Right app - <http://goo.gl/FZSsXv>

BBC Videos -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/.../learningenglish/grammar/pron/sounds>Sentence stress - <http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../teachi.../sentence-stress><https://www.englishclub.com/pronuncia.../sentence-stress.htm>Practice tips - <http://britishenglishcoach.com/33-ways-to-speak-better...>

Neil

**Pronunciation | ESOL Nexus**

Practise the different sounds of English, improve your stress and intonation, and even listen to...

ESOL.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 8 hrs**Joong Ki Oppa** I have a question to ask you: I want to learn vocabulary but i dont know how to learn them and which page i can find them ??[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 4:46pm**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi **Joong Ki Oppa**, see my answer to Nora Ahmed for lots of useful advice!

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 7 hrs**Claudianus Berababyeyi** I don't understand how to use So, such and neither[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 3:53pm**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi **Claudianus**, have you tried the grammar exercises in Week 5 of the course?<https://www.futurelearn.com/.../explore.../4/steps/55625>

If it is still not clear, check out the explanation here:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/quick-grammar/so>

Neil

**Page from Exploring English - British Council**

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[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 4:38pm**Abde Lghafour** What's the difference between may and might please[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · March 23 at 3:49pm**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi **Abde**, most of the time there really is no difference. You can read more here:<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../may-might-may...><http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/may-or-might>

Neil

may, might, may have and might have

Questions and negatives: We make questions by putting the subject after may/mightMay I ...? Could I ...? Might I ...? Etc. The negative forms are may not and might not.. We use may:

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Write a reply...

**Hilma Safitri** I'm looking for a scholarship in UK. Can any body help me out?[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 3:40pm**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi **Hilma**, you can find full details of what scholarships are available in our Education UK website here:<http://www.educationuk.org/global/>

Neil

**Study in the UK | Education UK (Global)**

EDUCATIONUK.ORG

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 4:35pm**Ellen Lin** I want to learn English, but I don't like to study grammar...what should I do?[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 3 · March 23 at 2:59pm**Simon LearnEnglish** Hi **Ellen**, interesting question! You can focus on improving your listening skills by listening to music or podcasts or

watching movies. You can practice reading and writing as well. Without learning grammar though, you'll find it difficult to write well and to develop your ability to read more advanced texts.

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:05pm

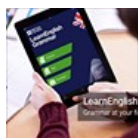


LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Ellen, at some point you'll need to understand grammar in order to communicate accurately, but that doesn't mean you have to spend hours doing grammar exercises. Yes they can help with things that are not clear or areas where you keep making mistakes, but they are not the only, or even the best way to learn. If you practise using English every day - listening, reading, learning vocabulary, then speaking and writing, you will be using 'grammar' every time. The more you read and listen to English and think about how it works and why we say things one way and not another, then the more you will be learning about grammar. Then if there are things that you can't understand you can check using our grammar resources:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../grammar-and...>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../grammar...>

Neil



Grammar & Vocabulary

In Grammar and Vocabulary you can learn and practise grammar and vocabulary through...

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Write a reply...



Ляйсян Ш. Dear educators! I work with texts - reading various texts and then I retell them. Could you give me examples of vivid phrases about: what I liked in the text and what I didn't like. For example: the most exciting that I like is....

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:28pm · Edited



Ляйсян Ш. I meant here the phrases, which can help me to express my attitude to some information in the text

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:34pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Ляйсян Ш., these links are mainly about films, but the vocabulary used is similar for both so check them out

<http://www.filmclub.org/.../filmclub-review-writing-tips.pdf>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../skyfall...>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zgr2xnb/test>

Neil

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Ляйсян Ш. You wrote, that we can ask any questions on the timeline. What did you mean?

Like · Reply · March 23 at 6:32pm



Ляйсян Ш. can I ask a question here? Is there any difference between the sentences "I don't do any sport" or "I don't do any exercise"

Like · Reply · March 23 at 6:34pm



Ляйсян Ш. Or I can ask questions in a different place on Facebook?

Like · Reply · March 23 at 6:34pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Ляйсян Ш., yes there is a difference between sport and exercise:

http://www.macmillandictionary.com/diction.../british/sport_1

http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dic.../british/exercise_1

Neil



sport definition and synonyms | Macmillan Dictionary

MACMILLANDICTIONARY.COM

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Write a reply...



Paula Javiera Montecino Olivares Hi Educators and mates...

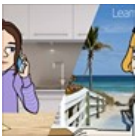
I have a question that we haven't seen in the course: What's the difference between In and At? I don't know when to use one or another. Thanks.

Like · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:36pm

Hide 12 Replies



Simon LearnEnglish Hi Paula, it depends how you want to use it. As a general rule, for prepositions of time we use 'at' for times and holidays and 'in' for specific times e.g. at three o'clock / at Christmas. In January. <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../prepositi...>



Prepositions of time

We use many different prepositions for talking about time. Here we are looking at: in, on, at,...
LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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Simon LearnEnglish For prepositions of place we use 'at' for a point and 'in' for an enclosed space e.g. at the temple, in the square.
<https://www.englishclub.com/.../prepositions-place-at-in...>

Prepositions of Place: at, in, on | English Club

ENGLISHCLUB.COM

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Ляйсян Ш. But there are examples, when we can use both either 'in' or 'at'

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:08pm



Ляйсян Ш. For example- in the shop, at the shop

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:08pm



Ляйсян Ш. Does the meaning of phrases change ?

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:09pm



Ляйсян Ш. At the police station - in the police station

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:10pm



Ляйсян Ш. At the sport centre - in the sport centre

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:10pm



Ляйсян Ш. At school - in the school

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:11pm



Paula Javiera Montecino Olivares For example if I say "I'm at University" it means that In this moment I'm at this physical place. But if I say "I'm in University" it means that I'm studying here. Am I right?

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:13pm



Simon LearnEnglish When we use 'in' we are saying that we are inside the building. e.g. 'I'm in the supermarket' - shopping for example. or, 'Let's meet at the supermarket' - at the place, probably outside.

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:24pm



Paula Javiera Montecino Olivares But if I want to say that I'm a student, is wrong saying "in"?

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:25pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi *Paula* and *Ляйсян Ш.* not quite! First of all check out this handy diagram. It simplifies things a bit too much, but it's a useful guide!
<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/.../prepositions+time+and...>
'In' is normally used to describe your physical position in relation to a place. You can say 'in the shop' when you are simply thinking of the person physically inside a building. The expression 'at the shops' (note the plural) means you have gone to a place to do something - in this case shopping. 'At university' means you are a student there - 'in the university' means physically inside. But really you just have to learn these as you meet them. For example 'in hospital' means you are sick and are there as a patient.
Neil



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Write a reply...



Ludmila Lili Hi everyone,i am stragglng a bit with ,when to use correct it' was and it were'... how to use correct were and was,please advise

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:57pm



David Lewis Were and was are the past forms of the verb 'to be.' We use 'was' with I, he, she,and it. We use 'were' with you, we and they.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 23 at 3:07pm

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614

99

CHANGE TO US...

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Galina, yes there are but very, very few so it's easy to learn them. This is an example of the past subjunctive where we use 'were' for all forms to show that we are talking about an unreal situation. Other examples would be with expressions like 'wish' and 'if only'. But these are only a very few areas - the rest of the time it is very straightforward as David has said.

Neil

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Galina Lukyanova Yes, I agree and thank you to remind me about two others

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 23 at 5:15pm

Write a reply...



Andres Martinez What's difference between IELTS academic and TOEFL?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 2:56pm

David Lewis I don't really know about TOEFL, but IELTS is accepted by a wide range of organisations as proof of English ability and is usually used for university entry or for immigration.

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/>

IELTS International English
language test system | Take IELTS

TAKEIELTS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Andres, they are similar in that they are both internationally recognised tests used to assess your English language for work, study or immigration purposes. But the tests themselves are quite different. Only IELTS has a face-to-face interview for example. TOEFL is preferred by US universities and government agencies, while IELTS is preferred in the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and European countries. Both are widely respected so really the most important consideration is what you need it for.

Neil

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Write a reply...



Johnson George What's the most useful method I may end a conversation?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 2:56pm

Simon LearnEnglish Hi Johnson, it depends a lot on the type of conversation and who it's with. A simple phrase that you could use is, 'well, it was nice speaking to you'.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 3 · March 23 at 3:03pm

Johnson George You are the best.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 23 at 3:10pm

Johnson George And also, is there any difference between Anyway and Well as in the following example 'Anyway/well, it was nice speaking to you' and may anyway and well are interchangeable? Thanks.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 23 at 3:18pm

Johnson George It is 'may anyway and well 'be', not may anyway and well are.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 23 at 3:22pm

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Johnson, no there's really no difference there - you could use either one.

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 4:05pm

Johnson George Thank you very much

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 23 at 4:53pm

Write a reply...



Dhodz lixx Iron Hi, I'd like to know what is the difference between must and should?

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · March 23 at 11:23pm

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Dhodz lixx Iron, 'must' shows a

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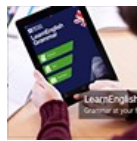
Facebook © 2016

very strong obligation, while 'should' is not so strong. If we say 'I should...' it means that we think it's a good idea or the right thing to do, but we may actually do it or we may not. Or when you tell someone 'you should...' you're giving them advice - again, they may follow that advice or not. You can find out more here:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../quick.../modals-1>

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../verbs/modal-verbs>

Neil



Modals 1

Modals (1) Permission, Prohibition, Obligation, No obligation To express permission,...

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Dhodz lixx Iron Thanks a lot learnEnglish-british council. I really love the way explained us.

Like · Reply · 9 hrs



Write a reply...



Myothiha Htun What kind of words can be used as gerund form after verb? For example: I enjoy taking her photos. In this statment we can see gerund form after enjoy.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 4:04pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Myothiha, I'm afraid you're looking at it from slightly the wrong angle! The question is not what words can be used as a gerund after the verb - the correct question is what verbs are followed by a gerund? You can find out more about that here:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../verbs-followed...>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../verb-ing...>

Neil

verbs followed by -ing clauses

Common verbs followed by -ing nouns are: Verbs of liking and disliking: detest dislike enjoy hate fancy like love I love swimming but I hate jogging.They always enjoyed visiting their friends. A: Do you fancy going for a walk? B: I w...

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Myothiha Htun Thank you so much.

Like · Reply · March 23 at 4:49pm



Write a reply...



Dhodz lixx Iron are students of Uk studying english also? I think they don't need to study english,because they are all native speaker.

Like · Reply · March 24 at 4:10am · Edited



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Dhodz lixx Iron, I think students in every country also study their native language don't they? But of course we focus more on literature and using the language practically for writing etc. rather than on the areas people learning it as a second language focus on.

Neil

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Liuda Cern Good afternoon! Could you answer, please: do educated native speakers understand Shakespeare's plays without translation into modern English?

Unlike · Reply · 5 · March 23 at 2:42pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Liuda, yes mostly. Only around 5% of the actual vocabulary used by Shakespeare is no longer in use in modern English, so educated native speakers would understand most things. The endings of some words have changed, some words may still be used but with a different meaning etc. but in general they would understand most of what is going on. What is often more difficult is the sentence construction and word order, and so we do need to concentrate! Of course, that's not true for everyone, and like getting used to an unfamiliar dialect, the more time you spend with it the easier it becomes!

Neil

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Liuda Cern Thank you, Neil!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:51pm



Laurisabel Assil This encoureges me to read Jane Austen in english now. Thank you so much!

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 4:41pm



Write a reply...



Patrick Ng Sorry, this is my last question. I'd like ask do we need put "at" in front of "outside"? Eg, Mr Maguire parked his bicycle at outside the shopping mall. Is the sentence correct? Thanks in advance

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 4:19pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Patrick, no it isn't! 'Outside' is an adverb here, so you can't use a preposition with it.

Neil

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Patrick Ng unless it is not adverb? could you give any example please

Like · Reply · 7 hrs



Write a reply...



Saima Noor Pechuho Is British council offering English writing course online, like this one? How to improve writing skills

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 2:50pm



Saima Noor Pechuho its great I always wanted to improve my writing skills

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:10pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Saima, we don't have a course just on writing yet, but two weeks of our IELTS course focus on general and academic writing, so that is definitely worth checking out

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts>

You can also try all the great writing activities on our websites:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-emails>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../writing...>

Neil



Understanding IELTS - British Council

FUTURELEARN.COM | BY FUTURELEARN

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 7 hrs



Write a reply...



Saima Noor Pechuho Is there any particular formula for correct spelling?

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 3:25pm



Simon LearnEnglish Hi Saima, there is no formula for English spelling. There are lots of irregularities, so the only way to learn is to make a note of new words as you learn them, then use them. Here's a fun activity to try out now:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/games/spelloween>



Spelloween

Spelling is terrifying! Can you spell quickly or will your fear be too much?

LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · March 23 at 3:35pm



Saima Noor Pechuho thank you Simon

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:36pm



Simon LearnEnglish And here are more for you:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/vocabulary-games>



Vocabulary Games

In this section you can learn and practice a large number of areas of English vocabulary...

LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · March 23 at 3:36pm



Saima Noor Pechuho great

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:37pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Saima, although as Simon says, there are many exceptions and words you have to learn as you go along, there are also rules that can help when you're not sure. Check these links for more:

How to spell - <http://www.howtospell.co.uk/spelling.php>

BBC Spelling for adults - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/topic-group/spelling>

Oxford Dictionary Spelling -

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/spelling>

Spelling, grammar and more:
Brushing Up - <http://bit.ly/1wouKy8>
Neil



Spelling Lessons | How to Spell

HOWTOSPELL.CO.UK

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 1 · Commented on by Neil
Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 3:51pm



Write a reply...



Patrick Ng Hi everyone, i often heard people say "How cute!" to describe a thing/person is really cute. So, can we say "how handsome" "how sexy" "how annoying" "how rude" etc. Or in fact, is there any rules in using the word "how"? Thanks

Like · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 2:50pm



David Lewis Hello Patrick, you have pretty much described the rule yourself, which is how + adjective. The examples you give show surprise, or emphasis the statement, and are usually used in reply to someone in a conversation.

Like · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 2:56pm



Patrick Ng Thanks david. Then, what about "what a ...", eg "what a nice day". I confuse this expression and "how+adjective"above. Could we say "how a lovely girl", "how a nice dream", hehe.thanks again

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 4:06pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Patrick**, no you could not. These are noun phrases not adjectives - you can only say 'what a' or with plurals, simply 'what' as in 'what nice people'.
Neil

Like · Reply · 2 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 4:23pm



Write a reply...



Mahamud Hasan Thanks for such a great opportunity. I heard one of the commentators saying BLUE SKIN in today's ICC T20 match between England and Afganistan. What does it by BLUE SKIN?

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:45pm



Simon LearnEnglish Hi Mahamud, I'm afraid I'm not a huge follower of cricket, but with the little knowledge I have I don't think it is a cricket term. Could you give me a bit more of an idea of the context in which it was used?

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:00pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Mahamud, I'm the same as Simon! I've never heard this expression either, so the more you can tell us the better!
Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 5:13pm



Write a reply...



Mani Yadanar Oo What is opinion writing?

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 3:34pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Mani, I wouldn't use the expression 'opinion writing' exactly, but if you're asked to write an opinion essay then you are being asked to say what you think about a topic - do you think it's good or bad, do you agree or disagree etc. It's asking for your personal views, so you can be more direct than in an essay that asks you to discuss the advantages/disadvantages etc. Here's an example:

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../opinion...>

Neil



An opinion essay

An opinion essay

LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 2 · Commented on by Neil
Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 3:47pm



Mani Yadanar Oo Thanks a lot

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:49pm



Write a reply...

**Andres Martinez** Hi everyone, regards from Colombia

Unlike · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:36pm

**LearnEnglish Tina** Hello Andres

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:37pm

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Andres!

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 2:38pm

**Andres Martinez** I wanna ask you How can I improve listening skills? I have problem with this.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:39pm

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi again - Try to spend a little time each day listening to English. It can be anything - activities on our websites, TV shows, radio, music, Youtube videos - everything will help! Try these links:Listen & Watch - <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/listen-and-watch>

Professional Podcasts -

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../professionals...>

Tina



Listen & Watch

Try our video, audio and reading materials. They're fun and accompanied by useful...

LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 3 · Commented on by LearnEnglish Tina · March 23 at 2:42pm

**Mészáros Zoltán** I have two answers to that:1 I use to listen Youtube lections about topics I am inetested in. 2. You can download a written and mp3 ESV Bible, so you can listen and look at the text at the same time.

Like · Reply · March 23 at 2:43pm

**Andres Martinez** Thanks a lot

Unlike · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:45pm



Write a reply...

**Marina Zivanovic** Hello

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 2:36pm

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Marina! Great to see someone from Slovakia here! I'm in Bratislava!

Neil

Like · Reply · 1 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 2:37pm · Edited

**LearnEnglish Tina** Hello Marina Zivanovic

Tina

Like · Reply · March 23 at 2:39pm

**Marina Zivanovic** I'm sorry i'm not from Slovakia i em from Serbia.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:40pm

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Marina, but you're in Trnava, right? I saw it on your profile.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 2:44pm

**Marina Zivanovic** Yes there is a village near Topola in Serbia.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:46pm

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Ah ha! Interesting!

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 2:49pm

**Marina Zivanovic** i just want to say that the last two weeks have been very educative .I want to thank you for the recommendations you have given for the books in English , they are of great help.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 2:51pm



Write a reply...

**Patrick Ng** Hi, another question is why we couldn't use "at" instead of "by". For instance, "by the sea" "by the tree" "by the river".....does "by" means somewhere near the place, but not exactly in the place? And, could you give more examples, please? Thanks so much

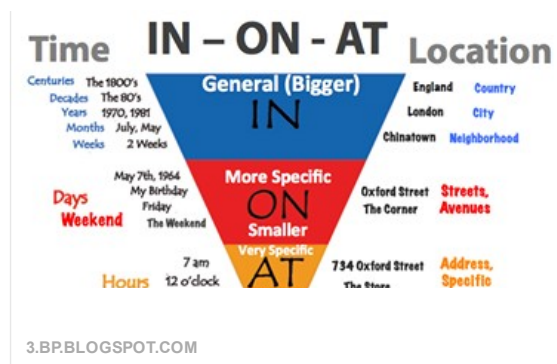
Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:57pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Patrick, 'by' is similar to 'next to' or 'beside' so yes, 'near but not exactly' is a good description. You can say 'by the sea' etc as you ask - in fact these are very common. 'At' is a little different:

<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/.../prepositions+time+and...>

Neil



Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 1 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · March 23 at 3:11pm



Patrick Ng Thanks neil. So, have both "by the sea" and "beside the sea" got same meaning?

Like · Reply · March 23 at 4:10pm



Write a reply...



LearnEnglish Tina Hello everyone, Tina here one of your Exploring English Educators ... I hope you are enjoying the course so far!

Unlike · Reply · 9 · March 23 at 2:35pm



LearnEnglish Tina Bye Everyone, see you soon! And I hope you enjoy the rest of the Exploring English course

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 3:33pm



Валерия Черненко Thank you very much for this project! Normally the learning process of foreign language can be quite dull. Nevertheless, we have a unique approach to this process. While educating us, you give us real life examples, teaching us english be drawing parallels to real outside world. This approach is very useful, outstanding and effective. my hops are that this project will not to be the last of yours!

Unlike · Reply · 5 · March 23 at 2:58pm



LearnEnglish Tina Thank you Валерия Черненко It's wonderful to hear that you are enjoying it and finding it an effective way of learning English - we have some new courses coming up which are mentioned towards the end of Week 6 ... hopefully we'll see you again in one of those

Tina

Like · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 3:03pm



Teaching Karen Hi everyone. Karen here, one of the educators on the Exploring English course. Hope you are enjoying the course as much as I am

Unlike · Reply · 4 · March 23 at 3:17pm



David Lewis Hello everyone, David here. Looking forward to answering as many of your questions as possible over the next hour.

Unlike · Reply · 5 · March 23 at 2:34pm



Olesya Kora Hello, everybody! The topic of this week is very serious. The video of the Eden project was amazing.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:40pm



LearnEnglish Tina It's definitely an interesting subject **Olesya Kora!** And I have to agree the Eden Project is a fantastic project. Do you have something like this in your country?

Tina

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:46pm



Olesya Kora I'm sorry to say we don't have. Our government doesn't pay much attention to the ecological problems. We have economical problems and the war in the eastern part of my country.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:49pm



Write a reply...



Simon LearnEnglish Hi everyone, welcome along. I'm looking forward to answering your questions.

Unlike · Reply · 5 · March 23 at 2:34pm



Galina Lukyanova Hello everybody! Sometimes I'm getting stuck with correct using of "each" and "every". Is there any applicable rule about it?

Unlike · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 3:10pm



Simon LearnEnglish Hi Galina, good question. The answer is, there isn't a lot of difference. They both mean the same thing. The only difference is when we use 'each' we are placing more emphasis on the individual items/people e.g. Every child was given an apple, or Each child was given an apple. The sentences are the same, but we emphasise the children individually in the second example. Here's a little more information:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../quantifiers>

quantifiers

We use quantifiers when we want to give someone information about the number of something: how much or how many. Sometimes we use a quantifier in the place of a determiner: Most children start school at the age of five. We ate some bread and butter. We saw lots of birds...

LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 1 · March 23 at 3:21pm



Galina Lukyanova Hi Simon, many thanks

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:25pm



Write a reply...



Karin Mueller What about the use of 'amazing'? It was used a lot in my days in London (way back when... I was told it's outdated now! Is this right? Probably 'stunning' is the new 'amazing'?

Unlike · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:54pm



Simon LearnEnglish Hi Karen, I'm not sure that amazing is outdated. I still use the word and a lot of people I know do too. It is still very much part of everyday vocabulary. I guess kids use newer words as well - I think the word of the moment is 'amazeballs'

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/defi.../english/amazeballs>

amazeballs - definition of amazeballs in English from the Oxford dictionary

Extremely good or impressive; amazing. Meaning, pronunciation and example sentences, English to English reference content.

OXFORDDICTIONARIES.COM

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 2 · March 23 at 3:11pm



Karin Mueller Thanks, Simon. I'm relieved because I quite like to use 'amazing'. As for 'amazeballs': that's new to me, so thanks for the link.

Like · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 3:17pm



Write a reply...



Takunari Yoshizawa Hello educator, we have learned the relational pronoun "that" can be used instead of "who". I think it's not polite to use "that" for a person. When do you use "that" for person.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:46pm



David Lewis Hello Takunari there is no problem using that instead of who for a person in a defining relative clause, it is also polite.

Like · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 2:50pm



Takunari Yoshizawa Ok, Thank you David!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:51pm



Write a reply...



Sa Za Hi dear educators. Thanks a lot for all your efforts. Is efforts correct please or I should use it just singular. Thank you so much.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:44pm



Simon LearnEnglish Hi Sa, nice to see you here. You can use it in both the singular and plural. Thank you for all your effort, or Thank you for all your efforts. Using the plural would have a subtle difference of emphasising the effort the person made.

Like · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:56pm



Galina Lukyanova Hello Simon, I'm just wondering to know a bit more about it. I mean to get more information/rules about plural and singular nouns. Can you please help? Or we need just to learn it by heart?

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:05pm



Write a reply...



Claudianus Berababyeyi Good afternoon everybody, i am from Rwanda

Unlike · Reply · 4 · March 23 at 2:40pm



Simon LearnEnglish Hi Claudianus, welcome. Do you have any questions for us?

Like · Reply · March 23 at 2:47pm



Write a reply...



Sa Za Hi Simon.Thank you so much.I was wrong because I compare it with our language.Thanks a lot.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:19pm



Hilma Safitri Thank you so much for the info

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 5:03pm



Mészáros Zoltán The passives are pretty nice in English, that gives a special charm for that language.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 2:41pm · Edited



Michelle Carstens Is it for say hello or for asking questions now ...???

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:40pm



David Lewis It's ask a question time Michelle, please go ahead.

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:41pm



Michelle Carstens Maybe sounds not good what I am asking, but how long takes for a person to refresh or better to say maybe improve his /her language again...? I am asking , because I thought some of you maybe have experience with people ...

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:52pm · Edited



David Lewis The answer in many ways is very personal as people tend to learn languages at different rates base don many factors, such as their mother tongue, their experience of learning languages, and how hard they are prepared to work. A more scientific answer is from the Common European Framework, which suggests 200 hours of study are needed to move between levels.

Like · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 3:02pm



Write a reply...



Reem G Alsaleh Thanx indeed u r so helpful to us

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:47pm



Susana Maté Thank you Neil!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 4:42pm



Fagun Ahammed a.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 6:10pm



Ali Salim Hi Neil and thank you for your efforts

My question is:

What the difference between "job" and "work"

Like · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:57pm



David Lewis Hello Ali, job is a noun, I can say 'I have a job.' However, 'work' is a verb, so I can say, 'I work every day.'

Like · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 3:10pm



Mészáros Zoltán Well I am not Neil, but I can tell something. Job is a regular activity, you have to do it 5 times a week (or unfortunately somewhere more). Work could be planting in garden, writing a scientific paper, or even written scientific papaer... But probably Neil will give a lot better explanation.

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:12pm



LearnEnglish Tina Hi Ali Salim, have a look at this interesting article which explains the differences -

<http://www.differencebetween.net/.../difference-between-.../> or this BBC one -

http://www.bbc.co.uk/.../03/090331_aae_work_page.shtml.Tina

Difference Between Job and Work

Job vs Work "Work" and "job" are two words that have similar yet different meanings. Although...

DIFFERENCEBETWEEN.NET

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 2 · March 23 at 3:12pm



Mészáros Zoltán This article about JOB and WORK was so interesting, because of ethymologic introduction. Can you suggest a page, homepage when I can find reliable good ethymologies of english words?

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:24pm



Anita Gómez Mo When you write on the notebooks of the students great work or good job both are correct?

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:31pm



Write a reply...



Doaa Zakarya Hello ..Ihave just join the course yesterday ..and Iwant your advice which better to begin from week 1and go on the steps or begin from this week Imean week 5

Like · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 2:40pm



Simon LearnEnglish Hi Doaa, it's great to have you on the course. You can do either! The course will stay open after week 6 so you can access all the videos and resources for ever. You can take the course at your own pace and in any order. It's best to complete a week before moving onto the next though. So you can do week 5, then week 1, then week 3 etc if you like!

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:50pm



LearnEnglish Tina Hi **Doaa Zakarya**! Thank you for joining our course. If you decide to start now at Week 5 you will be able to see more activity from us (the educators) as we will be around until the end of Week 6 which finishes on 3 April. The materials will be available after this date but we won't

Like · Reply · 3 · March 23 at 2:52pm



Doaa Zakarya Thank you for your reply

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 2:52pm



Write a reply...



Sana Abid I want to be an English teacher so please recommend me some books that are essential and good to study before teaching both Literature and Grammar.

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:22pm · Edited



David Lewis You might find this article useful in giving you a guide of what to do. <http://www.theguardian.com/.../teaching-resources-english...>



How to teach ... English as a foreign language

THEGUARDIAN.COM | BY EMILY DRABBLE

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · March 23 at 3:27pm



Write a reply...



Olesya Kora Dear educators. !My students make a lot of mistakes using the phrasal verbs. How to correct it? How to remember them better?

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 3:09pm



David Lewis Hello Olesya, first of all I've never met a student who didn't have problems with phrasal verbs! I think the best approach is to study these expressions in the contexts they are already learning. So if they are learning about travel, they can study phrasal verbs related to that topic. Like all vocabulary items they need a lot practice to not only be understood, but remembered. The more you can you help them find contexts where it is relevant to use them the more likely they are to use them effectively.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 3:20pm



Olesya Kora Thanks.

Like · Reply · March 23 at 3:33pm



Write a reply...



Karin Mueller Hi, my question: Are Christopher Marlowe's plays performed at the New Globe, too, or just Shakespeare's?

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:41pm



David Lewis A wide range of plays are performed there, not just Shakespeare (though he is the main focus). You can see the programme here. <http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/theatre/whatson>

What's On - theatre performances, cinema screenings and special events / Shakespeare's Globe

Download our brochures Sam Wanamaker Playhouse 2015/16
>> Winter Season Brochure and Schedule (PDF Version)
Wonder Summer Season 2016 >> Summer Season Brochure (PDF Version) Summer Season Schedule (PDF Version) 1616: A Momentous Year >> Education Events Brochure (PDF Version)

SHAKESPEARESGLOBE.COM

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 2 · March 23 at 2:47pm



Karin Mueller Thanks David, such a useful link for my planning.

Like · Reply · March 23 at 2:49pm



Write a reply...



Anita Gómez Mo I need to know how improve my pronunciation, thanks.

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:52pm



LearnEnglish Tina Hi Anita Gómez Mo! You need to listen to different types of examples, this is really important so make sure you check out our websites for listening activities. Here are some useful tips and tools to help you:

Pronunciation activities -

<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../skills/pronunciation>

Phonemic Chart -

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/activities/phonemic-chart>

Sounds Right app - <http://goo.gl/FZSsXv>

BBC Videos -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/.../learningenglish/grammar/pron/sounds>. I hope these help

Tina



Pronunciation | ESOL Nexus

Practise the different sounds of English, improve your stress and intonation, and even listen to...

ESOL.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 1 · March 23 at 2:59pm



Anita Gómez Mo LearnEnglish Tina thank you Tina!!! I'll follow your recommendations.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 3:02pm



Write a reply...



Andres Martinez I wanna ask you How can I improve listening skills? I have problem with thi

Like · Reply · March 23 at 2:42pm



Anita Gómez Mo Hi again - Try to spend a little time each day listening to English. It can be anything - activities on our websites, TV shows, radio, music, Youtube videos - everything will help! Try these links:

Listen & Watch - <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/listen-and-watch>

Professional Podcasts -

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../professionals...>

Tina



Listen & Watch

Try our video, audio and reading materials. They're fun and accompanied by useful...

LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 1 · March 23 at 2:49pm



Write a reply...



Johnson George Hello. What's the faster method I may read a sentence length?

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:53pm



Simon LearnEnglish Hi Johnson, do you mean how can you read a sentence quickly? Th answer to this would be with practice. Although if you want to improve your reading skills, I wouldn't advise reading too quickly. Try to read at a pace you are comfortable with but don't get stuck with every word you don't understand. Skip over it and try to guess the meaning. Here's some texts to practice with:

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../reading...>



Reading skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens | British Council

LEARNENGLISH TEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 1 · March 23 at 3:29pm



Write a reply...



Saima Noor Pechuho when we use 'had had' together?

Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 2:41pm



David Lewis Hello Saima, we use 'had had' on certain situations with the past perfect. If the expressions uses have, e.g. have a shower, then in past perfect we will have two hads, as the past perfect is made with had + past participle. I had had a shower before I got dressed for

work. There's more on this form here.

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../past-perfect>

past perfect

We use the verb had and the past participle for the past perfect: I had finished the work. She had gone . The past perfect continuous is formed with had been and the -ing form of the verb: I had been finishing the workShe had been going.

LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 2 · March 23 at 2:44pm



Saima Noor Pechuho Thanks Lewis

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · March 23 at 2:46pm



Write a reply...

[Write a comment...](#)