

LESSON 103

551 **switch on**

What am I doing?

What am I doing?

switch off

You're switching the light **on**

You're switching the light **off**

Preparatory "it"

prepare

It is + adjective + infinitive with "to"

A preparatory "it" is when we use the word "it" at the beginning of a sentence to prepare us for information that comes later in the sentence. For example, in the sentence "It's unhealthy to drink a lot of coffee", the word "it" refers to the information "to drink a lot of coffee", and so the sentence means the same as "Drinking a lot of coffee is unhealthy". The sentence "It's nice to eat in a restaurant" means the same as "Eating in a restaurant is nice".

With a preparatory "it", we generally use the structure "It is" + adjective + infinitive with "to". For example, "It is not very easy to speak a foreign language well".

What do we mean by a preparatory "it"?

By a preparatory "it" we mean that we use the word "it" at the beginning of a sentence to prepare us for some information that comes later in the sentence

Give me three examples, please.

It is very difficult to understand what he says.
Was it usual for him to come here every Sunday?
It isn't common to find that kind of bird in this part of the country.

552 Is it easy to learn to speak English as well as an English person?

No, it isn't easy to ...

Is it common in your country for people to eat a cooked breakfast in the morning?

Yes, it's common ...
~ No, it isn't common ...

determine

determined

determination

extremely

success

luck

intelligence

Have you determined what you're going to do for your next holidays?

Yes, I've **determined** what ...

~ No, I haven't **determined** what ...

Why not? Or, what have you determined to do?

When you start to do something like learning a language, are you usually determined to continue to the end even though what you have started is extremely difficult?

Yes, when I ...,

I'm usually **determined** ... ~ No,

when I ..., I'm **not** usually **determined** ...

Who's the most determined person you know, or have ever met?

The **most determined** person ... is ...

For success in life generally, which do you think is more important than anything else: the determination to succeed, luck, hard work, or intelligence?

For success in life generally,

I think ... is **more** important than anything else

steal – stole – stolen

owner

What are the three forms of "steal"?

The **three forms**

of "steal" are "steal, stole, stolen"

553 If someone steals your umbrella, does that mean you have the right to steal someone else's?

No, if someone

steals ..., it **doesn't** mean ...

if someone stole a book from a shop and was caught doing so, what'd probably happen?

If someone **stole** ..., the **owner**

of the shop would probably call the police ...

Have you ever had anything stolen from you in this town?

Yes, I've had something (or some things)

stolen ... ~ No, I've never had anything **stolen** ...

active

activity

Would you say you were a rather active kind of person?

Yes, I'd say I was ... ~ No, I wouldn't say I was ...

What kind of activities interest you most of all? The kind of activities ... are going out with friends, reading etc.

organize

Supposing a group of foreign students came to stay with you for the weekend, what would you organize for them? Supposing a group ... I'd organize ... for them

Are you good at organizing things? Yes, I'm good at ... ~ No, I'm not good at ...

gift

even if

What kind of gift would you give a boy of fifteen? The kind of gift I'd give ... would be a football, a bicycle etc.

554 Do you think you should always accept a gift from a friend even if you don't like what they have chosen? Yes, I think you should ... even if ... ~ No, I don't think you should ... if ...

What do we mean if we say that someone has a gift for languages? If we say ..., we mean that they are naturally good at learning languages

engine

Do you know how a car engine works? Yes, I know ... ~ No, I don't know ...

barrel

beer

What do we use for keeping large quantities of wine or beer in? We use a barrel for ... in

steam

How's steam produced? Steam is produced by boiling water

oppose

When you wanted to do something as a child and your parents opposed your plans, what did you do? When I wanted ... and my parents ..., I ...

seat

stool

A seat is anything that we sit on, for example in a car, in a cinema, or on a bus. The difference between a chair and a stool is that a stool does not have a back.

What's a seat?

A seat is anything that we sit on

555 Do men in this country stand up and offer their seats to women on buses?

Yes, men in ... ~ No, men in ...

Do you think they ought to?

Yes, I think they ... ~ No, I don't think they ...

Why or why not?

What's the difference between a chair and a stool?

The difference ...
is that a stool does not have a back

About how many passengers does the average bus seat?

The average bus seats about ... passengers

Where's the seat of government in this country?

The seat of ...
is in ...

Idiom 4

get on somebody's nerves = irritate somebody

e.g. The noise those children make gets on my nerves.

What does the idiom "get on somebody's nerves" mean?

The idiom ...
"irritate somebody"

Give me an example, please.

Mary's very nice, but
her sister gets on my nerves.
She is always making things difficult.



Dictation 68

It was a great loss to him/ when his wife died,/ as their marriage/ had been long and happy./ Computers are part of our everyday lives./ Making a big profit in business/ is often mainly/ a question of luck./ When we fill in/ a passport application form,/ we must state our name, address,/ date of birth, occupation etc./ The following is a statement:/ "A man, when he is drunk,/ often wants to fight."/ None of his predictions were correct..