

LESSON 133

735 Further uses of the verb "wish"

We use the verb "wish" followed by the word "would" when we are unhappy or irritated about something that is happening and we want the situation to change. For example, if somebody is irritating us by making a lot of noise and we want them to be quiet, we can say "I wish he would be quiet". If we are unhappy because it is raining and we want it to stop, we can say "I wish it would stop raining".

When do we use the verb "wish" followed by the word "would"?

We use the verb "wish" ... when we are unhappy or irritated about something that is happening and we want the situation to change

Give me some examples, please.

I wish they would hurry up and finish the job! I wish my dad would send me some money!

In formal written English, "wish" can be followed by the infinitive with "to", with the meaning of "want" or "would like". For example, "I wish to complain" means "I would like to complain".

When do we use the verb "wish" followed by the infinitive with "to"?

We use the verb "wish" ... in formal written English

And what does it mean?

It means "want" or "would like"

Give me an example, please.

We wish to inform you that your payment has been received

We can also use "wish" to communicate the idea that we want something good to happen to somebody. For example, "I wished her good luck in her exam", or "Don't forget to wish them a pleasant journey".

736 Give me an example of "wish" used to communicate the idea that we want something good to happen to somebody.

He wished me a happy birthday

hitchhike

Have you ever hitchhiked?

Yes, I've hitchhiked

~ No, I've never hitchhiked

Would you recommend hitchhiking as a good way for visitors to travel around your country?

Yes, I'd recommend ...

~ No, I wouldn't recommend ...

Why or why not?

dear

Do you think it's possible for two people to remain dear friends for life?

Yes, I think it's ... ~ No, I don't think it's ...

Of all your personal possessions, which is the most dear to you?

● Of all my ..., my .. is/are ...

What's the dearest thing you're wearing?

My ... is/are
the dearest ...

easy

ease

at ease

ill at ease

What do we mean by an easy life?

● By an easy life, we mean a comfortable life, free from stress

Do you feel at ease in strange company, or do you feel ill at ease?

I feel .. in strange company

737 Are you able to do all the dictations in this book with ease?

Yes, I'm able to do ... ~ No, I'm not able to do ...

If you have a headache, what do you think is the best way to ease the pain?

If I have ..., I think ...

to be obliged

Have you ever been obliged to appear in court for any reason?

Yes, I've been ... ~ No, I've never been ...

steal

rob

robbery

thief

mask

Although the verbs "steal" and "rob" are quite similar in meaning, there is a difference in grammar, as follows:

"steal" something "from" somebody (or somewhere)

"rob" somebody (or somewhere) "of" something

For example, we can say "The thief stole my watch from me" or "The thief robbed me of my watch".

What's the difference in grammar between the verbs "steal" and "rob"?

The difference in grammar ... is that we "steal" something "from" somebody (or somewhere), whereas we "rob" somebody (or somewhere) "of" something

Give me an example of each, please.

The thief stole the handbag from Mary.
The thief robbed Mary of the handbag.

If a thief robbed you of something in the street and ran away, what would you do?

If a thief ..., I'd ...

In real life, have you ever seen a robber running away from the scene of the crime?

Yes, in real life, I've seen ...
→ No, in real life, I've never seen ...

738 Do bank robbers sometimes hide their identity during robberies by wearing masks?

Yes, bank robbers ...

handle

gentle

What's this?

It's the door handle

What kind of objects must be handled very gently when we touch them?

The kind of objects that ... are things such as wine glasses, eggs etc.

What do we mean by a person with a gentle nature?

By a person ..., we mean someone who behaves in a calm and kind manner with other people

What do we mean by a gentle wind?

By a ..., we mean a wind that is not at all strong

Do you know how to handle a gun?

Yes, I know how ...
~ No, I don't know how ...

What's the best way to handle a horse?

The best way ...
is gently, without moving quickly or suddenly

hand-in-hand

arm-in-arm

custom

girlfriend

boyfriend

What do we mean by "walking hand-in-hand"?

By "walking
hand in-hand", we mean two
people holding each other's hand as they walk

739 Is it the custom in your country for people to walk arm in-arm with their girlfriend or boyfriend?

Yes, it's the custom ...
~ No, it isn't the custom ...

enable

instruction

booklet

Does the ability to speak several languages enable a person to find a good job more easily?

Yes, the ability to ...

Why do they include instruction booklets with new products like televisions and microwaves?

They include ...
to enable users to understand
how they work and what they can do

tender

tough

lovingly

Which is easier to eat: tender meat or tough meat?

Tender meat is ...

Name a tough metal, please.

Steel is a tough metal

In the sentence "The mother put her hand tenderly on her child's head", what does the word "tenderly" mean?

In the sentence
"The mother ...", the word
"tenderly" means "gently and lovingly"

Idiom 34

can't make head or tail of it = can't understand it at all

e.g. I can't make head or tail of this email I got from John this morning. I don't know whether he means he is coming tomorrow or not.

What does the idiom "can't make head or tail of it" mean?

The idiom ... "can't understand it at all"

740 Give me an example, please.

These instructions that came with the machine are so complicated that I can't make head or tail of them



Dictation 89

He used to be in control of the largest printing press in the country. Another step and the child would have stepped right off the table and fallen onto the floor. After a bill has been passed by parliament, it becomes an act. My uncle was always talking with pride about his many adventures abroad as a young man. I was introduced to the seller, gave the car a trial run, and found it was working all right. Although he was a strong swimmer, he was carried out to sea by the tide. He hunted for his wallet but couldn't find it.