

GRAMMAR QUESTIONS

1) WHEN THE PAST TENSE OF A REGULAR VERB ENDS IN "DED" OR "TED", HOW DO WE PRONOUNCE THE FINAL SOUND ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE !

When the Past Tense of a regular verb ends in "ded" or "ted", we pronounce the final sound "... id". For example, "decided"

800 2) IN WHAT KIND OF VERBS IS THE FINAL SOUND PRONOUNCED "T" IN THE PAST TENSE ? - AND GIVE ME SOME EXAMPLES !

The kind of verbs in which the final sound is pronounced "t" in the Past Tense are those which end in the letters c-ch-k-p-ss-sh, or, x. For example, "commenced, lunched, asked, helped, crossed, brushed" and "boxed"

3) WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "FEW" AND "A FEW" ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE !

The difference between "few" and "a few" is that the word "few" means "not many", whilst the words "a few" mean "some, but not many". For example, "I have few books", means I haven't many, whilst "I have a few books" means I have some, but not many

4) WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "LITTLE" AND "A LITTLE" ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE !

The difference between "little" and "a little" is the same as that between "few" and "a few". The word "little" means "not much", whilst the words " a little" mean "some, but not much". For example, "I have little money" means I haven't much money, whilst "I have a little money" means that although I don't have much money, I have enough

801 5) WHAT ARE THE 12 SPECIAL VERBS ?

The 12 Special Verbs are - be, can, dare, do, have, may, must, need, ought, shall, used to and will

6) WHAT ARE THE 9 WAYS IN WHICH THE SPECIAL VERBS DIFFER FROM OTHER VERBS ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF EACH !

The 9 ways in which the Special Verbs differ from other verbs are:-

- 1) They form their interrogative by putting the verb before the subject, e.g. Am I your teacher?
- 2) They form their negative just by adding "not", e.g. I cannot understand it
- 3) They are the only verbs that can be used in Tail Questions, e.g. You have a pen, haven't you?
- 4) They are used as auxiliaries, e.g. They were eating
- 5) They are used for short answers, e.g. Will you help me? Yes, I will
- 6) They are used in End Constructions, e.g. My brother has a car, and so have I
- 7) They are used when we wish to be emphatic, e.g. My husband will be pleased to see you
- 8) They are often followed, instead of preceded, by certain adverbs, e.g. I have always kept my promises
- 9) They do not take "s" in the third person singular (except "do"), e.g. I can, you can, he can

- 7) WHAT IS A SENTENCE ? A sentence is a group of words that makes complete sense
- 8) WHAT ARE THE TWO KINDS OF SENTENCES ? The two kinds of sentences are the simple sentence and the compound sentence
- 802 9) WHAT IS A SIMPLE SENTENCE ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE !
A simple sentence is one which contains only one finite verb.
For example, "I do not understand him"
- 10) WHAT IS A COMPOUND SENTENCE ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE !
A compound sentence is one which consists of two or more sentences joined together by a conjunction, such as the words "and" or "but". For example,
(Open your book, please) but (do not read until I tell you to)
- 11) WHAT IS A CLAUSE ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE ! A clause is a group of words which contains a finite verb, but does not make complete sense by itself. For example, "which I told you about"
- 12) WHAT ARE THE TWO KINDS OF CLAUSES ? The two kinds of clauses are principal and subordinate
- 13) HOW ARE SUBORDINATE CLAUSES JOINED TO PRINCIPAL CLAUSES ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE ! Subordinate clauses are joined to principal clauses by conjunctions. For example,
"That is the car **which** I like"
- 14) WHAT IS THE PARADIGM OF THE VERB "TO LAY" (MEANING "TO PUT") ? The paradigm of the verb "to lay" is "lay - laid - laid"
- 803 15) GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF THE CONSTRUCTION - VERB + OBJECT + ADJECTIVE
An example of the construction - verb + object + adjective is "Work makes us tired"
- 16) WHEN DO WE USE THE "TO" INFINITIVE ? - AND GIVE ME SOME EXAMPLES !
We use the "to" infinitive after an adjective, a past participle, a noun, or a pronoun. For example, after an adjective, "They were **pleased** to hear the news"; after a past participle, "He will be very **interested** to know what you have told me"; after a noun, "There are no good **films** to go and see this evening"; and after a pronoun, "She has **nobody** to speak to"
- 17) WHAT IS A PHRASE ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE ! A phrase is part of a sentence. It is a collection of words that does not make complete sense by itself. For example, "on the floor"
- 18) WHAT DO WE MEAN BY A PREPARATORY "IT" ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE !
By a preparatory "it" we mean that the word "it" is used to prepare ourselves for a phrase which is going to follow. For example, "**It** is not very easy to speak a foreign language well"

19) HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT WE SAY "WHAT TIME DID YOU GET UP THIS MORNING?" AND NOT "WHAT TIME HAVE YOU GOT UP THIS MORNING?", EVEN THOUGH THE TIME (THIS MORNING) IS NOT FINISHED? We explain this by the fact that perhaps we are thinking of that part of the morning which is now finished

804 20) WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE CHANGE A QUESTION FROM DIRECT INTO INDIRECT SPEECH? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE! When we change a question from Direct into Indirect Speech, we use a verb like "ask" instead of "say"; we do not use a question mark; and we put the subject before the verb. For example, "Can you give me a book?" becomes "I asked you if you could give me a book"

21) WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE CHANGE A COMMAND FROM DIRECT INTO INDIRECT SPEECH? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE! When we change a command from Direct into Indirect Speech, we use words like "told, commanded, ordered"; and, in the case of a negative command, the "do not" becomes simply "not". For example, "Don't walk so fast" becomes - "I told you not to walk so fast"

22) WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE CHANGE REQUESTS FROM DIRECT INTO INDIRECT SPEECH? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE! When we change requests from Direct into Indirect Speech, we use the same construction as with commands, and use words like "ask" or "request". For example, "Would you pass the salt, please?" becomes - "I asked you if you would please pass the salt"

805 23) WHAT IS AN EMPHASISING PRONOUN? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE! An Emphasising Pronoun is a pronoun that could be left out of a sentence, but is put in to make what is said stronger. For example, "John washed the car **himself**"

24) WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DEFINING AND A NON-DEFINING CLAUSE? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF EACH! The difference between a Defining and a Non-Defining Clause is that a Defining Clause is essential to the meaning of a sentence, whereas a Non-Defining Clause is not essential to the meaning of a sentence. For example, "This is the book that John gave me" and "This book, that John gave me, is very interesting"

25) WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO SENTENCES? - "I HAVE TWO UNCLES WHO ARE VERY OLD" AND "I HAVE TWO UNCLES (COMMA), WHO ARE VERY OLD" The difference between those two sentences is that the first sentence means you have other uncles, whilst the second sentence means you have only two uncles

26) WHEN DO WE ADD THE LETTERS "ES" TO FORM THE PLURAL OF A NOUN AND THE THIRD PERSON SINGULAR OF A VERB ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF EACH !

We add the letters "es" to form the plural of a noun and the third person singular of a verb when a word ends in o: s: x: y: z (or ze): ch, or sh, that is, a word that ends in one of the sounds o: s: ks: i: z: ts or sh. For example, heroes, buses, foxes, ladies, sizes, churches and dishes - does, kisses, boxes, flies, seizes, preaches and rushes

806 27) HOW DO WE GENERALLY FORM THE PLURAL OF NOUNS ENDING IN "F" OR "FE" ? - GIVE ME SOME EXAMPLES - AND TELL ME TWO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE !

We generally form the plural of nouns ending in "f" or "fe" by changing the endings to "ves". For example, leaf - leaves, wife - wives. The exceptions to this rule are cliff - cliffs, chef - chefs

28) WHAT, GRAMMATICALLY, IS AN ANTECEDENT ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE !

An antecedent is a noun for which a Relative Pronoun stands. The word antecedent means "going before". For example, in the sentence "The woman whom I met knows John", the word "woman" is the antecedent and the word "whom" is the Relative Pronoun

29) WHERE DO WE PUT THE RELATIVE PRONOUN IN RELATION TO ITS ANTECEDENT ?

We put the Relative Pronoun as near as possible to its antecedent

807 30) WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO SENTENCES ? -

"THE WOMAN KNOWS JOHN, WHOM I MET" AND "THE WOMAN WHOM I MET KNOWS JOHN"

The difference between those two sentences is that the first sentence means you met John, whilst the second sentence means you met the woman

31) WHAT ARE THE RELATIVE PRONOUNS, AND WHAT DO WE USE EACH OF THEM FOR ?

... that, what, which, who, whom, whose. That ... for people, animals and things. What ... for an antecedent not expressed.

Which ... for animals and things. Who, Whom ... for people. Whose ... for people and animals

32) WHEN CAN WE DROP THE RELATIVE PRONOUN FROM A SENTENCE ?

... when, if it were used, it would be the object of the verb in the clause ... after such words as "I, you, he, Mr. Brown ..."

33) IN WHICH OF THESE TWO SENTENCES CAN WE DROP THE RELATIVE PRONOUN ? - "THIS IS THE CAR THAT TOOK ME TO LONDON", AND, "THIS IS THE CAR THAT I TOOK TO LONDON" - AND WHY ?

... the second ... because it is followed by "I"

34) WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A RELATIVE PRONOUN FOLLOWS A PREPOSITION ?

... it can be dropped

- 808 35) WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RELATIVE PRONOUNS "WHICH" AND "WHOM"; THAT IS, IF WE DECIDE NOT TO DROP THEM FROM THE SENTENCE ? ... "which" and "whom" are changed to "that" and "who" if we ...
- 36) AS EXAMPLES, CHANGE THESE TWO SENTENCES - "THIS IS THE OFFICE IN WHICH I WORKED" AND "THIS IS THE MAN TO WHOM I SPOKE" "This is the office I worked in", and, "This is the man I spoke to"
- 37) WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TRANSITIVE AND AN INTRANSITIVE VERB; AND WHICH OF THESE TWO VERBS IS TRANSITIVE - "RAISE" OR "RISE" ? With a transitive verb, the action passes from the subject, through the verb, to the object. With an intransitive verb, the action of the verb finishes with itself and does not pass to an object. Thus "raise" is transitive
- 38) GIVE ME A SENTENCE CONTAINING A TRANSITIVE VERB, AND GIVE ME A SENTENCE CONTAINING AN INTRANSITIVE VERB ! ... The car hit the wall ... The sun rises at 6 o'clock
- 39) HOW DO WE FORM THE PLURAL OF NOUNS WHICH ARE COMPOSED OF TWO WORDS, THE FIRST OF WHICH IS THE WORD "MAN" OR "WOMAN" ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE ! ... by making both words plural, e.g. women-teachers
- 809 40) IF A NOUN IS MADE WITH A PREPOSITION, HOW DO WE FORM ITS PLURAL ? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE ! ... only the first part takes the plural ... e.g. brothers-in-law
- 41) WHICH WORDS ARE NEVER USED IN THE PLURAL ? ... advice, furniture, information, knowledge and news
- 42) GIVE ME THREE SENTENCES SHOWING THE THREE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN USE A WORD LIKE "FURNITURE"! This furniture is old - This piece of furniture is old - These pieces of furniture are old
- 43) WHY DO WE SAY "A UNIVERSITY" AND NOT "AN UNIVERSITY", EVEN THOUGH THE WORD "UNIVERSITY" BEGINS WITH A VOWEL ? - AND GIVE ME OTHER EXAMPLES ! ... because it begins with a consonant sound ... e.g. a European, a one-eyed dog, a united people ...
- 44) WHY DO WE USE THE WORD "A" IN THE EXCLAMATION "WHAT A BOOK!", BUT NOT IN THE EXCLAMATION "WHAT WEATHER!" ? - AND GIVE ME OTHER EXAMPLES ! ... because books are things we can count ... whilst "weather" is not something we can count ... e.g. What a man! What a beautiful picture! What coffee! What good wine!
- 810 45) WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ARTICLE IN AN EXCLAMATION WHEN THE NOUN IS IN THE PLURAL ? - AND GIVE ME EXAMPLES ! There is no article ... e.g. What books! What men!

- 46) GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF THE SUBJUNCTIVE USED TO EXPRESS A WISH! ... God save the queen!
- 47) WHEN DO WE GENERALLY USE "WAS ABLE" AND NOT "COULD" AS THE PAST OF "CAN"? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE! ... when we wish to express the meanings "to manage" or "to succeed" ... e.g. Mother gave us some money yesterday, so we were able to buy some sweets
- 48) WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SENTENCE IS NEGATIVE? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE! When the sentence is negative we can use either "could" or "was able" ... e.g. Mother did not give us any money yesterday, so we could not buy any sweets
- 49) AS THE VERB "OUGHT TO" HAS NO PAST, FUTURE, PARTICIPLE ETC., WHAT SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION DO WE USE WHEN WE WISH TO EXPRESS THE IDEA OF PAST TIME? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE! ... ought to + have + past participle ... e.g. He ought to have gone home last night
- 811 50) HOW DO WE EXPRESS A FUTURE IDEA WITH THE VERB "OUGHT TO"? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE! ... we use a word or phrase expressing future time ... e.g. I ought to go and see him tomorrow
- 51) WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN MEANING BETWEEN THE VERB "NEED" WHEN USED AS A NORMAL VERB AND WHEN USED AS A DEFECTIVE SPECIAL VERB? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF EACH! The difference when used as a normal ... it means "to want" ... e.g. This room needs cleaning ... as a defective or special verb, it means "to be necessary" ... e.g. Need this room be cleaned?
- 52) DO WE USE THE DEFECTIVE VERB "NEED" IN POSITIVE, INTERROGATIVE OR NEGATIVE SENTENCES? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF EACH! ... in interrogative and negative ... e.g. Need he go at once? No, he needn't
- 53) WHEN "NEED" IS USED AS A DEFECTIVE VERB IN POSITIVE SENTENCES, WHICH WORDS DO WE USE IT WITH? - AND GIVE ME EXAMPLES! ... hardly or scarcely ... e.g. I hardly need ask if you were successful, you look so pleased ... They scarcely need to be told that if they don't study, they won't learn
- 54) WHEN YOU ARE IN DOUBT AS TO WHEN YOU MUST USE "NEED" AS A NORMAL OR AS A DEFECTIVE VERB, HOW IS IT SAFER TO USE IT? - AND GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE! ... as a normal verb ... e.g. He doesn't need to stay if he doesn't want to
- 812 55) WHAT ARE THE TWO WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN FORM THE NEGATIVE OF THE VERB "DARE"? ... either with or without "do"