1 Review of grammatical and syntactical structures

▶ Focus on Grammar, SB page 229

Most (but not all) of the sentences in the following sections contain classic mistakes. Correct those you find. See the example provided.

1.1 Tense forms and time

1 By this time next month we will have finished all our exams!
2 I’d rather you don’t smoke indoors. Can’t you go out on the balcony?
3 Is this the first time you taste Spanish food?
4 You’re always leaving the lights on – it’s a terrible waste of energy!
5 I really wish I was born somewhere warm, like Australia!

1.2 Conditionals

1 If only you told me it was her birthday, I’d have brought a present.
2 If you’ll offer us a larger discount, we’ll pay within ten working days.
3 To be honest, we’ll all be quite relieved unless he comes to the meeting.
4 We’d be back in the tent now if you didn’t lose the map.
5 Had we not seen the rock in time, we would definitely have crashed.

1.3 Structures after verbs

1 They tried to stop us to play cricket in the park.
2 She suggested me to speak to the Principal about my problem.
3 I’m interested to learn as much about Zimbabwe as possible before my trip next month.
4 Remember buying a card for your mother. It’s her birthday next week.
5 The printer seems to be broken. Why don’t you try to plug it in?

1.4 Modals/Modal perfects

1 Don’t touch that – I think it can be poisonous!
2 It mustn’t have been Jack you spoke to, he doesn’t work here any more.
3 Although he had broken his leg, he could swim to the shore.
4 Might you have left your handbag on the bus, do you think?
5 They told us we needn’t have taken warm clothes but when we got there it was absolutely freezing.

1.5 Passives

1 By the time we got to the canteen, most of the food was already eaten.
2 Having been made redundant, Josh decided to emigrate.
3 I think my eyes need being tested, I keep getting terrible headaches.
4 Members are requested to provide proof of identity.
5 Unfortunately, Rory’s record collection got damaged when he moved house.

1.6 Linking devices

1 Despite he lived in Germany for a year, he couldn’t speak a word of the language.
2 We had to cancel the course due to the low number of enrolments.
3 The reason for she studied languages was to work as a tour guide.
4 Poor dietary habits are a major reason of heart disease.
5 Football is an exciting spectator sport, however cricket can be rather boring.

1.7 Participle clauses

1 Lived in the countryside as a boy, I missed out on a lot of things.
2 Suddenly I recognised the man lying in the shop doorway.
3 Never flying before, Ronald seemed rather anxious just before take-off.
4 Terry learnt to ski while living in Canada.
5 My mother who lives in Bath is a school teacher.

1.8 Emphatic structures

1 No sooner we’d arrived at the bar when it closed.
2 Not only dirty was the hotel room, it was also freezing cold!