
Learn Basic English Grammar: Beginners - Part 2

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Introduction

Welcome to Part 2 of my lesson on Basic English Grammar for beginners.

You can see Part 1 of this article [here](#).

In Part 2, we will look at Adjectives, Pronouns, Prepositions and Conjunctions.

Hold tight, here we go.

English Grammar: Adjectives

So, let's begin with adjectives.

Basically, adjectives describe nouns. Simple as that. For example,

An *interesting* book

A *delicious* chocolate

A *refreshing* drink

The adjective comes before the noun

A **refreshing** drink
ARTICLE + **ADJECTIVE** + NOUN

Adjectives are so useful in IELTS Speaking because they enrich your language and make your descriptions much more interesting.

When learning adjectives, I strongly recommend you also learn the antonyms, if possible. An **antonym** is a word with the opposite meaning.

For example, the antonym of **big** is **small**.

Antonyms of adjectives will help build up your range of vocabulary very quickly.

What I do is, I make a note of the new adjective and antonym and try to make simple phrases using them, speaking them out loud. I make phrases that are true for me, so they are easier to remember.

For example,

I have a big kitchen in a small flat!

It's true, I wish I could buy a bigger flat!

Now, another important thing to know about adjectives, is that we can use adverbs to describe adjectives; adverbs such as,

- Really
- Absolutely
- Totally
- Completely

This is a **really** **exciting** book
ADVERB + ADJECTIVE + NOUN

That was an **absolutely** **delicious** chocolate
ADVERB + ADJECTIVE + NOUN

Pronouns in English

SUBJECT PRONOUNS
OBJECT PRONOUNS
POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

As you might be able to guess, pronouns replace nouns (people, places, things) or a noun phrase.

We use them in order to avoid too much repetition. For example, the first two sentences below are fine, but the repetition of 'your car' doesn't sound very natural. It would be better to replace it with 'it'

Your car is lovely. She likes your car.

Your car is lovely. She likes it.

At the same time, as you can see, this use of pronouns enables us to reference things, places or people we have previously mentioned.

There are 3 main kinds of pronouns

1) SUBJECT PRONOUNS

A subject pronoun replaces a noun that is the subject of a phrase. A 'subject' of a phrase is just the person (place or thing) *doing something*.

In the example, below, 'Jack' is the subject (who is eating) and is replaced by 'he'.

Jack ate the chocolate

HE ate the chocolate

Here is a list of the subject pronouns

- I
- YOU
- HE / SHE / IT
- YOU (plural)
- WE
- THEY

2) OBJECT PRONOUNS

An object pronoun replaces a noun that is the object of a phrase. An 'object' of a phrase is just the person (place or thing) *that is the object of the action*.

Look at this example,

*Anny likes **Keith***

Here, 'Keith' is the object (who is liked by Anny) and we can replace 'Keith' with the object pronoun 'him'.

*Anny likes **HIM***

Here is a list of the object pronouns

- ME
- YOU
- HIM / HER / IT
- US
- YOU
- THEM

3) POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

A possessive pronoun replaces a noun that belongs to someone, (the possessive adjective + noun). For example,

This is **my** **hat**

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE + NOUN

In the example below, 'my hat' is the noun (that belongs to me) and in the second sentence is replaced by 'mine' (The possessive pronoun).

I think this is **my hat**. Yes, I am sure it's **mine!**

Here are the possessive pronouns

- MINE
- YOURS
- HIS
- HERS
- OURS
- THEIRS

NOTICE: When names are used to describe possession, we use an apostrophe before the 's'. For example,

That is Keith's hat.

However, possessive pronouns **do not** have an apostrophe before the 's'. For example, we do not say 'It's your's hat'. No, we say 'it's YOUR hat'.

Prepositions in English

**HOW TO USE THE PREPOSITION AT
HOW TO USE THE PREPOSITION ON
HOW TO USE THE PREPOSITION IN**

Let's move on and look at prepositions in English.

Since prepositions have many functions, and also often correspond to several different prepositions in other languages, I think the best approach here is to go step by step.

Here, we will look at 3 different prepositions that are actually also related.

Try to avoid translating prepositions, this often leads to mistakes.

Instead, I think it's also useful to get the 'feeling' of how we use prepositions in English.

There is a very useful book for advanced learners that looks at this 'feeling' of prepositions in more detail. You can get a feel for this (ha ha 😊) by reading an excerpt via the link below

<https://jdanielauthor.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/The-Logic-of-English-Prepositions-Newsletter-Sample.pdf>

Here, I will look at the following 3 prepositions and what is the general feeling they create when we use them in English.

1. **At**
2. **On**
3. **In**

HOW TO USE PREPOSITION AT

1) 'AT' used to give a feeling of a **specific point** or **time**

Examples

I live at 221 Baker Street

I get up at 6 o'clock

2) 'AT' used to give a feeling of a **Space** or **Bubble**

If I say, 'I am at home', then we don't know exactly where I am in the house. I might be in the kitchen or in the bathroom. So we use AT to give an idea of being in a wider space or you can also imagine the idea of being in a bubble. The house being the bubble.

See similar examples below.

I am **at home**

I am **at work**

She is **at the beach**

We are **at the cinema**

He is **at the shops**

HOW TO USE THE PREPOSITION ON

1) ON used to give a feeling of **touching a surface**

Examples

The cup is **on the table**

The picture is **on the wall**

I live **on Baker Street**

In the last example, we have the idea of the whole street being a surface and you live on one part of that surface.

2) ON used to give a feeling of being **on a platform**

Examples

I'm **on the Internet**

She's **on the phone**

I'm **on Facebook**

I saw a film **on Netflix**

3) ON used to give a feeling of being **on a platform time**

We use ON with days of the week.

If you can imagine a day being elevated (on a platform) higher than other days of the week, then this is one way to remember the use of ON for days.

Examples

*I always go swimming **on Mondays***

*He came **on Tuesday***

*I have an appointment **on the 5th Jan***

HOW TO USE THE PREPOSITION IN

1) 'IN' used to give a feeling of being **contained** in a **place**

Examples

*The present was **in a box***

*I live **in Manchester***

*Get **in the car!***

If I say, 'I live in Spain' we can imagine Spain as the container and I am inside that container. Likewise with a city or even a neighbourhood.

2) 'IN' used to give a feeling of being **contained** in **time**

Example

*I will visit you **in July***

In the example above, it helps to imagine the month as containing lots of days, and I will visit you on one of those days but I don't say which one.

The same idea can apply with seasons and years.

Examples

*I will go **in summer***

*I went there **in 2021***

There is a connection between these 3 prepositions.

If you look at the examples below, you can see how the time or distance gets bigger and bigger, as we move from AT to ON and then to IN.

***At** 6 o'clock, **on** Monday, **in** July*

***At** 221 Baker Street, **on** Baker Street, **in** London*

If it helps, you can also imagine this graphically like this.



Basic Grammar: Conjunctions

Conjunctions are simple words that join two words, phrases or clauses.

They help show the relationship between the two.

Most Common Spoken Conjunctions

- and
- or
- but
- so
- before
- after
- because
- as soon as

In the example below, we have two sentences, and we can join them with a conjunction to make our English flow more naturally.

He eats a lot. He is fat.

Examples with conjunctions

*He eats a lot **so** he is fat*

*He eats a lot **because** he is fat*

*He eats a lot **and** he is fat*

In IELTS Speaking conjunctions are invaluable, because they are a simple way to create complex sentences.

We can build one clause on top of another and connect them with conjunctions.

You should also know that the most commonly used conjunctions are the simple ones mentioned above.

Conclusion

In Part 1 and Part 2 of this lesson on Basic English Grammar, we have seen 8 of the most important parts of speech.

We have seen the most important features of each and how to use them.

Remember, my advice is use grammar rules as a reference, **don't start learning English with grammar** - that can be very boring and not helpful.

Start learning English by

- Listening
- Loving
- Repeating

Then you can check the grammar rules, and of course then, you need to practice.

You can practice with others or on your own. Both ways are fine.

I am keen to help you with your grammar, so leave a comment below and tell me more about other areas of grammar you would like help with.



LEARNING *English*

- Listen to it
- Love it
- Repeat it
- Check the Grammar
- Practice