

LESSON 136

754 **Was + infinitive with "to"**

"Was" (or "were") followed by an infinitive with "to" expresses a future event in relation to a point in the past. For example, "I did not realize when we first started this job that it was to be so difficult".

Give me an example of "was" or "were" followed by an infinitive with "to".

We trusted him completely, but we were to find out later that he had been lying all the time

slight

What do we mean by a "slight headache"? By a "slight headache", we mean a headache which is not very strong

What do we mean by a "slight delay"? By a "slight delay", we mean a delay which is very short

What, then, does the word "slight" mean? The word "slight" means small, and usually unimportant

upside down

What am I doing? You're turning your book upside down

What am I doing? You're turning your book the right way up

right way up

755 **feather**

Is it true that birds are the only animals in the world that have feathers?
Yes, it's true that ...

wear

sleeve

mend

worn out

exhausted

What'd happen if I kept rubbing my sleeve on the edge of the table, like this? If you kept rubbing your sleeve, you'd wear a hole in your sleeve

What do we do with clothes that are worn out? We mend or throw away clothes that are worn out

If I told you I was feeling worn out, what would I mean? If you ..., you'd mean you were exhausted

qualification

Which do you think's more important for finding a new job: experience or qualifications? I think ...

debt

What does it mean: "to be in debt"? "To be in debt" means that we owe somebody something, usually money

If you don't manage your credit card account properly, is it easy to get into debt? Yes, if you don't ..., it's ...

756 interrupt

interruption

What do we say when we interrupt someone who's speaking? When we ..., we say "Excuse me"

What do they say on television when there's an interruption? When there's an interruption on television, they say "We apologize for the interruption"

if only ...!

When we want to be emphatic, we can say "if only ...!" instead of "I wish ...". For example, instead of saying "I wish I could take a holiday", we can say "If only I could take a holiday!" Instead of "I wish I had gone to bed earlier last night", we can say "If only I had gone to bed earlier last night!"

What can we say instead of "I wish" when we want to be emphatic? We can say "if only ...!" instead of "I wish ..." when we want to be emphatic

Give me an example, please.

I hate this job.
If only I hadn't accepted it!

act

capable

Do you believe all humans are capable of acts of great kindness? Yes,
I believe ... – No, I don't believe ...

What's the best way to judge a person: by what he says or how he acts?
The best way to ... is by ...

bar

lock

Which is heavier: a bar of gold or a bar of iron (if, of course, they are the
same size)? A bar of gold is ...

757 Would it be healthy to eat a whole bar of chocolate every day?
No, it wouldn't ...

Is it fairly common to find bars on the ground-floor windows of houses in
this country? Yes, it's fairly common ...
– No, it isn't common ...

What do we mean if we say that the police have barred a road? If we
say ..., we mean they have put something
across the road to prevent cars from going along it

Why do clubs and pubs sometimes bar particular people from entering?
Clubs and ... because they have
behaved very badly on a previous occasion

cart

What does the expression "to put the cart before the horse" mean?
The expression "to put the ..." means to do things in the wrong order

Give me an example, please. Learning to read and write
a language before learning to speak
and understand it is like putting the cart
before the horse, as a language should be listened
to first, then spoken, then read, and then finally written

deceive

complain

complaint

If an art dealer sold you a painting and then you realized that you'd been deceived about the value of the painting, would you go back to the dealer and complain?

Yes, if an art dealer ...

I'd go ... ~ No, if an art dealer ..., I wouldn't go ...

758 Would you get complaints from your neighbours if you turned up your TV very loud?

Yes, I'd get ... ~ No, I wouldn't get ...

Have you ever made an official complaint?

Yes, I've ...

~ No, I've never ...

Who to? What about?

either side

Are there students sitting on either side of you?

Yes, there

are ... ~ No, there aren't ...

“What” and “which”

We generally use “which” when we are considering a limited number of alternatives, whereas we use “what” in a more unlimited sense. For example, we say “What’s your phone number?” because there is an almost unlimited number of possibilities. However, if we have a piece of paper with some phone numbers written on it, we say “Which of these is your phone number?” because there is a limited number of possibilities.

What’s the difference between the words “what” and “which”?

The difference ...

is that ... “which” ... limited number of alternatives, whereas ... “what” ... unlimited sense

Give me an example of each, please.

What’s your address?

Which address should I send the letter to: your home address or your work address?

faint

excitement

fear

What do people do when a faint smell of burning reaches their noses?

When a faint ... reaches people’s noses, they try to find out where it’s coming from

759 **Why do people faint?**

People faint because of excessive heat, excitement, fear, pain etc.

happen to

Give me an example of "happen to", please.

I happen to know several people who work for that company

When you happen to see someone you know on the street but it's someone that you don't particularly want to speak to, what do you do?

When I happen to see ... want to speak to, I ...

outwards

inwards

Does your front door open outwards or inwards?

My front door opens ...

lean

beneath

give way

What am I doing?

You're leaning on the table

Why does the Leaning Tower of Pisa lean?

The Leaning Tower of Pisa leans because the ground beneath one side has given way

mankind

What do we mean by mankind?

By mankind, we mean all the people in the world in general

mate

What's an informal word we can use instead of "friend"?

An informal ... "mate"

760 **zoo**

cage

What would you do if you were looking at a tiger in a zoo and suddenly noticed that its cage was slightly open?

If I was ..., I'd ...

monkey

ape

closely

Which are more closely related to humans: apes or monkeys? Apes are ...

Idiom 37

snap decision = a quick decision fast, like the snap of one's fingers

e.g. There wasn't time to think carefully; I had to make a snap decision.

What does the idiom "snap decision" mean?

The idiom ... "a quick ..."

Give me an example, please.

Although it was a snap decision, it was the right one



Do Revision Exercise 61