Djilali BOUNAAMA –Khemis Miliana University

Second Semester Grammar Module courses

Second year Bachelor (L2)

Groups: All

Teacher in Charge: Mr. A. ALILI

University year: 2019-2020

Content:

1- Adjectives – gradable and non-gradable

Do you know how to use adjectives in phrases like *a bit cold*, *really cold* and *absolutely freezing*?

Look at these examples to see how gradable and non-gradable adjectives are used.

It's really cold.
It's absolutely freezing.
This exercise is really difficult.
This exercise is completely impossible.

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Grammar explanation

Gradable adjectives

Most adjectives are gradable. This means we can have different levels of that quality. For example, you can be *a bit cold*, *very cold* or *extremely cold.* We can make them weaker or stronger with modifiers:

She was quite angry when she found out.
The film we saw last night was really funny!
It can be extremely cold in Russia in the winter.

Here is a list of some common gradable adjectives and some modifiers that we can use with them.

Modifiers	*a little/a bit* →	*pretty/quite* →	*really/very* →	*extremely*
Adjectives	*angry*, *big*, *boring*, *cheap, cold*, *expensive*, *frightening, funny*, *hot*, *interesting*, *old*, *pretty*, *small*, *tasty*, *tired*, etc.			

Non-gradable: absolute adjectives

Some adjectives are non-gradable. For example, something can't be *a bit finished* or *very finished*. You can't be *a bit dead* or *very dead*. These adjectives describe absolute qualities. To make them stronger we have to use modifiers like *absolutely*, *totally* or *completely*:

Thank you, I love it! It's absolutely perfect!
Their farm was totally destroyed by a tornado.
My work is completely finished. Now I can relax.

Here is a list of some common absolute adjectives and some modifiers that we can use with them.

Modifiers	*absolutely/totally/completely*
Adjectives	*acceptable*, *dead*, *destroyed*, *finished*, *free*, *impossible*, *necessary*, *perfect*, *ruined*, *unacceptable*, etc.

Non-gradable: extreme adjectives

Adjectives like *amazing*, *awful* and *boiling* are also non-gradable. They already contain the idea of 'very' in their definitions. If we want to make extreme adjectives stronger, we have to use *absolutely* or *really*:

Did you see the final match? It was absolutely amazing!
After 32 hours of travelling, they were absolutely exhausted.
My trip home was really awful. First, traffic was really bad, then the car broke down and we had to walk home in the rain.

Here is a list of some common extreme adjectives and some modifiers that we can use with them.

Modifiers	*absolutely/really*
Adjectives	*amazing, ancient*, *awful*, *boiling*, *delicious*, *enormous, excellent*, *exhausted*, *fascinating*, *freezing*, *gorgeous*, *terrible*, *terrifying* , *tiny*.

2- 'use of wish' and 'if only'

Do you know how to use *wish* and *if only* to talk about things you would like to change?

Look at these examples to see how *wish* and *if only* are used.

That guy is so annoying! I wish he'd stop talking.
I wish I lived closer to my family.
If only I hadn't lost her phone number. She must think I'm so rude for not calling her.
I wish they wouldn't park their car in front of my house.

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

We use *wish* and *if only* to talk about things that we would like to be different in either the present or the past. *If only* is usually a bit stronger than *wish*.

In the present

We can use *wish/if only* + a past form to talk about a present situation we would like to be different.

I wish you didn't live so far away.
If only we knew what to do.
He wishes he could afford a holiday.

In the past

We can use *wish/if only* + a past perfect form to talk about something we would like to change about the past.

They wish they hadn't eaten so much chocolate. They're feeling very sick now.
If only I'd studied harder when I was at school.

Expressing annoyance

We can use *wish* + *would(n't)* to show that we are annoyed with what someone or something does or doesn't do. We often feel that they are unlikely or unwilling to change.

I wish you wouldn't borrow my clothes without asking.
I wish it would rain. The garden really needs some water.
She wishes he'd work less. They never spend any time together.

3- 'just', 'yet', 'still' and 'already'

Do you know how to use *just*, *yet*, *still* and *already* with the present perfect?

Look at these examples to see how *just*, *yet*, *still* and *already* are used.

I've just seen Sai. He's really enjoying his new job.
We haven't decided what to do yet.
I still haven't called Yumi to see how she is.
I've already had lunch but I'll join you for coffee.

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

We often use *just*, *yet*, *still* and *already* with the present perfect because they are related to the present moment. This page focuses on the meaning and use of these words when they are used with the present perfect.

just

Just used with the present perfect means 'a short time before'.

I've just seen Susan coming out of the cinema.
Mike's just called. Can you ring him back, please?
Have you just taken my pen?!

Just comes between the auxiliary verb (*have/has*) and the past participle.

yet

Yet used with the present perfect means 'at any time up to now'. We use it to emphasise that we expect something to happen soon. *Yet* (in this context) is only used in negative sentences and questions.

Have you finished your homework yet?
I haven't finished it yet. I'll do it after dinner.
A. Where's Sam? B: He hasn't arrived yet.

Yet comes at the end of the sentence or question.

still

Still used with the present perfect means that something hasn't happened. We use it to emphasise that we expected the thing to happen earlier. *Still* (in this context) is only used in negative sentences.

I've been waiting for an hour and the bus still hasn't come.
They promised me that report yesterday but they still haven't finished it.
She still hasn't replied to my email. Maybe she's on holiday.

Still comes between the subject (*the bus, they,* etc.) and auxiliary verb (*haven't/hasn't*).

already

Already used with the present perfect means 'before now'. We use it to emphasise that something happened before something else or earlier than expected.

I've already spent my salary and it's two weeks before payday.
He wanted to see Sudden Risk *but I've already seen it.*
The train's left already!

Already can come between the auxiliary and the main verb or at the end of the clause.

4- Passive & Active Voice

In academic contexts, active voice is often preferred over passive voice because it achieves clear, concise, and interesting writing. Active voice as a way of structuring sentences places the "actor" of a sentence at the beginning, and the "receiver" of the action at the end, with the verb between them. In passive voice, the sentence structure is nearly inverse, with the receiver at the beginning, the actor at the end, and a "to be" verb (was, were, etc.) with an action verb in between.

Active Voice:

Focuses on who/what is **DOING** the action

The **student wrote** the essay

Subject: "student"

Verb: "wrote"

Examples

The **NCAA accredited** the school.

The **Chancellor asked** the students to participate.

Passive Voice

Focuses on who/what is **receiving** the action

The essay **was written** by the **student**.

Verb: "was written"

Subject: "student"

Examples

The school **was accredited** by the **NCAA**.

The students **were asked** to participate by the **Chancellor**.

ZOMBIES?!?

Having trouble identifying if your sentence is passive? If you can add "by zombies" after the verb in your sentence, it is probably passive voice.

PASSIVE: The bridge was being repaired by zombies.

ACTIVE: Zombies repaired the bridge.

To shift sentences from passive to active voice, ask yourself these questions:

- What is the action of this sentence?
- Who/what is the "actor" of this sentence?
- Who/what is the "receiver" of this sentence?

Once you have identified these key elements, restructure your sentence so that the "actor" comes first, the verb second, and the "receiver" last. Your verb sill probably have to change to match the context of your new sentence (usually, this means that you will need to remove the "to be" verb and adjust the action verb).

Passive: The essays were submitted to the professor by the students, and the essays were reviewed for grades. The grades were earned by the students based on their use of active voice.

Active: The students submitted the essays to the professor, and the professor reviewed the essays. The students earned their grades by their use of active voice.

TIPS

Avoid past tense "to be" (was/were) verbs when discussing action to avoid passive voice.

- Was writing
- Were eating

Keep the subject and verb together in a sentence whenever possible.

Do you know how to use the passive voice to change the focus of a sentence?

Look at these examples to see how the passive voice is used.

A lot of olive oil is produced in Italy.
This book was written by Angela Davis.
The suspect will be released tomorrow.
This product has not been tested on animals.

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

We use the passive voice to change the focus of the sentence.

My bike was stolen. (passive – focus on *my bike*)
Someone stole my bike. (active – focus on *someone*)

We often use the passive:

- when we prefer not to mention who or what does the action (for example, it's not known, it's obvious or we don't want to say)
- so that we can start a sentence with the most important or most logical information
- in more formal or scientific writing.

How we make the passive

We make the passive using the verb *be* + past participle. We start the sentence with the object.

Avatar	*was*	*directed by James Cameron.*
↓	↓	↓
Object	+ *be* +	past participle

It is not always necessary to add who or what did the action.

My flight	*is*	*cancelled.*

↓	↓	↓
Object	+ *be* +	past participle

Only the form of *be* changes to make the tense. The past participle stays the same. Here are examples of the passive in its most common tenses.

Tense	Example	Structure
Present simple	*Alioli is made from oil, garlic and salt.*	*is/are* + past participle
Present continuous	*The hall is being painted this week.*	*is/are being* + past participle
Past simple	*John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.*	*was/were* + past participle
Past continuous	*The signs were being put up last week.*	*was/were being* + past participle
Present perfect	*Oranges have been grown here for centuries.*	*have been* + past participle

Tense	Example	Structure
Past perfect	*When he got home, he found that his flat had been burgled.*	*had been* + past participle
Future simple	*The work will be finished next week.*	*will be* + past participle

5-Reported speech statements

Do you know how to report what somebody else said?

Look at these examples to see how we can tell someone what another person said.

direct speech: *'I love the* Toy Story *films,' she said.*
indirect speech: *She said she loved the* Toy Story *films.*

direct speech: *'I worked as a waiter before becoming a chef,' he said.*
indirect speech: *He said he'd worked as a waiter before becoming a chef.*

direct speech: *'I'll phone you tomorrow,' he said.*
indirect speech: *He said he'd phone me the next day.*

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

Reported speech is when we tell someone what another person said. To do this, we can use direct speech or indirect speech.

direct speech: *'I work in a bank,' said Daniel.*
indirect speech: *Daniel said that he worked in a bank.*

In indirect speech, we often use a tense which is 'further back' in the past (e.g. *worked*) than the tense originally used (e.g. *work*). This is called 'backshift'. We also may need to change other words that were used, for example pronouns.

Present simple, present continuous and present perfect

When we backshift, present simple changes to past simple, present continuous changes to past continuous and present perfect changes to past perfect.

'I travel a lot in my job.'

- *Jamila said that she travelled a lot in her job.*

'The baby's sleeping!'

- *He told me the baby was sleeping.*

'I've hurt my leg.'

- *She said she'd hurt her leg.*

Past simple and past continuous

When we backshift, past simple usually changes to past perfect simple, and past continuous usually changes to past perfect continuous.

'We lived in China for five years.'

- *She told me they'd lived in China for five years.*

'It was raining all day.'

- *He told me it had been raining all day.*

Past perfect

The past perfect doesn't change.

'I'd tried everything without success, but this new medicine is great.'

- *He said he'd tried everything without success, but the new medicine was great.*

No backshift

If what the speaker has said is still true or relevant, it's not always necessary to change the tense. This might happen when the speaker has used a present tense.

'I go to the gym next to your house.'

- *Jenny told me that she goes to the gym next to my house. I'm thinking about going with her.*

'I'm working in Italy for the next six months.'

- *He told me he's working in Italy for the next six months. Maybe I should visit him!*

'I've broken my arm!'

- *She said she's broken her arm, so she won't be at work this week.*

Pronouns, demonstratives and adverbs of time and place

Pronouns also usually change in indirect speech.

'I enjoy working in my garden,' said Bob.

- *Bob said that he enjoyed working in his garden.*

'We played tennis for our school,' said Alina.

- *Alina told me they'd played tennis for their school.*

However, if you are the person or one of the people who spoke, then the pronouns don't change.

'I'm working on my thesis,' I said.

- *I told her that I was working on my thesis.*

'We want our jobs back!' we said.

- *We said that we wanted our jobs back.*

We also change demonstratives and adverbs of time and place if they are no longer accurate.

'This is my house.'

- *He said this was his house.* [You are currently in front of the house.]
- *He said that was his house.* [You are not currently in front of the house.]

'We like it here.'

- *She told me they like it here.* [You are currently in the place they like.]
- *She told me they like it there.* [You are not in the place they like.]

'I'm planning to do it today.'

- *She told me she's planning to do it today.* [It is currently still the same day.]
- *She told me she was planning to do it that day.* [It is not the same day any more.]

In the same way, *these* changes to *those*, *now* changes to *then*, *yesterday* changes to *the day before*, *tomorrow* changes to *the next/following day* and *ago* changes to *before*.

Do this exercise to test your grammar again.

6- Participle clauses

Do you know how to use participle clauses to say information in a more economical way?

Look at these examples to see how participle clauses are used.

Looked after carefully, these boots will last for many years.
Not wanting to hurt his feelings, I avoided the question.
Having lived through difficult times together, they were very close friends.

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

Participle clauses enable us to say information in a more economical way. They are formed using present participles (*going*, *reading*, *seeing*, *walking*, etc.), past participles (*gone*, *read*, *seen*, *walked*, etc.) or perfect participles (*having gone*, *having read*, *having seen*, *having walked*, etc.).

We can use participle clauses when the participle and the verb in the main clause have the same subject. For example,

Waiting for Ellie, I made some tea. (*While **I** was waiting for Ellie, **I** made some tea.*)

Participle clauses do not have a specific tense. The tense is indicated by the verb in the main clause.

Participle clauses are mainly used in written texts, particularly in a literary, academic or journalistic style.

Present participle clauses

Here are some common ways we use present participle clauses. Note that present participles have a similar meaning to active verbs.

- To give the result of an action
  The bomb exploded, ***destroying the building****.*
- To give the reason for an action
  Knowing she loved reading*, Richard bought her a book.*
- To talk about an action that happened at the same time as another action
  Standing in the queue*, I realised I didn't have any money.*
- To add information about the subject of the main clause
  Starting in the new year*, the new policy bans cars in the city centre.*

Past participle clauses

Here are some common ways that we use past participle clauses. Note that past participles normally have a passive meaning.

- With a similar meaning to an *if* condition
  Used in this way*, participles can make your writing more concise.* (*If you use participles in this way, …*)
- To give the reason for an action
  Worried by the news*, she called the hospital.*
- To add information about the subject of the main clause
  Filled with pride*, he walked towards the stage.*

Perfect participle clauses

Perfect participle clauses show that the action they describe was finished before the action in the main clause. Perfect participles can be structured to make an active or passive meaning.

***Having got dressed**, he slowly went downstairs.*
***Having finished their training**, they will be fully qualified doctors.*
***Having been made redundant**, she started looking for a new job.*

Participle clauses after conjunctions and prepositions

It is also common for participle clauses, especially with *-ing*, to follow conjunctions and prepositions such as *before*, *after*, *instead of*, *on*, *since*, *when*, *while* and *in spite of*.

***Before cooking**, you should wash your hands.*
***Instead of complaining about it**, they should try doing something positive.*
***On arriving at the hotel**, he went to get changed.*
***While packing her things**, she thought about the last two years.*
***In spite of having read the instructions twice**, I still couldn't understand how to use it.*

7- 'in spite of', 'despite', 'although', 'even though' and 'though'

Do you know how to connect two contrasting ideas?

Look at these examples to see how *although*, *even though*, *in spite of* and *despite* are used.

Although we don't agree, I think she's a brilliant speaker.
Even though we don't agree, I think she's a brilliant speaker.
In spite of the law, people continue to use mobile phones while driving.
Despite the law, people continue to use mobile phones while driving.

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

Although, *even though*, *in spite of* and *despite* are all used to link two contrasting ideas or show that one fact makes the other fact surprising. They can all be used at the beginning or in the middle of the sentence.

Despite the rain, we enjoyed the festival.
We enjoyed the festival, despite the rain.

The main difference between *although*, *even though*, *in spite of* and *despite* is that they are used with different structures.

in spite of / despite

After *in spite of* and *despite*, we use a noun, gerund (*-ing* form of a verb) or a pronoun.

They never made much money, in spite of their success.
In spite of the pain in his leg, he completed the marathon.
Despite having a headache, I had a great birthday.
The train was cancelled. In spite of that, we arrived on time.

Note that it is common to use *in spite of* and *despite* with the expression *the fact that*, followed by a subject and verb.

In spite of the fact that he worked very hard, he didn't pass the exam.
Despite the fact that he worked very hard, he didn't pass the exam.

although / even though

After *although* and *even though*, we use a subject and a verb. *Even though* is slightly stronger and more emphatic than *although*.

I enjoyed the course, although I would have liked more grammar practice.
Although we saw each other every day, we didn't really know each other.
Even though she spoke very quietly, he understood every word.

She didn't get the job, even though she had all the necessary qualifications.

though

Though can be used in the same way as *although*.

Though I wasn't keen on the film, I thought the music was beautiful.

Though can also go at the end of the second phrase. This way of expressing contrasting ideas is most common in spoken English.

We waited ages for our food. The waiter was really nice, though.

Do this exercise to test your grammar again.

8- British English and American English

Do you know any differences between British and American English?

Look at these sentences. Do you know which sentences are more typical of British English or American English?

Shall I open the door for you?
He's taking a shower.
France have won the World Cup.
I'm not hungry. I just ate.

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

The main difference between British English and American English is in pronunciation. Some words are also different in each variety of English, and there are also a few differences in the way they use grammar. Here are five of the most common grammatical differences between British and American English.

1. Present perfect and past simple

In British English, people use the present perfect to speak about a past action that they consider relevant to the present.

The present perfect can be used in the same way in American English, but people often use the past simple when they consider the action finished. This is especially common with the adverbs *already*, *just* and *yet*.

British English	American English
He isn't hungry. He has already had lunch. *- Have you done your homework yet?* *- Yes, I've just finished it.*	*He isn't hungry. He already had lunch.* *- Did you do your homework yet?* *- Yes, I just finished it.*

2. *got* and *gotten*

In British English, the past participle of the verb *get* is *got*.

In American English, people say *gotten*.

** Note that *have got* is commonly used in both British and American English to speak about possession or necessity. *have gotten* is not correct here.

British English	American English

British English	American English
You could have got hurt! *He's got very thin.* *She has got serious about her career.* BUT: *Have you got any money?* *We've got to go now.*	*You could have gotten hurt!* *He's gotten very thin.* *She has gotten serious about her career.* BUT: *Have you got any money?* (NOT ~~Have you gotten~~ ...) *We've got to go now.* (NOT ~~We've gotten to~~ ...)

3. Verb forms with collective nouns

In British English, a singular or plural verb can be used with a noun that refers to a group of people or things (a collective noun). We use a plural verb when we think of the group as individuals or a singular verb when we think of the group as a single unit.

In American English, a singular verb is used with collective nouns.

** Note that *police* is always followed by a plural verb.

British English	American English
My family is/are visiting from Pakistan. *My team is/are winning the match.* *The crew is/are on the way to the airport.* BUT: *The police are investigating the crime.*	*My family is visiting from Pakistan.* *My team is winning the match.* *The crew is on the way to the airport.* BUT: *The police are investigating the crime.*

4. *have* and *take*

In British English, the verbs *have* and *take* are commonly used with nouns like *bath*, *shower*, *wash* to speak about washing and with nouns like *break*, *holiday*, *rest* to speak about resting.

In American English, only the verb *take* (and not the verb *have*) is used this way.

British English	American English
I'm going to have/take a shower. *Let's have/take a break.*	*I'm going to take a shower.* *Let's take a break.*

5. *shall*

In British English, people often use *Shall I ...?* to offer to do something and/or *Shall we ...?* to make a suggestion.

It is very unusual for speakers of American English to use *shall*. They normally use an alternative like *Should/Can I ...?* or *Do you want/Would you like ...?* or *How about ...?* instead.

British English	American English
It's hot in here. Shall I open the window? *Shall we meet in the café at 5?* *Shall we try that again?*	*It's hot in here. Can I open the window?* *Do you want to meet in the café at 5?* *How about we try that again?*