

Grammar questions

- 1) When do we use "a" before a word, and when do we use "an"? Give me an example of each.

We use "a" before a word beginning with a consonant sound, and "an" before a word beginning with a vowel sound. For example, a book; an ashtray.
- 2) When does the pronunciation of the word "the" change? Give me an example.

The pronunciation of the word "the" changes before a word beginning with a vowel. For example, the /ðə/ book; the /ði:/ ashtray.
- 3) What's the difference between "any" and "some"? Give me an example of each.

The difference between "any" and "some" is that we use "any" in questions and negative sentences, whereas we use "some" in positive sentences. For example, "Are there any books on the table?" "Yes, there are some books on the table", and "Are there any books on the floor?" "No, there aren't any books on the floor".
- 4) What's the difference between the present continuous and the present simple?

The difference between the present continuous and the present simple is that we use the present continuous for an action we are doing now, whereas we use the present simple for an action we do generally. For example, "I'm speaking English now but I generally speak French".
- 5) Where does the preposition generally come in an English sentence with a question word? Give me an example.

The preposition generally comes last in an English sentence with a question word. For example, "Who are you speaking to?"
- 6) What's the difference between "into" and "in"? Give me an example of each.

The difference between "into" and "in" is that we use "into" for a thing that moves from one place to another, and "in" for a thing that remains in one place. For example, "I'm putting my hand into my pocket. My hand is in my pocket".

- 7) What's the difference between a possessive adjective and a possessive pronoun? Give me an example of each. The difference between a possessive adjective and a possessive pronoun is that we put a possessive adjective in front of a noun, whereas we use a possessive pronoun instead of a noun. For example, "This is my book. This book is mine".
- 8) What are the possessive adjectives? The possessive adjectives are "my", "your", "his", "her", "its", "our", "your", "their".
- 9) What are the possessive pronouns? The possessive pronouns are "mine", "yours", "his", "hers", "ours", "yours", "theirs".
- 10) When do we use "many" and "few" and when do we use "much" and "little"? Give me an example of each. We use "many" and "few" for things we can count, whereas we use "much" and "little" for things we can't count. For example, "many books", "much water", "few pens", "little wine".
- 11) Why do we say "cheaper than" but not "expensiver than"? We say "cheaper than", but not "expensiver than", because the adjective "cheap" has only one syllable, whereas the adjective "expensive" has three syllables.
- 12) Do we use the gerund or the infinitive after a preposition? Give me an example. We use the gerund after a preposition. For example, "before coming; after taking; for buying etc."
- 13) What is a gerund? A gerund is a noun that we make by putting the letters 'ing' at the end of a verb.
- 14) What's the difference between "to look at" and "to watch"? The difference between "to look at" and "to watch" is that we use "to look at" for something that is still, whereas we use "to watch" for something that is moving.
- 15) What's the difference between "ever" and "never"? The difference between "ever" and "never" is that the word "ever" is positive, and we generally use it in questions, whilst the word "never" is negative.

- 16) What's the difference between "quick" and "quickly"? Give me an example of each. The difference between "quick" and "quickly" is that "quick" is an adjective, whereas "quickly" is an adverb. For example, "He is a quick writer; he writes quickly".
- 17) What's the difference between "over" and "on"? The difference between "over" and "on" is that we say "over" when there is no contact between the two objects, or when one object covers the other completely, whereas we use "on" when there is contact and when one object doesn't cover the other completely.
- 18) How do we form the past tense of regular verbs? We form the past tense of regular verbs by putting the letters "ed" at the end. For example, "walk walked".
- 19) What's the difference between "bring" and "take"? The difference between "bring" and "take" is that "bring" means "carry here" whereas "take" means "carry there". For example, "Bring your book here, please. Take your book home".
- 20) When do we use "shall" instead of "will"? We use "shall" instead of "will" when we are making a suggestion with the pronoun "I" or "we".
- 21) What are the common ways of asking a question with the verb "to have"? The common ways of asking a question with the verb "to have" are "Do you have a pen?" and "Have you got a pen?"
- 22) What do we usually put after the verb "succeed"? Give me an example. We usually put the word "in" and a gerund after the verb "succeed". For example, "She always succeeds in getting what she wants".
- 23) What's the difference between "I don't have to do it" and "I mustn't do it"? The difference between "I don't have to do it" and "I mustn't do it" is that "I don't have to do it" means that I can do it if I want but it is not necessary, whereas "I mustn't do it" means that it is bad or wrong to do it.

24) What's the difference between the present perfect and the past

simple? Give me an example of each.

The difference between the present perfect and the past simple is that we use the present perfect when we are thinking about time before or up to now, whereas we use the past simple when we are thinking about a specific past time.

For example, "I have been here for twenty minutes; I arrived here twenty minutes ago".

25) Why don't we usually say "littler" and "littlest"?

We don't usually say "littler" and "littlest" because they're difficult to pronounce. Instead, we use "smaller" and "smallest".

26) What are the three forms of an English verb? Give me an example.

The three forms of an English verb are the present, the past and the past participle. For example, "see, saw, seen".

27) What do we sometimes mean when we use the words "one", "you", "we" and "they"?

When we use the words "one", "you", "we" and "they", we sometimes mean people in general.

28) Which do we generally use the most: "one", "you" or "we"?

We generally use "you" the most.

29) What are the three ways in which we can use the present perfect?

Give me an example of each.

The three ways in which we can use the present perfect are when we talk about our experiences, when we talk about the duration of an action up to now, and when we talk about the result now of a past action. For example, "I've read that book; I've studied English for two years; I've cut my finger".

30) What's the difference between "between" and "among"?

The difference between "between" and "among" is that we generally use "between" for two people or things, whereas we use "among" for more than two people or things.

31) When do we use "to be going to"?

We use "to be going to" to say what we think will happen because of something we know now, and to speak about our future intentions. For example, "I think it's going to rain soon", and "I'm going to buy a new car".

32) What are the three forms of the verbs "to be" and "to go"?

The three forms of the verbs "to be" and "to go" are "am, was, been" and "go, went, gone".

33) Why can I say "Mr Brown has gone to Scotland", but not "I have gone to Scotland"?

Because "I have gone to Scotland" means I am not here now, which is impossible.

34) What's the difference between "each other" and "one another"?

The difference between "each other" and "one another" is that we generally use "each other" for two people or things and "one another" for more than two people or things.

35) What are the past, future and infinitive of "can"?

The past of "can" is "could" or "was able"; it has no future or infinitive, so we use "will be able" for the future, and "to be able" for the infinitive.

36) When do we use the 1st conditional? Give me an example.

We use the 1st conditional to communicate that we think something is a real possibility. For example, "If it rains again tomorrow, I will take an umbrella".

37) When do we use the 2nd conditional? Give me an example.

We use the 2nd conditional to communicate that we are only imagining something. For example, "If she had a better job, she would earn more money".