

LESSON 141

789 Double contractions

Although it is not common, we sometimes use double contractions in spoken English. For example, instead of saying "I will have gone by tomorrow", we can say "I'll've gone by tomorrow". Also, instead of saying "I would have done it", we can say "I'd've done it".

Give me an example of a double contraction, please.

She'll've gone home before you arrive.

She'd've come later if she'd known.

deliver

mail

beforehand

At what time do they deliver the mail at your house?

They deliver ... at about ...

If you had to deliver a speech, would you carefully prepare notes beforehand or would you give it off the cuff?

If I had to deliver a speech, I'd ...

critic

If you could choose between working as a restaurant critic or a theatre critic, which would you prefer?

If I could choose
between working ..., I'd prefer ...

expect

rely on

Are you expecting a letter from anyone in the next few days?

Yes, I'm expecting ... ~ No, I'm not expecting ...

790 Do you think young children can be expected to do homework without being forced to do so, either by their teachers or by their parents?

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

I expect by now that you understand everything I say with ease; is that right?

Yes, that's right; I understand ...
~ No, that isn't right; I don't understand ...

Can you always be relied on to do things that you have promised to do?

Yes, I can always be relied on to ...

~ No, I can't always be relied on to ...

fast

fasten

What do we mean when we say that someone's fast asleep?

When we ..., we mean that they're completely asleep, and would be difficult to wake up

Do aeroplane passengers have to fasten their seat belts before the plane takes off or lands?

Yes, aeroplane passengers have to ...

porter

If you arrived at a railway station with a heavy suitcase, would you ask a porter to help you with it or would you struggle with it yourself?

If I arrived ..., I'd ...

791 Compound adjectives (continued)

a fifty-minute lesson

a four-door car

jog

Another common type of compound adjective in English is when, instead of saying "The lesson lasted for fifty minutes", we say "It was a fifty-minute lesson", or instead of saying "This car has four doors", we say "This is a four-door car". In these examples, "fifty-minute" and "four-door" are compound adjectives.

What can we say instead of "He had a holiday that lasted two weeks"?

Instead of ..., we can say "He had a two-week holiday"

What can we say instead of "Let's jog for ten kilometres"?

Instead of ..., we can say "Let's go for a ten-kilometre jog"

With these adjectives, notice that the word after the number is singular, not plural. For example, we say "a twenty-page document", not "a twenty-pages document". This is because the word "page" is being used as an adjective in this phrase, and adjectives in English do not have plural forms.

In the phrase “a ten-kilometre jog”, why is the word “kilometre” singular and not plural?

In the phrase ..., the word “kilometre” ... because it is being used as an adjective, and adjectives in English do not have plural forms

Give me some other examples of this type of compound adjective, please.

An eleven man team,
a two-litre bottle, a six bedroom house

overnight

lifestyle

Do people who become rich or famous overnight often have problems managing their new lifestyle?

Yes, people who ...

792 **mere**

Is there any job you could think of that you would like to do, not for the money, but for the mere honour that goes with the job?

Yes, there's a job I can think of that I'd like ...
~ No, there isn't any job I can think of that I'd like ...

Which job?

nuisance

What do you think's the best thing to do with children who are making a nuisance of themselves?

I think the best ... is to ...

post

doorpost

goal

dig – dug – dug

postage

What are these?

These are doorposts

What do we have to do when we want to put posts in the ground to make the goals for a game of football or rugby?

When we want to put ..., we must dig fairly deep holes in the ground

What are the three forms of “dig”?

The three forms of “dig” are “dig, dug, dug”

What would you say was your main goal in life at the moment?

I'd say my ... was to ...

Do big companies often advertise new posts in national newspapers?

Yes, big companies ...

793 How much is the postage for a letter from your country to England?

The postage for ... is ...

naughty

punish

When you were naughty as a child, how did your parents use to punish you?

When I was ..., my parents...

fold

What am I doing?

You're folding a page of your book

native

What's your native language?

My native language is ...

treasure

Is there still any lost treasure in the world?

Yes, there's still ..., especially at the bottom of the sea where ships sank in the old days

receipt

prove

What problem might you have if you took a faulty product back to a shop but didn't have the receipt to prove where you bought it anymore?

If I took ..., the shop might not agree to change the product or give me a refund

794 **Idiom 42**

put one's foot down = to be determined and insist on something

e.g. My daughter kept asking me if she could go to the party but I had to put my foot down and say no.

What does the idiom "to put one's foot down" mean? The idiom ...
"to be determined and .."

Give me an example, please. If I hadn't put my foot down
and got angry with them, they would have done
nothing and the work would never have got finished