

# Useful Grammar Tips

**Use the present simple to talk about facts and actions that happen repeatedly.**

- e. g. My mother lives in Cambridge.
- Water boils when you heat it.
- The World Cup takes place every four years
- I go to work every weekday.

**Use the present continuous tense to talk about actions or situations in progress now or around now. This actions are incomplete because they are happening at the moment or around this time.**

- I am listening to the radio!
- I am working out of the office this week.
- Your English is getting better.

**Do not use the following verbs in the continuous form**

- State verbs*: be, seem, have
- Thinking verbs*: know, understand, believe
- Emotion verbs*: like, love, hate, want
- Sense verbs*: see, taste, feel

- Ex. You seem worried. What's the matter?
- I believe in magic.
- They want to go to New York.
- I feel good.

**How to find direct objects in a sentence ?**

Ask the questions what? Or whom? After an action verb. ( linking verbs do not have objects )

Ex. 1 *Melissa wrote a letter to her friend in France.* To find the direct object, you have two options: Ask\_ *Melissa wrote what?* Or *What did Melissa write?* In both cases the answer is a **LETTER**.

Ex.2 *My dad is going to give me a Porsche for my birthday.* To find the direct object we can ask\_ *your dad is going to give you what?* Or *What is your dad going to give you ?* Again, just like in the previous example the answer to this questions is a **PORSCHE**.

Ex. 3 *I saw John and David at the park yesterday.* In this case the object is a person, so this time we ask\_ *Who did you see at the park?* Or *you saw whom?* and yes, you already know the answer: **John and David**.

## How to find Indirect objects?

There cannot be an indirect object if there is no direct object. The first thing to do is to find the direct object following the instructions you read in the section above. Once you find the direct object, ask the question to whom or for whom or to what or for what the action is done. The answer to these questions will be the indirect object.

### Example 1: Grandma told us stories.

She told what? *Stories* .(direct object) To whom did she tell the stories? To *us* ( indirect object )

### Example 2: Mr. Johnson gave his daughter a car for her birthday.

He gave what? *A car*. ( direct object) To whom? *To his daughter* (indirect object)

## How to differentiate an adverb from a preposition?

Prepositions are always followed by an object ( noun or pronoun ) which is called object of a preposition. Ex: **down** the street; **over** the rainbow; **at** the gate; **along** this road: **to** me. The prepositions are in blackbold type and the objects are underlined.

Adverbs do not have objects. Over, through, behind, out, in, etc. are common adverbs.

Examples: **Behind** the closet is a secret passageway. (prep)

Hurry up! Don't stay **behind**. (adv)

Put your underwear **in** the drawer. (prep)

Sam came **in** as soon as I opened the door. (adv)

Walk **around** and see if you can spot mother.(adv)

**Around** the house we always have excitement. (prep)

## How Linking Verbs and Subject Complement Function

Linking Verbs do not usually show action. They merely connect the subject with the complement. They either describe the subject ( when the complement is a predicate adjective )or renames the subject ( if the complement is a predicate nominative ) Check the following sentences.

**The capital of New Jersey is Trenton.** Capital =Trenton (pred. Nominative) Trenton renames capital.

**This rare stamp must be old and valuable.** Old and valuable describe stamp. ( predicate Adjective)

**The scent of the flowers is very sweet.** Sweet describes scent. ( predicate adjective )

**The koala is a small bearlike animal of Australia.** Animal = koala. ( predicate nominative) animal renames koala.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Bimonthly Grammar Exam Guide

**Verbs** ( helping verbs, verb phrases, action, linking, transitive, and intransitive verbs )

<http://www.chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

**Adverbs**

**Prepositions**

**Conjunctions**

**Sentences Complements** ( direct and indirect objects/ Predicate nominative and adjective)

**Simple sentences**

**Compound sentences**

**Complex sentences**