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It seems that it wouldn't be that difficult to use two small words when and how youd like. But thats not necessarily true, especially when it comes to English language can struggle with grammar, which is notoriously complex. Even native speakers of the English language can struggle with grammar, and one reason is because English has a huge vocabulary with ever-shifting rules. Its no wonder that ESL students cant just pick it up in one English lesson: it takes a while to learn all the intricacies of the language, and one example is with the English words just and only. These are two common and important words you should know regardless of why youre studying English: for school, travel, business English, or otherwise. In this article well go over just and only, explain the differences between the two, and provide some examples of how to use each. The words just and only are often used interchangeably, but they have distinct uses: just can indicate a recent action or emphasize a minimal amount, while only restricts or limits the scope of a statement. For example, just can mean very recently as in I just finished, whereas only limits, as in I only have one. While these two words are very similar and often used in this way. In most other use cases you can replace just and only without changing the meaning. This word has a few different meanings. I. Very recently; in the immediate pastExamples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor, and its still wet. We just finished a big project. 2. Only Examples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor, and its still wet. We just finished a big project. 2. Only Examples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor, and its still wet. We just finished a big project. 2. Only Examples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor, and its still wet. We just finished a big project. 2. 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Only Examples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor is a finished a big project. 3. Only Examples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor is a finished a big project. 3. Only Examples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor is a finished a big project. 3. Only Examples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor is a finished a big project. 3. Only Examples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor is a finished a big project. 3. Only Examples: Be careful Ive just washed the floor is a finished a big project. 3. Only Examples: Be careful Ive ju you ate just half of your lunch. In most cases, the word only can be replaced by the word just. Examples: Only/Just two students came to class on Monday. My kids only/just use the internet for schoolwork, not for playing games. When using the phrase if only, the word just can be used if the sentence structure is changed slightly. Examples: If only he had studied harder, he would have passed the test. If he had just studied harder, he would have passed the test. The words only and just are interchangeable if the meaning is only, but not if the meaning is very recently; in the immediate past cannot be applied to both words: Ive just washed the floor (a few minutes ago). I only washed the floor (and I didnt wash the table). Nevertheless, it all depends on the context. Did you eat all the cakes? No, I just/only ate one. In the following sentence, we cannot use only instead of just: Why is the floor wet? Because Ive just washed it. When we use just and only, word order is very important: Ive just had two pieces of pizza. (= I have recently eaten only two pieces of pizza, not 3 or 4 or 5) Watch this video and explanation about the difference between just and only in English. I hope that you now understand when to use each word. If there is something you still dont understand, please ask. Loved this article? Explore more fascinating advanced English wocabulary here! Its only English! Have fun! Feeling inspired? Check out our guide on how to learn English. Learning English means remembering a lot of grammatical rules as well as different words and expressions. Sometimes we can remember something we have already in learned in English fairly quickly, but sometimes a word or rule we learned not long ago wholly flies out of our mind when we need it the most. This is especially true for ESL learners who dont have an excellent grasp on the language yet. Does that sound familiar? Today, well learn seven idiomatic expressions in English about memory, along with example sentences of each. You can use these expressions when talking about memory, remembering things, or forgetting things, or forgetting things. Lets get started! This idiom in English means to remind someone of something theyve forgotten. For example: Let me refresh your memory you've already missed four classes this term. I had to refresh her memory about what happened two years ago. The second idiom on our list means if I remember (something) properly. Use it when you are fairly confident that you remember something correctly, but you are the cousin of my closest friend. If memory serves me correctly, weve already met before. This idiom means to remind someone about something they have forgotten. For example: When he started to sing the song, it jogged my memory, and I remembered meeting him in Paris. I tried to jog Jacksons memory about our childhood antics. Our fourth idiom means to study something carefully so that you can remember it exactly. Look at the examples, and I think youll get the sense of how to use this idiom. I havent got a pen to write down your phone number, so Ill have to commit it to memory. I always commit to memory all my patients names. This idiom in English refers to an occasion when people remember or talk about things that happened in the past. For example: Every Christmas is a trip down memory lane, talking about our vacation in the Bahamas last summer, when Juliet entered the room. If someone says to you bear in mind, it means they want you to remember something important. For example: You must bear in mind that the cost of living is higher in New York. Bear in mind, my dear, its hard to trust people once you have been deceived. This idiom is used to say that someone does not remember what is said or is not paying attention to it. For example: Mary is such an inattentive person. When you talk to her, it goes in one ear and outstand or is not paying attention to it. For example: Mary is such an inattentive person. When you talk to her, it goes in one ear and outstand or is not paying attention to it. For example: Mary is such an inattentive person. When you talk to her, it goes in one ear and outstand or is not paying attention to it. For example: Mary is such an inattentive person. When you talk to her, it goes in one ear and outstand or is not paying attention to it. For example: Mary is such an inattentive person. the other.I wont talk to him anymore. He never listens to me. It goes in one ear and out the other.If youre trying to learn English idioms is important. Not everyone has an English idioms is important to him anymore. He never listens to me. It goes in one ear and out the other.If youre trying to learn English teacher, so studying idiom lists independently and learning them yourself might be the best choice for you. Now that youve learned a few helpful English phrases about memory (or forgetting things) try to include them in your everyday speech. May your memory always serve you correctly! Good luck in your language learning! Boost your vocabulary! More idioms just a click away: Conditional sentences are one of the trickier parts of learning English. There are 5 types of conditional sentences, and you need to be able to use and identify all of them. As a rule, conditional sentences are used to express possible or imaginary situations. The order of these two parts of the sentences are used to express possible or imaginary situations. The order of these two parts of the sentences are used to express possible or imaginary situations. The order of these two parts of the sentences are used to express possible or imaginary situations. The order of these two parts of the sentences are used to express possible or imaginary situations. The order of these two parts of the sentences are used to express possible or imaginary situations. The order of these two parts of the sentences are used to express possible or imaginary situations. the sentence comes first, a comma should be used to separate it from the second part. Keep reading to learn more or discoveronline English grammar classes on Preply. Conditional sentences are used to express actions or events that are dependent on a specific condition being met, typically using if clauses. They are categorized into different types, such as zero, first, second, and third conditionals, each serving distinct purposes in indicating real or hypothetical scenarios. Before we get started, heres a brief chart summarizing the 5 types of conditional sentences and how theyre used: Conditional sentence typeWhen to useMain clauseIf-clauseType ZeroDescribing known factsSimple presentSimple presentType 1A possible situation and the resultWould + infinitiveSimple past situation and its result in the pastWould + perfect infinitivePast perfectMixed ConditionalsAn impossible past situation and its result in the presentPast perfectPresent conditional This type of conditional Sentence is used to describe scientific facts, generally known truths, events and other things that are always true. I think its the simples type of conditional sentence in English. Main part: Present Simple scientific facts, generally known truths, events and other things that are always true. I think its the simples type of conditional sentence in English. Main part: Present Simple scientific facts, generally known truths, events and other things that are always true. I think its the simples type of conditional sentence in English. red light comes on if you press the main button. In Type Zero sentences, if can be replaced by when. Examples: When you heat ice, it melts. It gets dark when the sun goes down. This type of sentence expresses real and possible situations in the future; it is possible for the condition to be met. Main part: will + infinitive; if part: Present SimpleExamples:We will stay at home if it snows. She will get angry if Im late for the party. If we get the money for this job, we will buy a new car. Will you help Amanda if she asks you? This type of conditional sentence describes an unreal situation with regard to the present or future; a hypothetical condition that can only be fulfilled in theory. Main part: would + infinitive; if part: Past SimpleIn conditional sentences, the past tense form of the verb to be is were for all persons; was is also used, although only in spoken or conversational English. Examples: We would stay at home if it snowed. I would buy a new board if I had more money. If he were rich, hed buy an island. If you left now, youd catch the last bus. Type two conditional sentences are also used when making polite requests. Examples: If I were you or If I were in your place he would be grateful if you helped me. He would be grateful if you helped me. He would be grateful if you came to the birthday party. The phrases If I were you or If I were in your place he would do it. Type three conditional sentences are used to express situations that cannot exist, such as actions or events that happened in the past. They are often used to indicate a missed opportunity. Main part: would + perfect infinite; if part: Past PerfectExamples: If you hadnt been late for work, the boss wouldnt have gotten furious. They would have finished earlier if the meeting hadnt been held so late. If I had won the lottery, I would have bought a house by the sea. Would you have helped me if I had asked you? This type of conditional sentence uses (mixes) different parts of the above-mentioned conditional sentence types. There are a few combinations: the condition emphasizes the result of the action in the present in the present in the past tense, or the past tense, or the past tense, or the past tense tense tense tense. more in the match yesterday if they were good players. If the modal verbs can/could, may/might or should are used in the main part of the sentence, they take the place of will: We can go to the seaside if you have time tomorrow. If you have time tomorrow. If you have time tomorrow will and would are not usually used in the if part, except when they express willingness, for example, in requests (that is, when they carry a modal meaning): If you will phone the manager now, he will surely make an appointment with you. (willingness) I would be very thankful if you would help me with my homework. (very polite request) The word should in the if part can mean if perhaps or by any chance. I would be very happy if he should turn up at the party. (Hes not at all likely to come, but perhaps) In negative sentences, ifnot can be substituted with unless. You wont pass the exam unless you study very hard. (= if you dont study very hard) If can be omitted from the sentence if the word order is changed. This is sometimes done in Type Three conditional sentences if the verb were, is used: Were I rich, I would buy a house by the sea. (= if I were rich) Had your cousin come earlier, I would have shown her around the house. (= if she had come earlier) I hope that my explanation of conditional sentences in English was clear and understandable. If not, let me know! Hello! Could you have just said or done something great for me and that has made this day a very great and important one. Simply: You have made me happy today. It is sometimes used as a dare or warning like by Clint Eastwood in the Dirty Harry movies Make my day Go ahead and do something stupid then see how I will enjoy dealing with you or punishing you. Take this 5-min test to see how close you are to achieving your language learning goals. 6 years agoBoth basically means the same thing. When you make someone's day, you make them feel happy and awesome on that particular day. However, "You made my day" is an expression that is more commonly and frequently used rather than the present perfect form "You've made my day". Both are acceptable, the difference lies in the where, when, and how it was said.5 years agoHello Valery, you can use both expressions. They mean roughly the same thing. That being said, "You made my day" is a much more popular and commonly used phrase.5 years agohello both expression are grammatically correct.however, it depends on the context, so if it is an action done and finished in the past, it is past simple as per the present perfect it is related to the nearest past: today, recently....to me i like using the present perfect because it is more correct and more eloquent style of speaking. YOU HAVE MADE MY DAY .4 years agoNot a significant difference between the two expressions. However, if you are expressing the sentiment on the very day, the use of have made my day' is the better option.4 years agoIt's present tense. ... "You have made my day", in the present perfect tense, is used for something that happened yesterday. So the correct versions are "you have made my day today" "you made my day yesterday." 4 years agoDon't get confused, both the sentences are correct.4 years agoHi Valeire "You have made my day", in the present perfect tense, (It happened today) is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today) is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today) is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today) is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today) is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today) is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today) is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today) is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today is correct. "You made my day", in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened today is used for something that happened to made my day", in the present perfect tense, (It happened today) is correct. "You made my day-in the past simple tense, is used for something that happened previouslyYou have made my day-in the present perfect tense, something that happened today-so this is correct. Regards Lisa years agoIn written English, and this is why: Native speakers speak fast. We will say Youve made my day, but it will sound more like You made my day. Sometimes we leave out sounds when speaking fast. In this case its the V and it is almost non-existent when spoken American English. It is called elision. 2 years agoTL:DR"You have made my day" - Present Perfect Tense"You made my day" - Present Perfect Tense agoTL:DR"You have made my day agoTL:DR"You have my day agoTL:DR"Y agosounds good, interesting topics11 months agoHello!Both sentences are correct, but they are used in slightly different contexts: "You made my day" is in the present perfect tense. It suggests that the action happened at some indefinite time in the past and has a connection to the present moment. So, if someone did something earlier today and you're feeling happy about it now, you might say, "You have made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting on something that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, "You made my day." If you're reflecting that happened yesterday, the knowledge you need! Prices from just \$5 per hour. Explore tutors In the world of messengers and chat rooms, the use of Internet abbreviations is as natural as seeing another selfie maker at the street. Somehow these catchy shorthand words have grown into the whole new language used by millennials and Gen Zers. Some people call it Internet slang since many abbreviations are mostly used in informal conversations of specific groups in social media networks. However, the typical slang of British English, American English, Australian English, and others are typically localized whereas Internet abbreviations are universal and used by any person who catches the gist of a chat. The likelihood you can come up with ten common texting abbreviations are universal and used by any person who catches the gist of a chat. The likelihood you can come up with ten common texting abbreviations are universal and used by any person who catches the gist of a chat. The likelihood you can come up with ten common texting abbreviations are universal and used by any person who catches the gist of a chat. The likelihood you can come up with ten common texting abbreviations are universal and used by any person who catches the gist of a chat. The likelihood you can come up with ten common texting abbreviations are universal and used by any person who catches the gist of a chat. The likelihood you can come up with ten common texting abbreviations are universal and used by any person who catches the gist of a chat. understand. Thats why we wrote this article with over 100 of the most popular internet abbreviations of 2025: so you can use it as a reference, test yourself, and master the hip lingo of the internet abbreviation), G2G (Got to go), FB (Facebook), MSG (Message), TTYL (Talk to you later), and IMO (In my opinion). These are widely used for quick and efficient communications in 2025:LOL: Laughing out loudASAP: As soon as possible FYI: For your information G2G: Got to goFB: FacebookMSG: MessageTTYL: Talk to you laterIMO: In my opinion Limits. As simple as it is, people have started abbreviating words due to the limited number of characters and 20 characters for a username. This number doubled to 280 characters, yet the tradition to abbreviate is still a trend these days. People want to save their efforts and time for typing especially when its made on the go. Besides, one of the reasons to use shorthand in texting is the accelerated life pace which makes us say or do more in less space and time. People stopped using long beautiful transition words or phrases like nevertheless, notwithstanding the fact that because it takes too many taps to write them. Hence, the second reason is simply humans laziness and impatience to type full words. Still, its not that because idleness has been an engine of progress for many centuries. The shorthand communication can be compared to a specific secret language code between users in different online chats, social media, instant messaging services like Skype, WhatsApp, Telegram, Facebook Messenger, etc. This abbreviation code is also a perfect way to protect one-to-one conversation from someones intrusion. One of the assumptions is that the greater part of abbreviations appeared because teens needed to hide their private chats from parents eyes. And there are specific examples that confirm it:PAW (Parent in the room)PBB (Parent behind back)POMS (Parent steeping parents clueless)PAH (Parent at home). The craziest thing is that today our parents also use IM abbreviations to chat with their friends. However, sometimes their messages make us blush and even fofl (falling on floor laughing). Basically, millennials were those who created and popularized the use of internet chat abbreviations. Shortened common words, word combinations, and even sentences have become a part of tweeting and instant messaging. Have you wondered what does NTH mean in texting messaging and why cant people simply say Nice to have! Of course, you can join a chat and write instead of TTYL or OMG their full variants like Talk to you later / Oh my God. Twitter wont crash, and others in a chat wont come with curses. However, eventually, you will write their shorthand variants to keep up with others. To help you learn more abbreviations and acronyms, we grouped them according to a similar pattern of use. Make sure you practice some daily English exersices to memorize new words and phrases. HIFW How I feel whenHIFW has become one of the most common text abbreviations in funny, sarcastic memes and gifs on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Another example with the full words is also frequently used in blogs and FB posts. TFW That feeling when. TFW internet slang often goes in a caption to an image. MFW My face when MRW My reaction when IFYP I feel your pain LOL Laughing out loudTNTL Trying not to laughJK Just kidding IDC I don't care ILY I love you IMU I miss you ADIH Another day in hellIDC I dont care ZZZ Sleeping, bored, tiredWYWH Wish you were hereTIME Tears in my eyesBAE Before anyone elseYou can use it referring to a person who you care for the most. E.g. Me and my BAE have just watched another episode of Game of Thrones!SSDD Same stuff, different dayQQ CryingFor me, the origin of QQ abbreviation is really surprising. According to Urban Dictionary, at first, QQ meant to quit the game Warcraft II by pressing the hotkey Alt+QQ. Hence, when a player started whining, others offered him to QQ. Soon, it was associated with crying eyes and used in texting and tweeting as well.FIMH Forever in my heartBSAAW Big smile and a winkBWL Bursting with laughterLMAO Laughing my a** offBFF Best friends foreverCSL Cant stop laughing IMOIMHO In my opinionIn my humble opinionOMDB Over my dead bodyNTH Nice to have. what does nth mean in texting messagingPOV Point of ViewTBH To be honestFTW For the winWTF What the f***This and the following examples belong to internet slang abbreviations describing something of the best or low (FTL) quality. If you say something is FTW, then it can be splendid, amazing, perfect, etc. FTL For the lossYNK You never knowSMH Shaking my head SRSLY Seriously YGTR You got that rightGMTA Great minds think alikeIt is sometimes confused with GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test); however, those who have gone through that painful preparation to exam could always tell the difference. The abbreviation, which refers to the common way of thinking, has become mainstream and even placed as a print on cups, pillows, shirts, etc.AYMM Are you my mother?CWOT Complete waste of time IANAL I am not a lawyerNext time you share any law-related advice in a public chat, put IANAL or its analogue TINLA (This is not legal advice) so that you are not accused of unlicensed consultation. In the U.S. and other countries, even a small recommendation on how to deal with your assets or running a divorce case can be regarded as unauthorized law practice. AFAIK As far as I knowAFAIR As far as I knowAFAIR As far as I moncernedASL Age, sex, locationAAMOF As a matter of factFWIW For what its worthYMMV Your mileage may varyIIRC If I remember correctlyDM Direct messageAFAICT As far as I can tellTL;DR Too long; didnt readYou can reply with this abbreviation not only to emphasise how long the post is but also to explain that youve been too lazy to read and just ignored it. Which is why TL;DR also means Too lazy; didnt read. Later, it gave birth to ToS; DR (Terms of service; didnt read). As you may know, many people skip studying this part of a website because of the complex law terms and long sentences. IRL In real lifeTIL Today I learnedSOML Story of my life. What does SOML mean in texting? Most likely a person compares another persons story with own situation. EMBM Early morning business meeting]4F Just for funJSYK Just so you knowFAWC For anyone who caresRLRT Real life retweetOH OverheardWUZUP Whats up?CS Career suicideDWH During work hours OMW NSFW Not safe for workIf you see this kind of abbreviation posted near a specific link, then do not click it. Most likely, NSFW acronym will lead to some sexual, nude, brutal or violent content which can possibly cause mental harm.SFW Safe for workGRAS Generally recognised as safeNBD Not big dealOC Original content 4AO For adults onlyOP Original posterThis refers to someone who was the first to publish a post.PPL PeopleICYMI In case you missed itJIC Just in caseNAGI Not a good ideaGOI Get over itRBTL Read between the linesAYOR At your own riskDIY Do it yourselfE123 Easy as one, two, threeGAHOY Get a hold of yourself TMB Tweet me backWTPA Where the party at?DAE Does anyone else?PRT Please retweetPTB Please text backTIA Thanks in advanceBUMP Bring up my post Cant get enough slang? Check out these related articles! You can always find the larger list of internet abbreviations and other shortened words on the web. However, even with these examples, youll be ready enough to start a conversation in a public chat. Before you begin using any texting abbreviations from our list look through the chat history. If you find that only reaction acronyms appear in the chat flow (lol, omg, or such graphical symbols as) and etc.), then its better not to overuse other unknown examples. Most importantly, do not operate with acronyms or abbreviations having a formal chat with your CEO in a corporate chat room. Our article on English for the office with tips on how to communicate better in the workplace will come in handy in this case. Need help improving your English skills? Check out our guide on English for the office with tips on how to communicate better in the workplace will come in handy in this case. Need help improving your English skills? Check out our guide on English for the office with tips on how to communicate better in the workplace will come in handy in this case. Need help improving your English skills? Check out our guide on English for the office with tips on how to communicate better in the workplace will come in handy in this case. Need help improving your English skills? Check out our guide on English for the office with tips on how to communicate better in the workplace will come in handy in this case. How to learn English! There are four different types of past tense in English, but the past simple tense in English, but the past simple tense works, when you should use it, and some common past tense verbs that you can use in sentences. Keep reading to learn more or takeonline English grammar classes on Preply. You can describe the past in English in four different tenses. They are:Past simple (also called preterite) as the past in English in four different tenses. They are:Past simple tense is used to talk about things that both started and ended in the past. It is one of the most commonly used tenses in English as it indicates something that has already happened. To talk about events that happened in the past I walked to school yesterday. To talk about events that happened in the past I walked to school yesterday. To talk about events that happened in the past I walked to school yesterday. To talk about events that happened in the past I walked to school yesterday. every winter for ten years. Pro tip Past simple is only used when the action or event in the past was completed. If an action started in the past but is continuing into the future that is a different tense (present perfect). Regular verbs always follow the same rules and so once you have understood how this rule works, you can apply this to all regular verbs. The rule for simple past tense is very easy to remember. You just need to add -ed to the base form or infinitive verb, (or -d if the root form already ends in an e). The infinitive verb appears in the dictionary, for example, walk. [verb] + [ed] = regular past tense verbFor example: To walk walk + ed = walkedI walked into townTo paint paint + ed = paintedI painted a pictureTo love love + d = lovedI loved my ex-wifeAdditionally, verbs in the simple past do not change depending on the subject, they always stay the same. For example: I smiled, you smiled, we smiled, we smiled, they smiled. If you want to put this theory into practice, try this free online exercise sheet. Of course, there are some exceptions to the English grammar rules around simple past. Irregular verbs, like to be for example, dont follow a pattern or rule like regular verbs and so just have to be memorized. That might seem like a big task, but to learn English you only need to focus on the most important ones. Here are fifty of the most common irregular verbs to get you started:Infinitive verbPast simple verbTo bewas (I/he/she) were (you/we/they)To gowentTo dodidTo havehadTo getgotTo eatateTo fallfellTo feelfeltTo dreamdreamtTo speakspokeTo givegaveTo taketookTo findfoundTo drawdrewCancouldTo drinkdrankTo choosechoseTo buyboughtTo growgrewTo hearheardTo knowknewTo makemadeTo paypaidTo readread (in the past tense, this word is pronounced red)To letletTo meetmetTo loselostTo saysaidTo reachtaughtTo swimswamTo winwonTo thinkthoughtTo sitsatTo sendsentTo seesawTo keepkeptTo leaveleftTo drivedroveTo cutcutTo costcostTo flyflewIrregular verbs are used in sentences in the same way as regular ones. For example: I flew to Spain in an airplane last weekYou paid for our lunch yesterdayHe won a prize for his poetry a few years agoWe sold our house recentlyThe doctor sent me home at midday. You can use past simple with time expressions that refer to a point of time in the past, for example, earlier today, yesterday, last week, last month or last Tuesday. I married Steve last yearYou can also use phrases that refer to an indefinite period of time in the past, often marked by the word ago. For example, a long time ago, a month ago, several years ago. The old lady died fifty years ago Or phrases that suggest frequency, for things which happened multiple times in the past: often, sometimes, never, every. I often jogged home after work A quick note on pronunciation! Not all regular past tense verbs with ed at the end are pronounced the same way. Most of the time, the ed is pronounced like a soft d. Sometimes, the ending of the word is pronounced like an id to rhyme with lid. PaintedCorrectedErectedOther times, the ed sounds more like at the end of paint. Pronunciation will become easier the more you practice listening and listening to English. Watching TV in English with subtitles is a great way to practice listening and you can hear how native speakers pronounce words. To make negative sentences in the past tense of do not. [Subject] + [did not / didnt] + [present tense verb form]He did not come home for Christmas I did not walk to work yesterday We subject.SubjectVerb (To be)IWasYouWereHe/She/ItWasWeWereThe negative of was not or wasnt for short. The negative of were not playing gamesWe werent going to schoolThe other exception is modal verbs. Modal verbs describe whether something is certain, possible, or impossible; they are: could, might, should, and would. To make a modal verb into a negative, you write the verb + not. For example: Here are some examples of negative statements using modal verbs: I could not remember his nameHe should not worry too muchYou mustnt spend too much time watching TVThey wouldnt eat my spicy curry This article is a starting point for understanding the past simple tense in English. Dont worry if it doesnt stick straight away. Learning Englishgrammar rules is 5% theory and 95% practice, so the next step is to try and use what youve learned. Book some lessons with a Preply English tutor prices start from just \$5 per hour, and you can put the past simple tense theory into conversations. If you get stuck or have any questions, there is a native-speaking tutor on hand to help you out, so youll soon be a master of the past simple tense. English grammar can be tricky sometimes, and one of the areas that often confuses learners is understanding when to use began vs. begun. These two verb forms are similar because they come from the verb begin. However, they have distinct uses, and if applied incorrectly, they can affect proper communication. In this article, well explore each of these verb forms in detail, providing clear definitions, comparisons, and examples so you can perfect your usage of both. So, scroll down and lets begin! One of the major differences between began and begun is their tenses. But before we go into more detail about each one, lets define what a verb tense actually is and identify which ones we will be looking at. Verb tenses refer to the different forms a verb can take to indicate when an action or event took place. In English, the verb you use to describe something that happened in the past differs from the one you use for something happening in the present. There are several verb tenses commonly used to describe past events or actions. Two of these are the simple past tense and the past participle tense. The simple past tense is the verb tense used to describe a completed action or event that started and ended in the past. It is usually formed by adding -ed to the end of regular verb sor using the irregular verb go is went. Begin is an irregular verb, so the simple past tense is began. In English, the past participle is the specific verb form used to form perfect tenses. Perfect tenses describe actions that occurred before other actions in the past perfect, actions that began in the past and are ongoing (present perfect tense) or actions that will begin before another action in the future (future perfect tense). Well focus on the past perfect and present perfect tenses in this article. The perfect tenses are formed by combining the past tense, the past participle is formed by adding ed to the end of the regular verb or using the irregular verb form. For instance, the past participle of talk is talked, but the past participle of go is gone. The past participle of begin is begun. Below are some examples of the simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect tense in action: Simple past tense and the perfect t together.In these examples, we used the simple past tense to describe actions that started and ended in the past.Perfect tense)She has gone to the mall. (present perfect tense)She has gone to the mall. (present perfect tense)She has defined about this issue before. (past perfect tense)In the past.Perfect tense examples, we used the simple past tense about this issue before. (past perfect tense)In the past.Perfect tense examples, we used the simple past tense about this issue before. (past perfect tense)In the past.Perfect tense examples, we used the simple past tense about this issue before. (past perfect tense)In the past.Perfect tense examples, we used the simple past tense about this issue before. (past perfect tense)In the past.Perfect tense examples, we used the simple past tense about this issue before. (past perfect tense)In the past.Perfect tense examples, we used the simple past tense examples are the past.Perfect tense examples are the past.P these examples, the past participle form is used with an auxiliary verb (also known as a helping verb) to form the perfect tense. Now that you understand the relevant verb tense of the verb begin. This tense is used when we are discussing an action that started and ended in the past. For example: The movie began promptly at 7:00 PM and ended at 9:30 PM. Below are a few more example post tense: She began reading the book yesterday. They began their road trip early in the morning. He began cooking dinner in the kitchen. We began our hike at sunrise. The teacher began the class by introducing the topic.I began learning to play the guitar when I was a child. She began her presentation confidently, captivating the audience from the start. 1. Use began her presentation with an introduction. 2. Consider the context and time frame to determine if its a past or ongoing action. If the action is a simple past event that has been completed, use began, lets take a look at the verb form begun is the past participle form of the verb begin. This verb form is used with auxiliary verbs such as has, have, or had to form either the perfect tense, and passive constructions. Lets look at the present perfect tense, and passive constructions in more detail. Begun can be used with the auxiliary verbs has or have to form the present perfect tense. We use this tense when we are describing actions that started in the past and continue into the present. For example: He has begun their research. The past before another past event. To form this tense, we use begun with the auxiliary verb had. For example: By the time she arrived, the meeting had already begun. Passive verb construction is a grammatical structure where the subject of the sentence receives the auxiliary verb be (be, am, is, are, were, was, being, been) followed by the past participle of the main verb. Begun is the past participle of begin, so thats what we use in passive verb construction) In the second sentence, the subject Sandra began the work was begun by Sandra. (passive verb construction is commonly used when the focus is in the action instead of the doer. Its also used when the doer of the action is not known. The movie has begun (present perfect tense) By the time I arrived, the party had already begun. (present perfect tense) He realized he had begun reading the wrong book. (past perfect tense) The novel was begun many years ago. (passive verb construction) He race had begun the meeting. (present perfect tense) The construction work had been begun by a renowned architect. (passive verb construction) We have begun the meeting. construction)Use begun and an auxiliary verb when you are writing about an action that started in the past and is still ongoing (present perfect). Pay attention to auxiliary verbs such as have/has/had or be/was/were. When these auxiliary verbs are present, use the past participle form begun. Remember to use begun when you are forming passive constructions. One common mistake is using the simple past tense began with an auxiliary verb instead of the past participle begun. Incorrect: She has begun her new job. Some people also use begun when they should have used began.Incorrect: She has begun her presentation yesterday. Correct: She began her presentation yesterday. The past participle begun should be combined with an auxiliary verb (e.g., have, has, had). Omitting or using the incorrect auxiliary verb will lead to grammatically incorrect sentences. Incorrect: They begun their vacation. Correct: They have begun their vacation. Another common mistake is when has/have begun is used when the simple past tense began would be more appropriate. Incorrect: She has begun her journey yesterday. Correct: She began her journey yesterday. but a common mistake is to use began instead. Incorrect: The book was began by the author. A common misconception is that the past actions or events. This isnt the case: Began is the appropriate form for describing simple past actions that started and ended at an action or events. This isnt the case: Began is the appropriate form for describing simple past actions or events. particular time. Incorrect: They have begun their journey early in the morning. Correct: They began their journey early in the morning. Although began and begun are both past forms of the werb begin, they each have different uses and contexts in English grammar. Weve discussed some of the differences already, but lets look at the comparisons in a little more detail. Began is the simple past tense form of begin. It is used to discuss an action or event that started and ended in the past. Begun is the past perfect tense (for an action that started and ended in the past) or the past perfect tense (for an action that started and ended in the past) It is also used for passive constructions. Began doesnt need an auxiliary verb. Began their presentation with an introduction. They began their journey early in the morning. The team began their practice session promptly at 9 AM. Past participle tense: She has begun her new job. They have begun by a team of experts. Practice what you have learned about begun by trying out the following her new job at the company. They .Exercise 2: Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the incorrect usage of begun or began with the appropriate form: I have begun reading the book yesterday. The project was began by a team of professionals. They have begun reading the book yesterday. The project was began by a team of professionals. They have begun reading the book yesterday. The project was began by a team of professionals. They have begun reading the book yesterday. The project was began by a team of professionals. They have begun reading the book yesterday. The project was begun their vacation last month. If you want to deepen your understanding of began vs. begun, check out our article on great resources for learning verb forms. In it, youll find a range of learning aids to help you practice and perfect verb forms in English. You can also immerse yourself in popular grammar books such as English Grammar in Use by Raymond Murphy and The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation by Lester Kaufman and Jane Straus. They provide clear explanations and exercises on various grammar topics, including verb tenses. In addition to reading books and articles, utilizing online platforms such as Preply can also be hugely beneficial to your learning. Preply offers personalized language learning and group classes run by experienced English tutors. Remember, practice is key when it comes to improving your understanding of English, and receiving guidance from language tutors will further help to enhance your skills. Loved this article? Explore more fascinating advanced English vocabulary here! Using the appropriate verb forms enhances your English language skills and helps to convey your intended meaning accurately. Began vs. begun can be confusing, but the tricks shared in this guide will help you understand their usage. We explained that began is the past tense of begin and describes actions that happened in the past. It can also be used for passive constructions. Its important to keep practicing the correct usage of began vs. begun to improve your fluency in English language skills to the next level is through 1-on-1 tutoring. Whether youlearn English online or offline, understanding which preposition of time and place to use is tricky. The in, on, and at prepositions can be intimidating when you dont fully understand the difference between at and on or when to use at or in. Luckily, there are explicit situations where the in, on, and at prepositions are specifically used. And we want to let you in on these cases. The following guidelines will help you use the correct preposition of place and time every time. The prepositions in, on, and at are used to indicate time and place: In is for larger areas or periods (e.g., in the garden, in 2020), on is for surfaces or specific days (e.g., at the door, at 5 PM). Two of the most common contexts in which in, at, and on are used involve identifying where someone or something happened. This means they can be both prepositions of place and prepositions are prepositions are prepositions. information more digestible, we organized it into neat tables. The first one explains how in, on, and at can be used as prepositions. Prepositions tuations. Prepositions we organized it into neat tables. The first one explains how in, on, and at preposition examples you will often hear in everyday situations. Preposition examples you will often hear in everyday situations. Preposition examples at the bakery. The shop is at 455 Main Street. Someone is at the door. Is she at a concert tonight? Read the title at the top of the page. on On a surface Exceptions: general street names and close to a river The painting is on the wall. Her ring is on her middle finger. Do you like anything on the menu? I live on Grove Street. The restaurant is on the river. in In an enclosed space or a general area that contains borders or boundariesShe has a penny in her pocket. I left my wallet in the car. The children are in the garden. They live in New York City. Im staying in France this summer. Note: When referring to buildings or other confined areas, both prepositions at and in can be used, depending on the context. If you would like to describe the general location of where someone/something is, you should use at. For example, Mary is at the school. However, if you need to emphasize that someone/something is inside the building or area, you can use in. For instance, Mary is in the school. The second table shows the same prepositions used to explain specific hours, days, or times of day, illustrated with helpful in, on, and at preposition examples. Preposition examples at 6 oclock. The show starts at 4:45. I hate driving at night. on Specific days and dates Days of the week Weekends* Holidays* (e.g., News) Years Eve, Independence Day, Halloween)BirthdaysThe party is on May 5th. They work out on Mondays. I relax on the weekend. He left on Christmas day. We met on Easter. I cried on my birthday. in More general times Months Seasons Years Centuries Time periods Past Future Exception for times of day: morning, afternoon, evening I saw him in August. We ski a lot in the winter. You graduated in 2005. She grew up in the 90s. It was cold in the Ice Age. He was angrier in the preposition on is used with weekends and holidays, as shown above. However, in British English and other varieties, the preposition at can be used with weekends and holidays. Learn more about this below. As mentioned above, one difference between American and British grammar is our use of in, on, and at prepositions. Below, weve highlighted some examples so you can feel confident using them no matter which type of English you wish to learn American English: Will you visit on the weekend? American English: I study law in schoolThese distinctions will help you sound more like a native speaker in either Britain or the US That said, as Brits consume a lot of American media, they will know what you mean if you get confused. With so many small rules, its easy to mix up the in, on, and at prepositions. Weve gathered some common mistakes learners can make when using these propositions to show you the correct way. Incorrect: I will meet you in 5 PM.Correct: I will meet you at 5 PM. Incorrect: Our meeting is in October 5th. Correct: He lives in 123 Main Street. Correct: He lives at 123 Main Street. Incorrect: He lives at 123 Main Street. Incorrect: He son a hurry. Correct: He lives in 123 Main Street. married.Correct: At the end of the movie, they get married. Incorrect: I entered in the room. Correct: I entered the room. Incorrect: We met on last Friday. Correct: We met last Friday. Corr Friday. Despite our top tips, you may still be a little unsure. Dont worry! Preply English tutors are also here to help. With personalized learning plans, flexible schedules, and many more benefits, you can find the perfect tutor with ease. No more guessing or frettingyour English improves now! Workplaces are more complex than ever you may be working with a client on the other side of the world, managing diverse, remote teams, or onboarding someone who speaks a different language. Chances are, youll experience intercultural misunderstandings at one point, whether thats about the way you gave feedback or a gesture you made. To improve communication and workflow across your teams, or onboarding someone who speaks a different language. you need to know the causes of misunderstandings in communication? Cultural misunderstandings in communication styles across cultures. These misunderstandings can lead to both in verbal and nonverbal communication includes how you give feedback, address people, and share your ideas. Some cultures value direct feedback (This needs improvement), while others are more indirect (Maybe we could try a different approach?). Nonverbal communication is how you communicate using body language such as eye contact, gestures, and personal space. A good example is the concept of personal spacein some countries, an arms length is enough in others. Conflict can arise through both verbal and nonverbal miscommunication, generating negative emotions from both parties, such as annoyance, embarrassment, offense, uncertainty, and even anger. Intercultural miscommunication and misunderstandings at work are often due to two contributing factors: Increasing diversity within the workplace: Having diverse teams often means youll get different perspectives, fresh ideas, and creative solutions to your problems at work. These teams are becoming more and more common with the rise of multicultural family units, migration, and relocation. Colleagues need to understand each other to cooperate and work together to achieve shared goals. Expanding the global reach of organizations: These days, its easy (and desirable) to communicate electronically with clients, suppliers, and other business associates in countries on the other side of the world. You build stronger relationships when youre familiar with clients language and culture. Causes of intercultural misunderstandings are often complex and multifaceted. However, we can narrow it down to 4 factors. Below is a detailed explanation for each of them, along with relevant cultural misunderstandings examples featuring different countries: 1. Ethnocentrism is defined as the attitude that ones own group, ethnicity, or nationality is superior to others. Here, the idea is that people view other cultures through the lens of their own, judging them by the standards and norms of their own culture. In doing so, it is only too easy to misinterpret others actions and behaviors, which inevitably leads to conflict. For example, in the US and UK, maintaining a degree of equality between a manager and their staff is viewed as a good thing. Therefore, it is not unusual in these work environments for a supervisor to run out and order coffee or cakes for the whole team, as any other employee might do. But in other countries where a hierarchy is more strictly followed and valued, picking up beverages or snacks for the office is viewed as a very low-skilled task that is only performed by junior personnel. So, in this type of culture, a manager who fetches coffee for their team might find that they are no longer respected by their employees. Likewise, an American supervisor who works in India and tries to bond with their staff by sitting at a desk in the same office space might encounter similar problems. This is because, in India, it is more customaryand expected for managers to have their own separate office. Social psychologist Geert Hofstede defined Power Distance as one of the defining characteristics of national culture. Scored out of 100, a high score in Power Distance scores in the countries mentioned above are: Being aware of differences and prioritizing open communication helps overcome ethnocentrism. For multinational companies, cross-cultural training is a great way to build that awareness. Instead of judging, colleagues start understanding each other and become more likely to find common ground.2. Different definitions of right and wrongAnother frequent cause of intercultural misunderstandings relates to the fact that what is considered to be right or wrong differs among cultures. Without a working knowledge of other peoples customs and traditions, employees may make false assumptions about diverse colleagues and clients. For example, in German business culture, meetings and negotiations must be kept short and to the point. But in countries in the Middle East, there is a much more relaxed attitude toward timekeeping, with more emphasis placed on building relationships. Besides meetings and time management, the following business areas may also lead to misunderstandings due to cultural differences: Feedback: In countries like the US, UK, and Germany, speaking directly, openly, and concisely is not only normal but also valued. Other cultures are more indirect and might even consider direct feedback as rude. Case in point: an article from the Harvard Business Review Magazine talks about an American giving feedback to Thai coworkers in Bangkok. Unfamiliar with Thai culture, the American colleague communicated as he would in the US. His feedback came off as bullying, as per the HR in Bangkok, as Thai culture favors more indirect communication. Teamwork: Attitudes and expectations regarding teamwork can change over time depending on ones cultural context. Employees from todays younger generations are usually more independent than workers from older generations, who are more accustomed to collaborating and working together. Dress code: In general, younger staff members prefer a more casual dress was much more common and even expected.3. Communication differences Different cultures have distinct speech patterns, etiquette, and verbal and nonverbal communication. Some countries place a higher importance on words, while others use a significant amount of body language, facial expressions, and silence to convey meaning. Here are some cultural misunderstandings examples that may cause confusion at work and in daily life: Smiling: In China, it is common for someone to smile when they dont understand something. This could be confusing for a Westerner who might interpret this as the listener understands and/or agrees with what is being said. Silence: In Asian countries like Japan and Thailand, silence is a way of communicating and showing the others youre listening. Western countries may find this silence awkward, which can lead to confusion. According to a study by Preply, it takes 8.1 seconds for silence to be considered awkward in Thailand and 6.3 seconds in the USA. This suggests that during a negotiation, a US businessperson might begin to feel uneasy when their Thai counterpart is not speaking, whereas they might simply be listening. Eye contact: Some cultures view eye contact as respectful and polite. Others, though, may see it as threatening or unmannerly. Gestures: An intercultural misunderstanding can happen when people arent familiar with others gestures. For example, it is rude to show the soles of your feet in many Arab, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist communities, and difficult for foreigners to understand the Indian head wobble. These arent common knowledge if youre not familiar with the cultures, which highlights the importance of awareness. Interruptions: In many parts of the West, interrupting another person when they are speaking is considered rude. However, in some African and Latin American countries, it is perceived more positively as a means of joining and actively participating in the conversation. Of course, there is the language factor. If one individual is a native speaker and the other is an intermediate learner, there will be differences in language competency or proficiency. In the work context, this language barrier can create miscommunication. The native speaker may use more complex words instead of common ones, and the non-native speaker may feel shy to ask for clarification, for example. They would both benefit from corporate language training to improve communication skills and bridge the gap.4. Workplace culture Workplaces are becoming increasingly diverse, which means that the corporate culture also needs to adapt. This adaptation can manifest in many ways, such as including information in a variety of languages and providing facilities appropriate to the workforces composition (e.g., a sufficient number of lavatories for all genders). Also, ensuring that discrimination is not tolerated at any level of the business. The drive for diversity within the workforce needs the support of an inclusive workplace cultural conflict will follow. How to prevent intercultural misunderstandings More education and greater awareness are essential for preventing intercultural misunderstandings. It is important to recognize that there is no single right way to do something. Instead, there are many different ways to go about it. Also, it is only by understanding how and where these misunderstandings might occur that we can take steps to eliminate them. Implementing this mindset at work can be achieved in a variety of ways: Provide diversity training Diversity and inclusion training increases employees awareness of cultural differences, with the aim of promoting a greater understanding of and appreciation for diversity. Topics usually include unconscious bias, cultural sensitivity, breaking stereotypes, and more. Be informed about employees diverse backgrounds To accommodate employees and prevent conflicts, start by getting to know the diverse backgrounds within your team. This way, youll be aware of cultural faux pas, national or religious holidays they may celebrate, and communication styles they might prefer. Plus, it may also be a conversation starter to ask about their country. Use clear languageInstead of saying, Lets touch base next week, consider saying, Lets talk about this next week, consider saying, We need to start. These are small details that make your language more beginner-friendly, so you overcome language barriers as well as intercultural differences. Dont make assumptions Not sure about the meaning of a specific gesture your colleague made? Or whether okay really meant good or not good, not bad? Instead of making assumptions, ask if you got everything right. A simple Just wanted to clarify goes a long way and minimizes misunderstandings due to intercultural differences. Set communication best practices Make sure everyone uses inclusive language, avoids stereotypes, and promotes a safe environment, whether thats during coffee breaks or virtual meetings. This will help improve employees know how to deal with differences without offending others. Celebrate cultural differences Instead of viewing cultural differences as causes for misunderstandings and friction, celebrate them as ways of growing and learning together. Who knows? The punctuality of one culture combined with the flexibility of another can shape your corporate culture, allowing your business to find common ground and get creative at the same time. Another way you can celebrate local holidays within your team, whether thats Eid, Christmas, or Lunar New Year. Become more global and overcome intercultural barriers greater awareness of intercultural misunderstandings leads to a global mindset that is more suited to diverse workplaces and international businesses. This knowledge increases intercultural empathy, which makes it easier to integrate and work across multiple cultures. The end result is a successful and thriving business that builds mutually beneficial relationships throughout the world. Overcoming intercultural barriers and misunderstandings starts with training and awareness. Personalized training programs, youll make sure youre working toward the right goals, as the modules will be tailor-made for your team. Book a demo with Preply Business to learn more about personalized. 1-on-1 language and cross-cultural awareness training!