

# Clauses structure and verb patterns

## Clause structure

All clauses in English have at least two parts, a **noun phrase (subject)** and a **verb phrase**:

Noun phrase (subject)	Verb phrase
<i>The children</i>	<i>laughed.</i>
<i>All the people in the bus</i>	<i>were watching.</i>

But most clauses have more than two parts:

Noun phrase (subject)	Verb phrase		
<i>John</i>	<i>wanted</i>	<i>a new bicycle.</i>	
<i>All of the girls</i>	<i>are learning</i>	<i>English.</i>	
<i>This soup</i>	<i>tastes</i>	<i>awful.</i>	

Noun phrase (subject)	Verb phrase		
<i>Mary and the family</i>	<i>were driving</i>	<i>to Madrid.</i>	
<i>She</i>	<i>put</i>	<i>the flowers</i>	<i>in a vase.</i>

The first noun phrase of a sentence is the subject. English clauses **always have a subject**:

*His father has just retired. **He** was a teacher.* (NOT ~~Was a teacher.~~)  
*I'm waiting for my wife. **She** is late.* (NOT ~~Is late.~~)

**except for the imperative**, which is used for orders, invitations and requests:

*Stop!*  
*Please come to dinner tomorrow.*  
*Play it again, please.*

If we have no other subject, we use **there** or **it**. We call this a **dummy subject**:

**There** *were twenty people at the meeting.*  
**There** *will be an eclipse of the moon tonight.*  
**It's** *a lovely day.*  
**It's** *nearly one o'clock.*

## Verb patterns

Different verbs have different patterns, so the structure of the clause depends on the verb.

### Transitive and intransitive verbs

Most verbs in English are either transitive or intransitive.  
A **transitive verb** has the structure noun + verb + noun:

Noun (subject)	Verb	Noun (object)
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Noun (subject)	Verb	Noun (object)
John	<b>wanted</b>	a new bicycle.

Transitive verbs need an **object**. Common transitive verbs are:

<i>bring</i> <i>buy</i>	<i>enjoy</i> <i>like</i>	<i>make</i> <i>take</i>	<i>want</i> <i>wear</i>
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An **intransitive verb** has the structure noun + verb:

Noun (subject)	Verb
John	<b>smiled.</b>

Intransitive verbs do not have an object. Common intransitive verbs are:

<i>arrive</i> <i>cry</i>	<i>die</i> <i>fall</i>	<i>happen</i> <i>laugh</i>	<i>smile</i> <i>work</i>
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Some verbs can be **either transitive or intransitive**:

<i>She sang a wonderful aria.</i> <i>We were singing.</i>	Transitive: N + V + N Intransitive: N + V
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<i>We were playing football.</i> <i>We were just playing.</i>	Transitive: N + V + N Intransitive: N + V
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Common verbs like this are:

<i>draw</i> <i>follow</i>	<i>help</i> <i>learn</i>	<i>ride</i> <i>study</i>	<i>watch</i> <i>write</i>
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## Other patterns

Some verbs are both transitive and intransitive, but the **object when they are transitive** is the same as the **subject when they are intransitive**:

<i>Peter closed <b>the door</b>.</i> <i><b>The door</b> closed.</i>	Transitive: N + V + <b>N</b> Intransitive: <b>N</b> + V
<i>I boiled <b>some water</b>.</i> <i><b>The water</b> boiled.</i>	Transitive: N + V + <b>N</b> Intransitive: <b>N</b> + V

These are called **ergative verbs**.

There are other kinds of verb patterns. For example:

- **link verbs** have the structure Noun + Verb + Adjective (*She **looks** happy*) or Noun + Verb + Noun (*He **became** a teacher*).
- some **two-part verbs** can have the structure Noun + Verb + Particle + Noun (*She **gave back** the money*) or Noun + Verb + Noun + Particle (*She **gave** the money **back***).
- **double object verbs** have the structure: Noun + Verb + Noun + Noun (*Peter **sent** his mother some flowers*).
- **verbs followed by the infinitive** (*We **planned** to take a holiday*).
- **verbs followed by the -ing form** (*I **love** swimming*).

- **verbs with *that*, *wh*- and *if* clauses** (She **said** *that* ..., He **explained** *what* ..., He **asked** *if* ... .) These are often reporting verbs.

## Link verbs

Some verbs are followed by either a **noun** or an **adjective**:

<i>She was <u>a good friend</u>.</i> <i>She was <u>very happy</u>.</i>	V + <b><u>N</u></b> V + <b><u>Adj</u></b>
<i>He became <u>headmaster</u>.</i> <i>He became <u>angry</u>.</i>	V + <b><u>N</u></b> V + <b><u>Adj</u></b>

These verbs are called **link verbs**. Common verbs like this are:

<i>be</i> <i>become</i>	<i>appear</i> <i>feel</i>	<i>look</i> <i>remain</i>	<i>seem</i> <i>sound</i>
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*He looked hungry.*  
*He looked a good player.*

*She seemed an intelligent woman.*  
*She seemed intelligent.*

After *appear* and *seem* we often use *to be*:

*She appeared to be an intelligent woman.*  
*He seemed to be angry.*

Some link verbs are followed by an adjective but **not** a noun. Common verbs like this are:

<i>get</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>grow</i>	<i>taste</i>	<i>smell</i>
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He **got hungry** in the evening.

The dog **went crazy**.

She **grew stronger** every day.

The soup **tasted wonderful**.

This milk **smells bad**.

## Multi-word verbs

### Two-part verbs

Some verbs are **two-part verbs**. They consist of a **verb** and a **particle**:

*grow + up*

*The children are **growing up**.*

Often this gives the verb a **new meaning**:

*take + after*

*She **takes after** her mother.*

(= She looks like her mother or she behaves like her mother.)

*count + on*

*I know I can **count on** you.*

(= I know I can trust you or I know I can believe you.)

Some two-part verbs have **only one pattern**:

Subject	Verb	Particle	Object
<i>The children</i>	<i><b>are growing</b></i>	<i><b>up.</b></i>	—
<i>She</i>	<i><b>takes</b></i>	<i><b>after</b></i>	<i><b>her mother.</b></i>
<i>I</i>	<i><b>can count</b></i>	<i><b>on</b></i>	<i><b>you.</b></i>

But other two-part verbs have two different patterns. The usual pattern is:

Noun (subject)	Verb	Noun (object)	Particle
<i>She</i>	<i><b>gave</b></i>	<i>the money</i>	<i><b>back.</b></i>
<i>He</i>	<i><b>knocked</b></i>	<i>the glass</i>	<i><b>over.</b></i>
<i>We</i>	<i><b>will be leaving</b></i>	<i>our friends</i>	<i><b>behind.</b></i>

but sometimes these verbs have the pattern:

Noun (subject)	Verb	Particle	Noun (object)
<i>She</i>	<i><b>gave</b></i>	<i><b>back</b></i>	<i>the money.</i>
<i>He</i>	<i><b>knocked</b></i>	<i><b>over</b></i>	<i>the glass.</i>
<i>We</i>	<i><b>will be leaving</b></i>	<i><b>behind</b></i>	<i>our friends.</i>

When the object is a **personal pronoun**, phrasal verbs always have the first pattern:

*She gave it back.* (NOT ~~She gave back it.~~)

*He knocked it over.* (NOT ~~He knocked over it.~~)

We will be **leaving** them **behind**. (NOT ~~We will be leaving behind them.~~)

Common verbs with their most frequent particles are:

<i>bring</i>	<i>about, along, back, forward, in, off, out, round, up</i>
<i>buy</i>	<i>out, up</i>
<i>call</i>	<i>off, up</i>
<i>carry</i>	<i>off, out</i>
<i>cut</i>	<i>back, down, off, out, up</i>
<i>give</i>	<i>away, back, off</i>
<i>hand</i>	<i>back, down, in, on, out, over, round</i>
<i>knock</i>	<i>down, out, over</i>
<i>leave</i>	<i>behind, out</i>



<i>let</i>	<i>down, in, off, out</i>
<i>pass</i>	<i>down, over, round</i>
<i>point</i>	<i>out</i>
<i>push</i>	<i>about, around, over</i>
<i>put</i>	<i>across, away, down, forward, off, on, out, through, together, up</i>
<i>read</i>	<i>out</i>
<i>set</i>	<i>apart, aside, back, down</i>
<i>shut</i>	<i>away, in, off, out</i>
<i>take</i>	<i>apart, away, back, down, in, on, up, over</i>

<i>think</i>	<i>over, through, up</i>
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## Three-part verbs

Some verbs are made up of three parts: a **verb** and **two particles**. They have the pattern:

Noun (subject)	Verb	Particle	Particle	Noun (object)
<i>His girlfriend</i>	<i>walked</i>	<i>out</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>him.</i>
<i>She</i>	<i>caught</i>	<i>up</i>	<i>with</i>	<i>the other runners.</i>
<i>Children</i>	<i>should look</i>	<i>up</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>their parents.</i>

Common three-part verbs are:

<i>catch up with</i>	<i>get on with</i>	<i>look up to</i>	<i>stick up for</i>
<i>face up to</i>	<i>look forward to</i>	<i>put up with</i>	<i>walk out on</i>
<i>get away with</i>	<i>look down on</i>	<i>run away with</i>	<i>watch out for</i>

A few verbs have the pattern:

Noun (subject)	Verb	Noun (object of verb)	Particle	Particle	Noun (object of particle)
We	<b>talked</b>	them	<b>out</b>	<b>of</b>	leaving.
She	<b>put</b>	his mistakes	<b>down</b>	<b>to</b>	inexperience.

Verbs like this are:

<i>do out of</i>	<i>put down to</i>	<i>take out on</i>
<i>let it on</i>	<i>put up to</i>	<i>talk out of</i>

## Double object verbs

Some verbs have **two objects**, an **indirect object** and a **direct object**:

Subject	Verb	Indirect object	Direct object
<i>My wife</i>	<i>sent</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>an email.</i>

Subject	Verb	Indirect object	Direct object
<i>He</i>	<i>brought</i>	<i>his mother</i>	<i>some flowers.</i>
<i>He</i>	<i>cooked</i>	<i>all his friends</i>	<i>a delicious meal.</i>

These clauses have the structure:

**Verb + Noun** (indirect object) + **Noun** (direct object)

Alternatively, we can use a **prepositional phrase** with *to* or *for* with an indirect object:

Subject	Verb	Direct object	Prepositional phrase
<i>My wife</i>	<i>sent</i>	<i>an email</i>	<i>to me.</i>
<i>He</i>	<i>brought</i>	<i>some flowers</i>	<i>for his mother.</i>
<i>He</i>	<i>cooked</i>	<i>a delicious meal</i>	<i>for all his friends.</i>

These clauses have the structure:

**Verb + Noun** (direct object) + **to/for + Noun** (indirect object)

**Common verbs with to and an indirect object** are:

give lend offer	pass post promise	read sell	send show	tell write
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*He gave his programme to the man next to him.*

*He gave the man next to him his programme.*

*They sent Christmas cards to all their customers.*

*They sent all their customers Christmas cards.*

Common verbs with for and an indirect object are:

book bring	buy cook	find get	keep make	pour save
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*They **booked** a table for me at the restaurant.*

*They **booked** me a table at the restaurant.*

*We **made** toys for all the children.*

*We **made** all the children toys.*

If the indirect object is a long phrase, we normally use *to* or *for*:

*He showed his ticket to the policeman standing by the door.*

*We kept something to eat and drink for all the people who arrived late.*

If the indirect object is a pronoun, we normally use the **Verb + Noun + Noun** pattern:

*I poured him another drink.*

*Their mother read them another story.*

## Verbs followed by the infinitive

Many verbs in English are followed by the **infinitive with to**. Some of these verbs take the pattern:

- **Verb + to + infinitive**

*We **planned to take** a holiday.*

*She **decided to stay** at home.*

Others verbs take the pattern:

- **Verb + noun + to + infinitive**

*She wanted the children to learn the piano.*  
*I told him to ring the police.*

Two very common verbs – **make** and **let** – are followed by the **infinitive without to**.  
They take the pattern:

- **Verb + noun + infinitive**

*My parents made me come home early.*  
*They wouldn't let me stay out late.*

The verb **dare** can be followed by the **infinitive with or without to**:

- **Verb (+ to) + infinitive**

*I didn't dare (to) go out after dark.*

## verb + to + infinitive

Some verbs are followed by the **infinitive with to**:

*I decided to go home as soon as possible.*  
*We all wanted to have more English classes.*

Common verbs with this pattern are:

- verbs of thinking and feeling:

<i>choose</i> <i>decide</i> <i>expect</i> <i>forget</i>	<i>hate</i> <i>hope</i> <i>intend</i> <i>learn</i>	<i>like</i> <i>love</i> <i>mean</i> <i>plan</i>	<i>prefer</i> <i>remember</i> <i>want</i> <i>would like/love</i>
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- verbs of saying:

<i>agree</i>	<i>promise</i>	<i>refuse</i>	<i>threaten</i>
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- others

<i>arrange</i>	<i>fail</i>	<i>manage</i>	<i>try</i>
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<i>attempt</i>	<i>help</i>	<i>tend</i>	
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## verb + noun + *to* + infinitive

Some verbs are followed by a **noun** and the **infinitive with *to***:

*She asked him to send her a text message.*

*He wanted all his friends to come to his party.*

**Common verbs** with this pattern are:

- verbs of saying:

<i>advise</i> <i>ask</i> <i>encourage</i>	<i>invite</i> <i>order</i>	<i>persuade</i> <i>remind</i>	<i>tell</i> <i>warn*</i>
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\* Note that *warn* is normally used with *not*:

*The police warned everyone not to drive too fast.*

- verbs of wanting and liking:

<i>hate</i> <i>intend</i>	<i>like</i> <i>love</i>	<i>mean</i> <i>prefer</i>	<i>want</i> <i>would like/love</i>
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- others:

<i>allow</i> <i>enable</i>	<i>expect</i> <i>force</i>	<i>get</i>	<i>teach</i>
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Many of the verbs above are sometimes followed by a **passive infinitive (*to be* + past participle)**:

*I expected to be met when I arrived at the station.*

*They wanted to be told if anything happened.*

*I don't like driving myself. I prefer to be driven.*

## make and let

The verbs **make** and **let** are followed by a **noun** and the **infinitive without to**:

*They **made him pay** for the things he had broken.*

*The doctor **made me wait** for almost an hour.*

*They **let you go** in free at the weekend.*

*Will you **let me come** in?*

But the **passive form** of **make** is followed by the **infinitive with to**:

*He **was made to pay** for the things he had broken.*

*I **was made to wait** for almost an hour.*

**let** has **no passive form**. We use **allow** instead:

*We **were allowed to go** in free at the weekend.*

*I **was allowed to go** in.*

## dare

The verb **dare** is hardly ever found in positive sentences. It is almost always used in negative sentences and questions.

When it is used **with an auxiliary or a modal verb**, **dare** can be followed by the **infinitive with or without to**:

*I **didn't dare (to) disturb** him.*

*Who **would dare (to) accuse** him?*

But when there is **no auxiliary or modal**, **dare** is followed by the **infinitive without to**:

*Nobody **dared disturb** him.*

*I **daren't ask** him.*

# Verbs followed by the '-ing' form

**Common verbs** followed by the **-ing form** are:

- verbs of **liking and disliking**:

<i>detest</i>	<i>dislike</i>	<i>enjoy</i>	<i>fancy</i>	<i>hate</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>love</i>
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*I **love swimming** but I **hate jogging**.*

*They always **enjoyed visiting** their friends.*

- phrases with **mind**:



wouldn't mind (= would like)  
don't mind (= I am willing to)  
would you mind (= will you please ...?)

*I wouldn't mind having some fish and chips.*  
*I don't mind waiting for a few minutes.*  
*Would you mind holding this for me?*

- verbs of **saying and thinking**:

<i>admit</i>	<i>consider</i>	<i>deny</i>	<i>imagine</i>	<i>remember</i>	<i>suggest</i>
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*Our leader **suggested waiting** until the storm was over.*  
*Everyone **denied seeing** the accident.*

- others:

<i>avoid</i>	<i>begin</i>	<i>finish</i>	<i>keep</i>	<i>miss</i>	<i>practise</i>	<i>risk</i>	<i>start</i>	<i>stop</i>
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*I haven't **finished writing** this letter.*  
*Let's **practise speaking** English.*

## verb + noun + **-ing** form

Some verbs are followed by a **noun** and the **-ing** form:

- verbs of **the senses**:

<i>see</i>	<i>hear</i>	<i>listen to</i>	<i>smell</i>	<i>watch</i>	<i>etc.</i>
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*We saw everybody **running** away.*  
*I could **hear** someone **singing**.*

- others:

<i>catch</i>	<i>find</i>	<i>imagine</i>	<i>leave</i>	<i>prevent</i>	<i>stop</i>
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*I **caught** someone **trying** to break in to my house.*  
*We couldn't **prevent** them **getting** away.*

Many of the verbs above are sometimes followed by a **passive form** of *-ing* (*being* + **past participle**):

*I don't like **being interrupted**.*

*Our dog loves **being stroked** under the chin.*

## Reporting verbs with 'that', 'wh-' and 'if' clauses

### Reporting verbs with *that* clauses

When we want to report what people say or think, we can use a reporting verb and a clause with *that*:

*He said **that I had to see a doctor**.*

*I thought **that he was being silly**.*

We can leave out the word *that*:

*He said **I had to see a doctor**.*

*I thought **he was being silly**.*

These verbs have the pattern:

**Noun + Verb + (*that*) + Clause**

With some verbs, we can mention the hearer as the object of the verb:

*She reminded **him** **that it was time to go**.*

*He told **me** **he was a friend of yours**.*

These verbs have the pattern:

**Noun + Verb + Noun + (*that*) + Clause**

### Reporting verbs with *wh-* and *if* clauses

Some reporting verbs introduce a *wh-* clause or an *if* clause:

*She explained **what we had to do**.*

*I didn't know **where to go**.*

*He asked **if I was ready**.*

*I wonder **if they're at home**.*

These verbs have the pattern:

**Noun + Verb + *wh-* word + Clause**

or

**Noun + Verb + *if* + Clause**

With some verbs, we can mention the hearer as the object of the verb:

*He told me what I had to do.*

*He asked them if they were ready.*

These verbs have the pattern:

**Noun + Verb + Noun + *wh-* word + Clause**

or

**Noun + Verb + Noun + *if* + Clause**

## Reported speech

### Reporting and summarising

When we want to report what people say, we don't usually try to report their exact words. We usually give a **summary**, for example:

**Direct speech (exact words):**

**Mary:** *Oh dear. We've been walking for hours! I'm exhausted. I don't think I can go any further. I really need to stop for a rest.*

**Peter:** *Don't worry. I'm not surprised you're tired. I'm tired too. I'll tell you what, let's see if we can find a place to sit down, and then we can stop and have our picnic.*

**Reported speech (summary):**

*When Mary complained that she was tired out after walking so far, Peter said they could stop for a picnic.*

### Reporting verbs

When we want to report what people say, we use **reporting verbs**. Different reporting verbs have different patterns, for example:

*Mary **complained** (that) she was tired.*

(verb + *that* clause)

*She **asked** if they could stop for a rest.*

(verb + *if* clause)

*Peter **told** her not to worry.*

(verb + *to*-infinitive)

*He **suggested** stopping and having a picnic.*

(verb + *-ing* form)

See **reporting verbs with *that*, *wh-* and *if* clauses, verbs followed by the infinitive, verbs followed by the *-ing* form.**

## Tenses in reported speech

When reporting what people say or think in English, we need to remember that the rules for tense forms in reported speech are exactly **the same** as in the rest of the language.

This is a letter that Andrew wrote ten years ago:

*I **am** 22 years old and I **am** at university studying engineering. I **take** my final exams next month and I **will finish** university in July.*

*I **want** to take a year off and travel round the world. I **will need** to make some money while I am travelling, so I would like to learn to teach English as a second language so that I **can make** some money while I **am** abroad. A friend of mine **has recommended** your course very highly. She also **gave** me some details, but I **would like** to ask a few more questions.*

*What courses **do you have** in the summer and when **do they start**? How much **do the courses cost**? **Is there** an examination at the end?*

*I **look forward to** hearing from you.*

*Regards,*

*Andrew Brown*

If we wanted to report what Andrew said in his letter, we might say something like this:

*Andrew said that when he **was** 22, he was an engineering student in his last month at university. He **wanted** to travel abroad after he **had finished** his course at the university, but he **would need** to earn some money while he **was** abroad so he **wanted** to learn to teach English as a foreign language. A friend **had recommended** a course but Andrew **needed** more information, so he wrote to the school and asked them when their courses **started** and how much they **were**. He also **wanted** to know if there **was** an examination at the end of the course.*

We would naturally use **past tense** forms to talk about things which happened ten years ago. So, tenses in reports and summaries in English are the same as in the rest of the language.

**Sometimes we can choose** between a past tense form and a **present tense** form. If we're talking about the past but we mention **something that's still true**, we can use the present tense:

*John said he'd stayed at the Shangri-la because it's the best hotel in town.*

*Mary said she enjoyed the film because Robert de Niro **is** her favourite actor.*

*Helen said she **loves** visiting New York.*

or the past tense:

*John said he'd stayed at the Shangri-la because it **was** the best hotel in town.*

*Mary said she enjoyed the film because Robert de Niro **was** her favourite actor.*

*Helen said she **loved** visiting New York.*

If we're talking about something that **everybody knows is true**, we **normally use the present tense**:

*Michael said he'd always wanted to climb Everest because it's the highest mountain in the world.*

*Mary said she loved visiting New York because it's such an exciting city.*

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**Direct speech (exact words):**

**Mary:** *Oh dear. We've been walking for hours! I'm exhausted. I don't think I can go any further. I really need to stop for a rest.*

**Peter:** *Don't worry. I'm not surprised you're tired. I'm tired too. I'll tell you what, let's see if we can find a place to sit down, and then we can stop and have our picnic.*

**Reported speech (summary):**

*When Mary complained that she was tired out after walking so far, Peter said they could stop for a picnic.*

### Reporting verbs

When we want to report what people say, we use **reporting verbs**. Different reporting verbs have different patterns, for example:

*Mary **complained** (that) she was tired.*  
(verb + *that* clause)

*She **asked** if they could stop for a rest.*  
(verb + *if* clause)

*Peter **told** her not to worry.*  
(verb + *to*-infinitive)

*He **suggested** stopping and having a picnic.*  
(verb + *-ing* form)

See **reporting verbs with *that*, *wh*- and *if* clauses**, **verbs followed by the infinitive**, **verbs followed by the *-ing* form**.

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When reporting what people say or think in English, we need to remember that the rules for tense forms in reported speech are exactly **the same** as in the rest of the language.

This is a letter that Andrew wrote ten years ago:

*I **am** 22 years old and I **am** at university studying engineering. I **take** my final exams next month and I **will finish** university in July.*

*I **want** to take a year off and travel round the world. I **will need** to make some money while I am travelling, so I would like to learn to teach English as a second language so that I **can make** some money while I **am** abroad. A friend of mine **has recommended** your course very highly. She also **gave** me some details, but I **would like** to ask a few more questions.*

*What courses **do you have** in the summer and when **do they start**? How much **do the courses cost**? **Is there** an examination at the end?*

*I **look forward to** hearing from you.*

*Regards,*

*Andrew Brown*

If we wanted to report what Andrew said in his letter, we might say something like this:

*Andrew said that when he **was** 22, he was an engineering student in his last month at university. He **wanted** to travel abroad after he **had finished** his course at the university, but he **would need** to earn some money while he **was** abroad so he **wanted** to learn to teach English as a foreign language. A friend **had recommended** a course but Andrew **needed** more information, so he wrote to the school and asked them when their courses **started** and how much they **were**. He also **wanted** to know if there **was** an examination at the end of the course.*

We would naturally use **past tense** forms to talk about things which happened ten years ago. So, tenses in reports and summaries in English are the same as in the rest of the language.

**Sometimes we can choose** between a past tense form and a **present tense** form. If we're talking about the past but we mention **something that's still true**, we can use the present tense:

*John said he'd stayed at the Shangri-la because it's the best hotel in town.*

*Mary said she enjoyed the film because Robert de Niro **is** her favourite actor.*

*Helen said she **loves** visiting New York.*

or the past tense:

*John said he'd stayed at the Shangri-la because it **was** the best hotel in town.*

*Mary said she enjoyed the film because Robert de Niro **was** her favourite actor.*

*Helen said she **loved** visiting New York.*

If we're talking about something that **everybody knows is true**, we **normally use the present tense**:

*Michael said he'd always wanted to climb Everest because it's the highest mountain in the world.*

*Mary said she loved visiting New York because it's such an exciting city.*

## Intermediate Vocabulary

### SPORTS

We use either the verb **to play**, **to do** or **to go** to refer to sports.

E.g. He **plays** football. She **does** gymnastics. We **go** snowboarding every winter.

### PLAY + Sport

We use **to play** for the following sports:

**Football** - This name refers to different sports, depending on which country you are in. In the USA, **(American) football** is a very strategic game that is played with an oval-shaped ball. It is called **gridiron** in other parts of the world. In Australia, **football** refers to **Australian Rules Football**, which is a very fast paced game that is also played with an oval-shaped ball and the players use both their hands and their feet. In New Zealand, **football** may refer to the game of **rugby**, which involves an oval-shaped ball and fifteen players on each team. In the rest of the world, **football** usually refers to what we call **soccer** in Australia, New Zealand and the USA. See our page with [vocabulary about Football / Soccer](#).

**Netball** - is a fast and skillful game that is played on a court that is divided into sections. It is played with a round ball that is approximately the same size as a soccer ball. The aim is to get as many goals as possible by 'shooting' the ball through the ring. A netball ring is similar to a basketball ring, but it does not have a backboard.

**Cricket** - is played on a grass oval with a pitch in the centre. It is played with a small, hard ball, a wooden bat and wickets. The aim is to get more 'runs' than the other team. The game is divided into 'innings'. In the first innings, one team bats and the other team bowls, and then they change sides for the next innings. The batting team has two batsmen on the field and as they go 'out', other batsmen from their team take their place. The fielding team has a bowler, a wicket-keeper and fieldsman who try to prevent the batsmen from making runs and who try to get the batsmen out. Cricket is the national sport of Australia and is the most popular sport during the summer. One of the most famous Australians - Sir Donald Bradman - was a cricketer and regarded as the best cricketer ever. They are the current world champions in both test match cricket (five day match) and one-day cricket. Cricket is very popular in other Commonwealth countries like England, South Africa, India and New Zealand.

**Baseball** - is played on a 'diamond' with four bases - first, second, third and home. It is played with a rounded bat and a small, hard ball. The fielding team wear a special padded glove with which to catch the ball. The aim is to get as many home runs as possible by running around the diamond without getting 'out'.

**Basketball** - is a very dynamic game where the players are often very tall and can jump very high! They use a round, bouncy ball and the aim is to get as many points as possible by putting the ball through the ring. You get a different number of points depending on how you get the ball through the ring.

### DO + Sport

We use **to do** for the following sports:

**Gymnastics** - requires enormous strength and flexibility. Gymnasts may perform exercises or routines of exercises on a slightly padded floor or on many other pieces of equipment, such as the vault, beam, high bar, uneven bars, parallel bars, rings and pommel horse.

**Martial arts** - There are many martial art forms that you can learn, such as Karate, Kung Fu, Tai Chi, Judo, Kendo, Capoeira, Tae Kwon Do, Jujitsu, Aikido and many others. Martial arts usually have a very long and rich history and some also have spiritual or religious significance. They require a lot of discipline and practice to master them.

## GO + Sport

We use **to go** for the following sports:

**Swimming** - There are many different swimming strokes that you can use to move your body through the water - freestyle (also called the front crawl), dolphin crawl, breaststroke, butterfly, backstroke, sidestroke and dog-paddle. When you swim, you can wear bathers (also called a swimsuit, swimmers or togs) or you can wear a wetsuit if you are going surfing or scuba-diving. You can also use equipment to swim, such as fins (also called flippers), a snorkel or an oxygen tank if you are going to stay underwater for a long time.

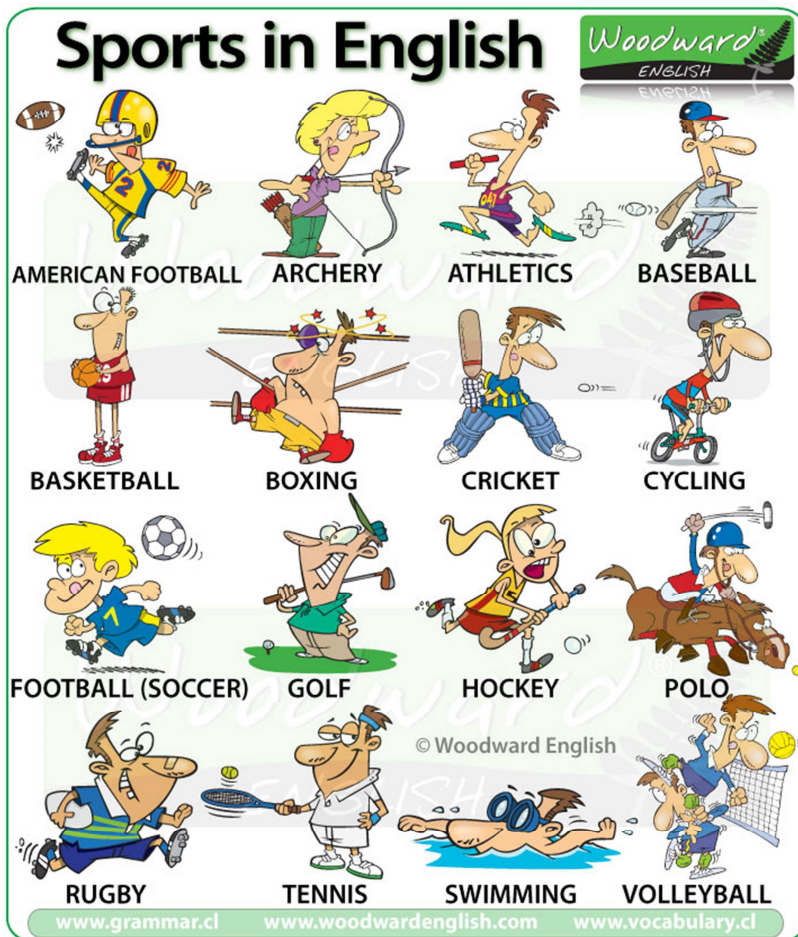
**Snowboarding and snow-skiing** - Many people love winter because they can go snowboarding and skiing at the snow. In these sports, people attach skis or a snowboard to their feet and glide across the surface of the snow. There are many different types of skiing, including downhill skiing and cross-country skiing. Both skiers and snowboarders can also learn freestyle skiing or snowboarding, where they use jumps to perform acrobatic-style tricks.

**Hang-gliding** - This sport is for people who wish they could fly! In hang-gliding, people hold onto and 'hang' from a set of manmade wings. The hang-glider then runs along the ground and jumps off the edge of a cliff and the wings, like a kite, fly on the wind and carry the person along in the air. Without a motor, the glider cannot stay in the air for very long, but he or she can keep the hang-glider flying for as long as possible before directing it safely to the ground.

**Skydiving and parachuting** - Many people love the excitement of jumping out of a plane and either free-falling for a time before opening their parachute (skydiving) or opening their parachute immediately after jumping so that they float more leisurely to the ground (parachuting). These sports are usually done in the open country where there is a lot of space for people to land safely.

**Horse-riding** - You can ride a horse through countryside or along the beach to enjoy the scenery. You can ride your horse at a walk, trot, canter or gallop. You can enter dressage and show-jumping competitions where you display your horse-riding skills. The style of riding at these events is very disciplined and requires a lot of skilled communication with the horse.





## A list of sports in English

- American football
- Australian rules
- archery
- artistic gymnastics
- athletics (track and field)
- badminton
- baseball
- basketball
- bowling
- boxing
- cricket
- cycling
- diving
- fencing
- football (soccer)
- golf
- handball
- hockey
- horse riding
- ice hockey
- judo
- karate
- kayaking
- lacrosse
- netball
- polo
- rhythmic gymnastics
- rowing
- rugby (union)
- rugby league
- running

- sailing
- softball
- squash
- surfing
- swimming
- table tennis
- taekwondo
- tennis
- volleyball
- waterpolo
- weightlifting
- wrestling

### STREET VS. ROAD

In your town or city you may wonder why some streets are called **streets** and others are called **roads**. Historically there was a difference between a **street** and a **road** which is still relevant today.

## What is a *street*?

**Street** = a paved public road that only appears in a city or town, not in rural areas.

Usually there are shops/stores or houses along both sides of a street which facilitates public interaction.

Example sentences with *Street*:

- The opened a store on Main **Street**.
- It was 6pm and the **streets** were busy with people going home from work.
- Make sure you look both ways when you cross the **street**.
- After the guilty verdict, there were riots on the **streets**.

## What is a *road*?

**Road** = a route or way on land between two places that has been paved to allow travel by transport.

According to the OECD, a road is "a path (travelled way) using a stabilized base other than rails or air strips open to public traffic, primarily for the use of road motor vehicles running on their own wheels,"

Traditionally a **road** was a way to travel between two points, usually other towns or distant places. Over time, a **road** that once connected two towns or villages that were close to each other is still called a **road** even though now those two towns or villages became part of the same larger city. That is why **roads** are normally long and important routes in a city.

Example sentences with *Road*:

- Unfortunately there are many potholes on the **road**.
- The farm is two miles south of the main **road**.
- Two **roads** diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference. (extract from *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost).


## The difference between *Street* and *Road*

Nowadays you may hear people informally use the word **road** as a synonym of **street**. This is fine and people will understand what you are talking about if you use either of the words.


A **street** however normally has shops/stores or houses along both sides of it which facilitates public interaction. A road may also have buildings on either side though its main function is as a transportation route, a way of getting from one place to another, especially between towns. Outside of the city they are called roads.

**Road** can also be used to talk about the actual construction (materials) of a road or street. When a street (or road) is being repaired, it is called **road works**, not *street works*.

- Make sure you look both ways when you cross the **street**. (Here you could also use **road** instead of **street**)
- Look at all of those potholes on the **road**.
- I think I will be late to work because of all the **road** works on the way.




## Street vs. Road



<b>Road</b>	A route on land between two places that has been paved to allow travel by transport.
<b>Street</b>	A public road in a city or town, typically with houses or buildings on one or both sides.

Nowadays you may hear people informally use the word *road* as a synonym of *street*. A street however has shops/stores or houses along both sides of it which facilitates public interaction. A road may also have buildings on either side though its main function is as a transportation route, a way of getting from one place (or town/city) to another.

The word *road* can also be used to talk about the actual construction (materials) of a road or street. When a street (or road) is being repaired, it is called **road work (US)** or **roadworks (Brit)**, not "street works".



[www.grammar.cl](http://www.grammar.cl) [www.woodwardenglish.com](http://www.woodwardenglish.com) [www.vocabulary.cl](http://www.vocabulary.cl)

## What is an *avenue*?

**Avenue** = a straight street (or road) with trees planted along both sides. Avenues are typically wider than streets, sometimes having more lanes and therefore more traffic.

In some cities in the US that are based on a grid system, streets and avenues are the same with the difference that streets run from west to east while avenues run north to south. Note that in other US cities this may be reversed and the streets go north to south and the avenues from west to east. Thus in city centers (downtown), you will almost never find two avenues that intersect.

Example sentences with *Avenue*:

- It's on the corner of Patriot Street and Sixth **Avenue**.
- The main **avenue** that runs through Santiago changes its name four times.
- The spent the afternoon strolling along the tree-lined **avenue**.
- The widest **avenue** in the world is in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## Alleys, Boulevards, Lanes, and more

An **alley** is a narrow passageway between or behind buildings. Often there is only enough space for a one vehicle in an alley or for none at all (just for pedestrians).

A **boulevard** is a wide tree-lined street, similar to an avenue though with a grass median strip (with trees and/or grass).

A **court** is a short street that ends in a cul-de-sac.

A **cul-de-sac** is a street that is closed at one end. Sometimes the end of the street has a large round paved area (from above it has the shape of an old light bulb) making it easier for vehicles to turn around and go back out.

A **highway** is a major public road, usually connecting towns and cities. In some countries UK, NZ etc, the word **motorway** is used instead of **highway**.

A **lane** is a short narrow street usually without a sidewalk/footpath.

A **path** is not normally paved and is dedicated to pedestrians, not vehicles.

A **pedestrian street** is a street that has been closed to road vehicles. They are paved and you can only walk along them.

## Giving Directions

When giving directions, sometimes people leave out the *Street* part of a street name. For example:

- Go along Churchill (Street) and once you get to Piccadilly (Street), turn right.

### THANKSGIVING DAY



Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in United States and the second Monday of October in Canada.

This celebration is to give thanks for all the good things in life.

## The first Thanksgiving Day

In 1620, 102 people sailed from England to North America on a small ship called the Mayflower.

These **pilgrims**, as they have come to be known, set up a colony at Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts. The first winter for the newly-arrived families was very hard as it was difficult to find food and shelter from the cold. Only half of the pilgrims survived. However, when spring arrived, the settlers were taught by the local *Wampanoag* (Native American) tribe how to cultivate corn, catch fish in the rivers and which poisonous plants to avoid.

After their first corn harvest in 1621, the pilgrims invited their Native American friends to a celebratory banquet as a way of showing gratitude for their help. The festival lasted three days and is considered the first Thanksgiving celebration (though it wasn't called that at the

time). This celebration then became an annual event after harvest and spread to other settlements in the area.

## Thanksgiving Day in later years

In 1789, George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation and called upon Americans to express their gratitude for the conclusion to the country's war of independence. In 1817, New York became the first state to officially adopt Thanksgiving as an annual holiday. In 1941 a bill was passed making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November.

## Thanksgiving Day Traditions

The following is a list of common Thanksgiving Day traditions in United States.

### Family reunion

One of the most important traditions of Thanksgiving day is getting together with the family and having the Thanksgiving meal. More people travel for this day than any other day of the year.

### Thanksgiving Meal

No Thanksgiving is complete without having **turkey** on the dinner table. This is accompanied by cranberry sauce, stuffing, pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes and vegetables.

### Parades

There are parades held throughout the country though the most well-known one is the Macy's Parade in New York which lasts around three hours. At the end of the parade Santa Claus appears which announces the start of the Christmas period.

### American Football

A popular tradition is to watch a game of NFL Football on TV.

## Thanksgiving Day Vocabulary

Here is a list of common things (vocabulary) associated with Thanksgiving Day and the meaning of it (or what it is):

- **beans:** edible seeds, typically kidney-shaped, that grow in long pods.
- **colony:** an area occupied by settlers from another country
- **corn:** a North American cereal plant with rows of large yellow kernels on a cob. The local *Wampanoag* (Native American) tribe showed the pilgrims how to cultivate corn which helped them survive in the New World.
- **cornucopia:** This is a symbol of abundance and nourishment, commonly a large horn overflowing with produce, flowers or nuts.
- **cranberry:** a small, red berry. Typically made into a sauce for Thanksgiving.
- **dessert:** a sweet course eaten at the end of a meal.
- **dinner:** the main meal of the day.
- **fall:** (also known as **autumn**) the season that is between summer and winter. Typically leaves fall from the trees during this season.
- **family:** a group consisting of parents and children.
- **feast:** a large meal, typically one in celebration of something.
- **football:** a form of team game played in United States with an oval ball on a field. There are typically games of football on Thanksgiving Day.
- **gratitude:** the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for an act of kindness.
- **gravy:** the fat and juices exuding from meat during cooking. This is used to cover the meat and vegetables on the plate as a part of the meal. It is normally brown in color.
- **harvest:** a process or period of gathering or picking crops once they have grown enough to be used later.



- **mashed potatoes:** a dish of potatoes that have been boiled and mashed into they are smooth.
- **Mayflower:** The ship that transported the first Pilgrims from Plymouth in England to the New World in 1620.
- **Native Americans:** a member of any of the indigenous peoples of the Americas.
- **November:** The 11th month of the year. Thanksgiving is in November in United States
- **parade:** a public procession that usually celebrates a special day or event.
- **pie:** a baked dish of fruit, meat or vegetables, typically with a base (and top) of pastry. Pumpkin pie is typical of Thanksgiving.
- **pilgrim:** a person who goes on a journey for religious reasons.
- **pumpkin:** a large rounded orange-yellow fruit with a thick rind, edible flesh, and many seeds.
- **relatives:** a person connected by blood or marriage. Relatives sometimes get together for Thanksgiving.
- **settler:** a person who decides to live in an area, one that typically has no or few previous inhabitants.
- **share:** (verb) to have a portion of something with others.
- **stuffing:** a mixture of bread, onions and herbs used to stuff (or fill) turkey, chicken or other meat before cooking.
- **thankful:** expressing gratitude and relief; gives thanks for something.
- **Thursday:** The day of the week between Wednesday and Friday. Thanksgiving day is always celebrated on a Thursday.
- **tradition:** the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation.
- **turkey:** a large bird that is native to North America. It is a typical food of Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations.

### UNIVERSE AND SPACE EXPLORATION

An **orbit** is the path an object in space takes while it moves. Generally objects in space such as planets and comets take elliptical **orbits** around larger objects, such as a star.

An **asteroid** is a combination of rocks and iron that is too small to form a planet. There are many **asteroids** that orbit the sun between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars.

A **comet** is a small body of gas and ice orbiting around the solar system. We can see the tail of the **comet** because it is the sun heating and melting the ice. The most famous **comet** is Halley's Comet which is visible from Earth every 75-76 years. The last time it appears was in 1986 and will next appear in 2061.

A **star** is made up of clouds of gas and dust. Many people love to go outside at night and count the **stars**, but there are so many that it is impossible for one person to count them all.

A **constellation** is a group of bright stars that form shapes or 'pictures' in the sky. **The Southern Cross** is a constellation in the Southern hemisphere that points towards the South Pole. **The Big Dipper** is a constellation in the Northern hemisphere that is in the shape of a ladle or a large spoon.

The **sun** is the star in the middle of our solar system. The eight **planets** in our solar system all orbit around the sun. The closest planet to the sun is **Mercury** and then comes **Venus**. The planet that we live on is called **Earth**. It is the third closest planet to the sun in our solar system. **Mars** is the fourth planet from the sun. It is a small red planet, named after the roman god of war. **Jupiter** is the largest of all the planets in the solar system. The next planet is **Saturn** which has thin rings around it. **Uranus** and **Neptune** are the next two planets after Saturn. **Pluto** used to be considered a planet, but now is called a dwarf planet because it is so small. Its orbit is further away from the sun than any of the other planets.

A **solar eclipse** is when the moon's orbit comes between the earth and the sun and it looks like the sun is blacked out. We can only see the edge of the sun around the moon. A **lunar eclipse** is when the earth prevents sunlight from reaching the moon.

Because the **moon** orbits the Earth and the Earth orbits the sun we can only see parts of the **moon** at a time. This cycle happens every month. A **new moon** is when we can not see any of it. This shows the beginning of the cycle. Half way through the month we can see the **full moon**. A full moon makes the sky bright at night because it reflects the light of the sun.

The **galaxy** we live in is called **the Milky Way**. It is made up of billions of stars.

A **telescope** is an instrument which has reflective lenses that allows us to see the objects in the sky closer and clearer. It magnifies objects that normally cannot be seen unaided. Some **telescopes** are very powerful and can be used to see thousands of light years away. There are many large powerful telescopes in the north of Chile.

An **astronaut** is a person who leaves Earth and goes into space. Many of them work in the international space station and do scientific experiments. Astronauts need to wear **space suits** because it is very cold in space and they do not have oxygen to breath.

A **spacecraft** is any type of vehicle used for travelling in space. There are many different types of spacecrafts. A **space shuttle** is a spacecraft used for repeated use in between earth and a space station and contains astronauts.

A **rocket** is the type of plane that astronauts used to use to fly into space. Now they are used to leave **satellites** in orbit around the Earth. It has a special cylindrical shape so that it can go very fast for a long distance.

A **space probe** is a type of space craft that does not have a person inside. **Space probes** can be sent to far away distances for long periods of time to gather information about different areas in space.

A **lunar module** is a small craft used for travelling between the moon and the larger space craft orbiting the moon. When the first men walked on the moon they came out of the lunar module. The first man to walk on the moon said "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Many people have said that they have seen **unidentified flying objects**, or UFOs but it is unclear what these objects are and who or what is inside of them. Some people believe they contain aliens.

### **UNITED KINGDOM VS. GREAT BRITAIN**

What is the difference between United Kingdom, Great Britain and the British Isles?

This is a common doubt some people have, especially if you are not from that part of the world.

Here is a simple explanation:

## **Great Britain**

Great Britain refers to the island that consists of **England, Scotland and Wales**. It is the largest island in Europe and the 9th largest in the world. In general, you can think of **Great Britain** as just the main island, though politically it includes nearby islands such as the *Isle of Wight*, the *Orkney Islands*, and the *Shetland Islands*. Note: It doesn't include the *Isle of Man* or the channel islands (*Guernsey* and *Jersey*).

## **United Kingdom**

United Kingdom, commonly referred to as the UK, consists of **England**, **Scotland** and **Wales** (Britain) as well as **Northern Ireland**. Officially it is called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

## Ireland

Ireland is an island that contains the **Republic of Ireland** and **Northern Ireland**. The island is to the west of Great Britain. You will notice that Northern Ireland is considered both a part of Ireland (the island, not the state) as well as a part of the United Kingdom.

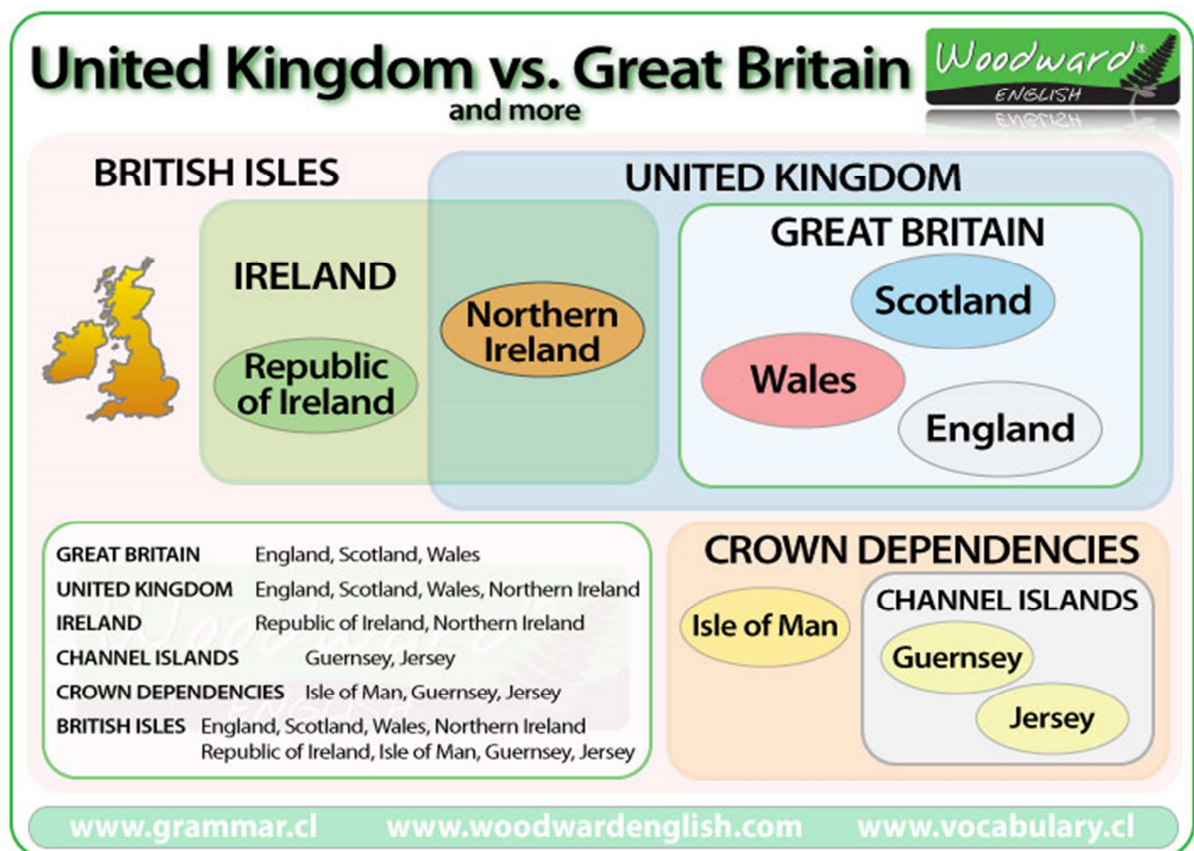
## Crown Dependencies

These are three self-governing possessions of the Crown which include the **Isle of Man** (between Britain and Ireland) **Guernsey** and **Jersey** (off the coast of France). Being independently administered jurisdictions, they are not considered a part of the United Kingdom.

## British Isles

This is the group of islands north-west of continental Europe and consists of **Great Britain** (England, Scotland and Wales), **Ireland** (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) as the **Crown dependencies** (Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey)

## Summary Chart





## VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is celebrated on **February 14th** every year. However, it is celebrated in different ways by different people. For **single people** - those people without a boyfriend, girlfriend or partner - Valentine's day is often seen as an opportunity to ask or invite someone special for a **date**. It could be a special girl or boy, woman or man, that you have been interested in. They sometimes approach the other person and ask; 'Will you be my Valentine?' or may even just send a **card** saying the same thing.

## Things you can do on Valentine's Day

Many people go on special dates for Valentine's Day. The **date** could be a **romantic**, like a **candlelit dinner** (with candles instead of electric light), where maybe you will cook the meal or it could be a visit to a nice **restaurant** instead.

Some people **have a picnic**, where you take food and drink and a **picnic blanket**, and eat outdoors.

Other popular places for a first date include the cinema, walking in the park, looking at the stars together, and maybe even a breakfast meal!

You could choose to ask your date to do something exciting, something interesting, or just something special with you.

Even for **couples** (people who are **going out with** or **married** to someone) which have been together for six months, or sixty years, often make a point of going out together to do something special on Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day should involve some **romance**. Romance is something that happens in the process of **courtship**, which is a old-fashioned way of describing what a man or woman does in order to impress or make another person **fall in love** with them.

## Typical Valentine Gifts

**Boyfriends** and **Girlfriends** often give a **Valentine's Day card** to each other, writing a poem or special note to show their appreciation.

Common **gifts** or **presents** that are given include **stuffed animals (teddy-bears)** with cute slogans and love-hearts on them. A **love-heart** is the red symbol of a heart. Sometimes you will see **cupid** on cards too. This is a little angel that looks like a very young boy that makes people fall in love by shooting them with his arrows.

**Roses** are given by hundreds of thousands of people on Valentine's Day. Roses may be sent in secret - with a card from the '**Secret Admirer**', that is, the person who **admires** (likes) the recipient, but doesn't want to say who they are.

You will find that some people buy a **box of chocolates** for their loved one.

If the person is lucky, they may even receive a **ring** which could lead the giver to **proposing marriage** to the person they love.

## Valentine's Day Origins

There are a number of beliefs about the origins of Valentines Day. It seems to relate to some Roman **traditions** and some catholic traditions. There is a story that it originated to celebrate the life of a priest who is now a saint, who married people in secret, when young men were banned from getting married. Apparently the priest fell in love while he was in jail, and he wrote her a Valentines Day letter, telling her of his love.

There are also the belief that Valentine's Day was originally a **pagan celebration** of fertility.

The oldest known valentine poem was written by the Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was in jail in 1415.

Whatever the case, and whatever your current situation, you can enjoy being a Valentine, in any romantic way you choose!

## Valentine's Day Vocabulary

**admirer** (noun): Someone who has a particular regard for someone or something; a person who is attracted to another person.

- Roxanne already knows that Andrew is her secret admirer.

**arrow** (noun): A thin stick with a sharp point at one end and feathers at the other to help guide it when shot from a bow. Cupid shoots arrows at people to make them fall in love.

- I think Marion has just been struck by one of cupid's arrows.

**balloon** (noun): A colored rubber sack inflated with helium (or air) and used as decoration.

- The kids enjoyed trying to keep the balloons floating in the air without them touching the ground.

**bouquet** (noun): An attractively arranged bunch of flowers generally held together by a ribbon and given as a gift.

- Robert gave his wife a beautiful bouquet of roses for her birthday.

**card** (noun): A piece of thick paper or thin cardboard with a message which is sent for greetings or invitations.

- Margarita received a Valentine's card from a secret admirer.

**chocolate** (noun): a (sweet) brown food made from ground cacao seeds.

- I absolutely LOVE getting a bar of chocolate as a present.

**couple** (noun): two people who are married, engaged or closely associated in a relationship.

- Jack and Jill make a lovely couple.

**Cupid** (noun): A mythological child with wings that uses a bow and arrow to make people fall in love.

- A person, or even a deity, who is shot by Cupid's arrow is filled with uncontrollable desire.

**date** (noun): a romantic meeting (or activity) between two people.

- Every Friday they go on a date to keep the magic alive in their relationship.

**dinner** (noun): The main meal of the day, generally eaten in the evening.

- They had dinner at their favorite restaurant to celebrate their anniversary.

**engaged** (adjective): have agreed to marry each other at a future date.

- They have been engaged for three years and will finally get married next month.

**February** (noun): The second month of the year. (Remember to write the months of the year with a capital letter)

- Valentine's Day is in February.

**feeling** (noun): An emotional state or reaction

- He confessed his true feelings for her.

**flower** (noun): The often brightly colored part of a plant from which the seed or fruit develops.

- He picked a flower from the garden to give to his wife.

**fourteenth** (adjective): The ordinal number: 14th

- Valentine's day is on the fourteenth of February.

**friend** (noun): A person you know and have a bond of mutual affection (excluding family members or partners).

- She spends every afternoon after school playing with her friends in the park.

**friendship** (noun): a relationship between friends; the state of being friends.

- I really value our friendship.
- Our friendship is important to me.

**gift** (noun): A thing given willingly to someone without payment. Another word for gift is **present**.

- I gave my neighbor a gift as a way of saying thank you for her help yesterday.

**happy** (adjective): The feeling of pleasure or contentment.

- I know she is happy because she has a huge smile on her face.

**heart** (noun): The organ that pumps blood through the body. It is normally associated with love.

- Steve bought his partner a giant balloon in the shape of a heart.

**hug** (noun): Squeeze someone between your arms, typically to express affection.

- She hadn't seen her son in a long time and gave him a big hug.

**kiss** (noun): To touch your lips against something (generally other lips) as a sign of affection or greeting.

- The mother kissed her baby on the forehead.

**love** (noun/verb): an intense feeling of deep affection

- You can tell that a person loves you by the way they treat you.

**poem** (noun): a piece of creative writing in verse which is often rhythmical.

- He wrote a beautiful poem expressing his feelings for his partner.

**restaurant** (noun): a place where people pay to sit and eat meals that are prepared there.

- Most restaurants are full on Valentine's Day so make a reservation in advance.

**ribbon** (noun): a long, narrow strip of fabric, usually used for tying or decorating something.

- The gift had a red ribbon around it.

**ring** (noun): a small circular band worn on the finger, typically made of a metal and that sometimes contains precious stones.

- He bought a beautiful engagement ring and was going to propose to his girlfriend that night.

**romance** (noun): a feeling of excitement and mystery associated with love.

- No matter how long you have been together, romance is always important in a relationship.

**romantic** (adjective): conducive to or characterized by the expression of love.

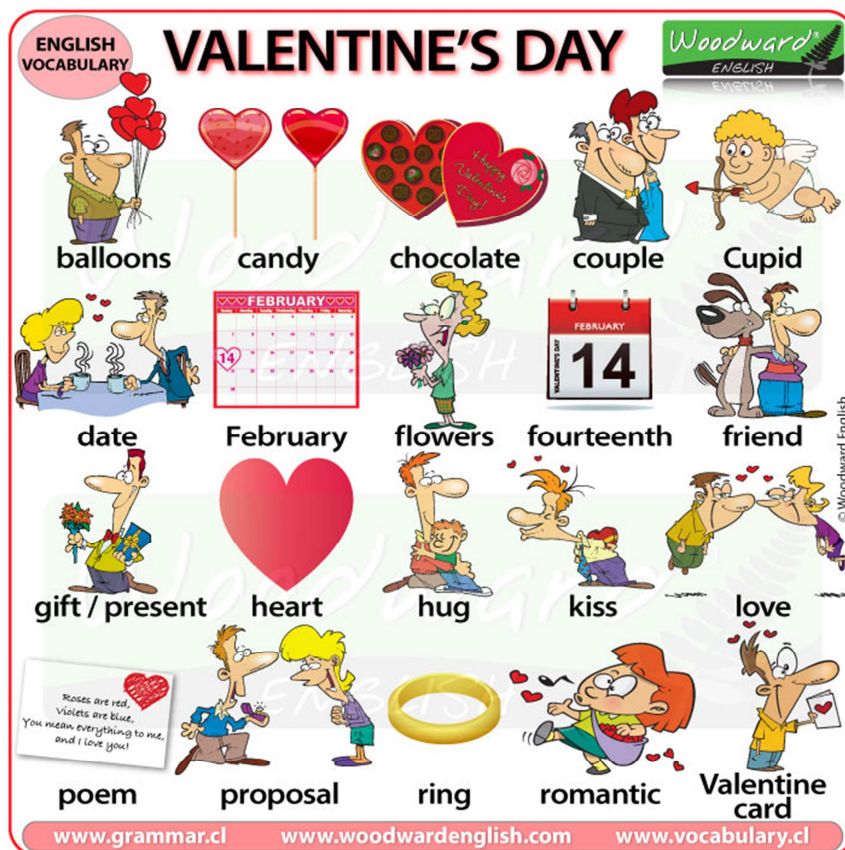
- They had a romantic candlelit dinner.

**rose** (noun): a sweet-smelling flower that grows on a bush and usually has thorns. The most common rose is red though they come in a variety of colors.

- Our secretary received a bunch of roses for Valentine's Day.

**secret** (noun/adjective): not meant to be known or seen by others.

- She has a secret but won't tell me what it is.



# Other English expressions about Valentine's Day

**to fall in love** (verb): To be very attracted to someone and begin to love them.

**love at first sight**: The instant and extreme romantic attraction for a stranger the first time you see them.

**I love you**: A phrase used to express to another person the maximum level of love you feel for them

## WEATHER

# The Weather in English

In English, we usually use **it is** when we talk about the weather.  
This is normally: **It is + adjective** OR **It is + verb-ing**

**It is + adjective** = A description of the weather

- **It is** sunny today.
- **It's** hot and humid today.
- **It's** a nice day today.

We can also say:

**It is a + adjective + day** (or morning/afternoon/night)

- **It's** a fine day.
- **It's** a windy afternoon.

**It is + verb-ing** = This type of weather is happening now.

- It's drizzling outside.
- It's snowing.
- Take an umbrella, it's raining.

You can also use **it is** in different tenses

- **It was** cold yesterday.
- **It will be** cloudy tomorrow.

When you are learning vocabulary about the weather, it is important to remember that some of the words have a noun form, a verb form and/or an adjective form. For example:

- Rain: (noun) The game was cancelled because of the **rain**.
- Rain: (verb) I think it is going to **rain** later.
- Rainy: (adjective) It's a **rainy** day.

It pays to learn the different forms of each word and when they are used.

## Nouns and Adjectives

Many times when we are talking about the weather, we can add the letter Y to the end of a noun to make it an adjective.

- rain (noun) - rainy (adjective)
- sun (noun) - sunny (adjective)
- wind (noun) - windy (adjective)
- cloud (noun) - cloudy (adjective)

- fog (noun) - foggy (adjective)


## Questions about the weather







People commonly ask about the weather by saying:

- What's it like out(side)?
- How's the weather?
- What's the weather like?
- What's the temperature?
- What's the weather forecast?
- What's the forecast for tomorrow?

# The Weather

## English Vocabulary



	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block;"><b>RAIN</b></div> <p><b>drizzle</b> <b>showers</b> <b>rain</b> <b>downpour</b> <b>flood</b></p>		<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block;"><b>CLOUDS</b></div> <p><b>cloudy</b> <b>gloomy</b> <b>foggy</b> <b>overcast</b> <b>clear</b></p>
	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block;"><b>COLD</b></div> <p><b>hail</b> <b>sleet</b> <b>snow</b> <b>snowflake</b> <b>blizzard</b></p>		<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block;"><b>WIND</b></div> <p><b>breeze</b> <b>blustery</b> <b>windy</b> <b>gale</b> <b>hurricane</b></p>
	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block;"><b>TEMPERATURE</b></div> <p><b>hot</b> <b>warm</b> <b>cool</b> <b>cold</b> <b>freezing</b></p>		<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block;"><b>OTHER VOCAB</b></div> <p><b>forecast</b> <b>drought</b> <b>lightning</b> <b>thunder</b> <b>rainbow</b></p>

[www.grammar.cl](http://www.grammar.cl)
[www.woodwardenglish.com](http://www.woodwardenglish.com)
[www.vocabulary.cl](http://www.vocabulary.cl)

## Vocabulary about the weather in English

We have divided this vocabulary into different categories to make it easier. We have:  
Clear or Cloudy – Types of Rain – Cold stuff – Types of Wind – Mixed Vocabulary

### Clear or Cloudy

**Bright:** (adjective) full of light; when the sun is shining strongly

**Sunny:** (adjective) the sun is shining and there are no clouds

**Clear:** (adjective) without clouds

**Fine:** (adjective) not raining, clear sky

**Partially cloudy:** (adjective) when there is a mixture of both blue sky and clouds

**Cloudy:** (adjective) with many clouds in the sky

**Overcast:** (adjective) covered with cloud; dull

**Gloomy:** (adjective) with dark clouds and dull light; some people consider this weather depressing

Sometimes the cloud lowers to ground level and it becomes harder to see...

**Fog** (noun)/ **foggy** (adjective): thick cloud close to land

**Mist** (noun) / **misty** (adjective): light fog, often on the sea or caused by drizzle

**Haze** (noun) / **hazy** (adjective): light mist, usually caused by heat

## Types of Rain

**Damp:** (adjective) slightly wet (often after the rain has stopped)

**Drizzle:** (verb/noun) to rain lightly with very fine drops

**Shower:** (noun) a short period of rain

**Rain:** (verb/noun) water that falls from the clouds in drops

**Downpour:** (noun) heavy rain

**Pour:** (verb) to have heavy rain

**It's raining cats and dogs:** (Idiom) To rain heavily

**Torrential rain:** (noun) very heavy rain

**Flood:** (verb/noun) to become covered in water usually due to excessive rain

## Cold stuff

**Blizzard:** (noun) severe snowstorm with strong winds

**Frost:** (noun) a layer of small ice crystals that forms on the ground or other surfaces when the temperature is cold

**Hail:** (verb) when frozen rain falls as small balls of ice (hailstones).

**Hailstones:** (noun) the small hard balls of ice that fall from the sky

**Snow:** (noun/verb) frozen rain that falls from the sky as soft snowflakes

**Snowflake:** (noun) an individual piece of snow

**Sleet:** (noun/verb) snow or hail mixed with rain (often with some wind)

## Types of Wind

**Breeze:** a gentle wind (often nice or refreshing)

**Blustery:** blowing (strong) gusts of wind

**Windy:** continual wind.

**Gale:** a very strong wind

**Hurricane/cyclone/typhoon:** a spiral arrangement of thunderstorms that produce winds and heavy rain.

**What's the difference between a hurricane, a typhoon and a cyclone?**

They are the same thing just with different names because of the region they are in.

Atlantic/Northeast Pacific = a **hurricane**

Northwest Pacific = a **typhoon**

Southern Hemisphere = a **cyclone**

**Tornado:** (noun) strong violent circular winds in a small area; a rapidly revolving column of air

In United States the word **twister** is often used instead of **tornado**.

## The Temperature in English

We have created an entire page about [the temperature in English](#) including the different ways of saying how hot or cold it is.

## More vocabulary about the weather

**Drought:** (noun) Long periods of time without rain causing a lack of water in the area



- A lot of the crops dried up because of the **drought**.

**Forecast:** (noun) A prediction of how the weather will be on a certain day

- The **forecast** says it's going to rain tomorrow.

**Lightning:** (noun) A flash of light in the sky during a storm.

- **Lightning** lit the sky many times that night.

**Puddle:** (noun) a small pool of water on the ground, usually after rain.

- The kids jumped in the **puddles** on the way home from school.

**Rainbow:** (noun) an arch of colors in the sky formed when the sun shines through rain

- I took a photo of a beautiful **rainbow** that was just above the lake.

**Smog:** (noun) a cloud of pollution hanging over a city (a fog of smoke)

- The view of the city wasn't very good because it was covered in thick **smog**.

**Storm:** (noun) a combination of strong winds and rain, often with thunder and lightning, and in some occasions snow.

- It is too dangerous to go fishing because of the **storm**.

**Sunshine:** (noun) the light and heat of the sun

- I could feel the warm **sunshine** on my back.

**Thunder:** (noun/verb) the rumbling sound in the clouds that happens after lightning

- The cat hid under the bed because it was scared by the **thunder**.

## Sentences using weather vocabulary

- It is usually **chilly** and **damp** in autumn, sometimes with **rain** or **drizzle**.
- I'm so glad there is a **breeze** right now otherwise it would be very hot.
- It is so **humid** that I've had to change my shirt twice already.
- It's a **blustery** day; make sure your umbrella doesn't blow away.
- Take a sweatshirt because it's a little **chilly** outside.
- Those large **hailstones** left dents in my car.
- There has been a **gale** warning so it's not safe to go out fishing on our boat.
- There was a **drought** in our province last summer. It didn't rain for three months.
- We won't be able to see the solar eclipse because it's **overcast**.

## Questions using weather vocabulary

- What's the weather like in Buenos Aires in January?
- How's the weather in Moscow in winter?
- It's pretty hot. What's the temperature?
- Is it raining outside?
- What's the forecast for tomorrow?



