

Check your language awareness by trying out these exercises

Exercise 1: Identify the different clause elements in each of the following one-clause sentences.

I	asked	her	twice
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Adverb(ial)</i>

1. Simon is playing a saxophone.
2. Simon is playing a saxophone very badly.
3. The driver quickly stopped the bulldozer.
4. Put the money on the table right now.
5. Sometimes the train arrives on time.
6. My friend called the horror film a load of rubbish.
7. We painted my bedroom purple.
8. Everyone blames me!

Exercise 2: Here are some sentences written by low-level, non-native speakers, they have not understood the difference between subjective and objective pronouns. Correct their mistakes.

1. You ask they what's happening.
2. Us are feeling unwell.
3. Me am reading a book with he.
4. My uncle has given she a present.
5. Him asked we to dinner.

Exercise 3: For each of the following nouns, decide if it is (a) a thing, (b) a person, (c) a place, (d) a time, (e) a concept, or (f) an activity.

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| 1. Paris | 11. irritation |
| 2. month | 12. morning |
| 3. grandmother | 13. nightmare |
| 4. caravan | 14. idea |
| 5. trouble | 15. biography |
| 6. museum | 16. geography |
| 7. teapot | 17. money |
| 8. Lisa | 18. fright |
| 9. accident | 19. pocket |
| 10. Tuesday | 20. quietness |

Exercise 4: Which of the following nouns are proper? Underline those which should have a capital letter.

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| 1. james | 8. carrot |
| 2. bottle | 9. spain |
| 3. birmingham | 10. ghost |
| 4. beetles | 11. america |
| 5. beatles | 12. rainbow |
| 6. wednesday | 13. easter |
| 7. architect | 14. everest |
| | 15. summer |

Exercise 5: Which of the following nouns are regular (R) and which are irregular (I)?

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|----------------|--------------|
| 1. calves | 11. children |
| 2. monkeys | 12. hands |
| 3. women | 13. feet |
| 4. rulers | 14. wolves |
| 5. spacecraft | 15. dinners |
| 6. streets | 16. examples |
| 7. cats | 17. mice |
| 8. photographs | 18. vets |
| 9. salmon | 19. elves |
| 10. buttons | 20. bison |

Exercise 6: Identify the auxiliary verbs (A) and main verbs (M) in the following sentences. Note that some sentences contain more than one verb phrase.

1. My watch has been running slow.
2. I won't be going to the party.
3. I anticipate a very promising future.
4. They must have left by now.
5. I shall have a pint of cider.
6. My glass is empty.
7. They couldn't fix the boiler.
8. I do wish you would stay.
9. Do you know what he said?
10. I have found the book.

Exercise 7: Replace the multi-word verb in the following sentences by a single-word with a similar meaning.

1. The plane touched down at 9pm.
2. Do you think we'll get by?
3. He turned up without warning.
4. The enemy must give in.
5. She's going to set up a new nursery.
6. I can't make out the difference.
7. We looked up all our friends.
8. He found out the answer.
9. Will you look at these marks?
10. Peter was taken in by the trick.

Exercise 8: Find examples of the continuous form (C) and the perfective form (P) in the following sentences. Some sentences contain both.

1. Mary has passed her exam.
2. I was thinking about you the other day.
3. Are you going to Paris this year?
4. Someone has stolen my car.
5. We were looking for you everywhere.
6. He's been making his mind up.
7. Have you seen my car keys?
8. I had hoped you would stay longer.
9. Simon has been working very hard.

Exercise 9: Look at the pronouns in these sentences, and decide whether they are (1) demonstrative, (2) possessive, (3) reflexive, (4) interrogative, or (5) indefinite.

1. The tourists found themselves driving down a one-way street.
2. My secretary intends to resign. What will the boss think of that?
3. Someone should complain to the council about the traffic wardens.
4. What will get to the top of the charts this week?
5. Whose is this pen? It's yours.
6. The question will have to be addressed to Sue herself.
7. There's a figure standing in the doorway. I can't make out who.
8. This is the best way to proceed.
9. The captain couldn't see much in the thick fog.
10. The towels in the hotel were marked his and hers.

Exercise 10: Use a relative pronoun to join these pairs of sentences.

1. I've just spoken to Matt. Matt has just come back from Ireland.
2. The trees look very bare. The trees have lost their leaves.
3. Here's a copy of the story. I've been writing a story.
4. That's the house. I lived in that house a few years ago.
5. The food is on the table. I brought the food.
6. The man is dangerous. The man is dressed in black.
7. That's an important ideal. I believe in that ideal very much.
8. I can't find my pen. Jane lent me a pen.
9. There's the lady. I sold our car to that lady.
10. Have you noticed the player? The player's hat is on back to front.

Exercise 11: Turn the words in the lower list into adjectives by adding endings from below. Watch the spelling.

-al	-able	-ed	-esque	-ful	-ial
-ic	-ical	-ing	-ish	-ive	-less
-like	-ly	-ous	-some	-worthy	-y

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| 1. eat | 11. harm |
| 2. road | 12. curl |
| 3. hood | 13. picture |
| 4. study | 14. loathe |
| 5. sheep | 15. ornament |
| 6. shock | 16. swan |
| 7. sea | 17. psychology |
| 8. care | 18. shock |
| 9. coward | 19. act |
| 10. poet | 20. professor |