2

✗ My husband watch television every night.	✓ My husband watches television every night.
✗ The main problem is that the radio do not work.	✓ The main problem is that the radio does not work.

After a third person singular subject, we add -es to verbs ending in -ch, -sh, -s, -x or -o (e.g. teach, wash, guess, fix, do, go). Compare: 'He **washes** his hair twice a week but I **wash** mine every day.'

3

✗ A baby always crys when it is hungry.	✓ A baby always cries when it is hungry.

After a third person singular subject, if the verb ends in a consonant + -y, we change the -y to -ies: 'I **try** to help him whenever I can, but he never **tries** to help me.'

If the verb ends in a vowel + -y, we add -s in the normal way: 'She often **buys** me presents but she never **pays** the rent.'

4

✗ Sometimes our teacher not allow us to use a dictionary.	✓ Sometimes our teacher does not allow us to use a dictionary.
✗ I like not very noisy music.	✓ I don't like very noisy music.

⇨ 512.1

5

✗ My husband doesn't speaks English at all.	✓ My husband doesn't speak English at all.

⇨ 512.2

6

✗ How much it costs?	✓ How much does it cost?

⇨ 642.2

7

✗ How long does it takes to get from London to Oxford?	✓ How long does it take to get from London to Oxford?

⇨ 642.4

present simple tense: use   621

1

✗ I write to you to thank you for my birthday present.	✓ I am writing to you to thank you for my birthday present.
✗ You look busy. What do you do?	✓ You look busy. What are you doing?
✗ Following a fall in revenues, the company's workforce is gradually reduced.	✓ Following a fall in revenues, the company's workforce is gradually being reduced.

When we refer to something that is happening at the moment of speaking, we use the present progressive tense. Compare: 'Alex *is having* breakfast in the kitchen.' (= now; at this moment), 'Alex *has* breakfast in the kitchen.' (= usually; every morning)

2

✗ Perhaps she comes to see you tonight.	✓ Perhaps she will come to see you tonight.
✗ I meet you outside the cinema at seven o'clock.	✓ I'll meet you outside the cinema at seven o'clock.

There are many ways of referring to the future in English. However, the present simple tense is NOT used for this purpose unless we are talking about a timetable, programme or schedule:

The train *leaves* at half past five.
The film *begins* at seven o'clock sharp.
We *leave* Hong Kong on Tuesday evening and *arrive* in London the following morning.

The present simple is also used for future reference in subordinate clauses:
'When she *gets* back, I'll tell her that you called.' 'If you *arrive* before eight o'clock, there will still be some food left.'   ⇨ 25, 163.2

3

✗ I am a bank clerk for over 10 years now.	✓ I have been a bank clerk for over 10 years now.
✗ I live in Athens since I was two years old.	✓ I have lived in Athens since I was two years old.
✗ For the last three weeks the shop is closed.	✓ For the last three weeks the shop has been closed.

To refer to something which began in the past and which has continued up to *now* (the moment of speaking), we use the present perfect tense, NOT the present simple.

4

✗ This year my sister visits me three times.	✓ This year my sister has visited me three times.
✗ This is the second time that a group of children from Cambridge comes to France.	✓ This is the second time that a group of children from Cambridge has come to France.
✗ This is the first time that I eat mushrooms.	✓ This is the first time that I have eaten mushrooms.

When the period of time is not over yet (e.g. 'this year') or when the meaning is 'ever; in all my life up to now', we use the present perfect tense.

5

✗ I can't believe that I pass all the examinations.	✓ I can't believe that I have passed all the examinations.
✗ I don't know what happens to the CD but it sounds terrible.	✓ I don't know what has happened to the CD but it sounds terrible.

To talk about something which has happened at some (unstated) time *before now*, we use the present perfect tense. The present perfect suggests a close connection between what has happened and the present situation, e.g. 'I *have passed* all the examinations.' (= I am very happy *now*) 'Something *has happened* to the CD player.' (= the sound is terrible *now*)

prevent   622

✗ The size of our population does not prevent us to take part in international competitions.	✓ The size of our population does not prevent us from taking part in international competitions.

If we make it impossible for someone to do something, we *prevent* them *from doing* it: 'My parents tried to *prevent* me *from getting* married.'

price   623

✗ He thinks that the price for oil is bound to increase.	✓ He thinks that the price of oil is bound to increase.

We talk about the *price of* something, NOT *for* something.

proceed   624

✗ The speaker proceeded on to explain why foreign investment was essential.	✓ The speaker proceeded to explain why foreign investment was essential.

We *proceed to do* something, WITHOUT *on*. Compare: 'The speaker *went on to explain* why foreign investment was essential.'

progress 625

✗ The doctors say that he is making a good progress and will not need an operation.	✓ The doctors say that he is making good progress and will not need an operation.

Progress is an uncountable noun and is not used with *a/an*. ⟹ 2.1

progressive tenses: form 626

1

✗ They still waiting for you to reply. ✗ When I first met Paul, he working as a chef in London.	✓ They are still waiting for you to reply. ✓ When I first met Paul, he was working as a chef in London.

To make a progressive tense, we use *be* + *-ing*. Examples:

She *is writing* a report. (present progressive)
She *was writing* a report. (past progressive)
She *has been writing* a report. (present perfect progressive)
She *had been writing* a report. (past perfect progressive)

Note also the pattern: modal verb + *be* + *-ing*: 'She *may/must be writing* a report.' 'She *may/must have been writing* a report.'

2

✗ The company's workforce is gradually reduced. ✗ While my car was repairing, I had to use my bicycle.	✓ The company's workforce is gradually being reduced. ✓ While my car was being repaired, I had to use my bicycle.

To make the passive form of a progressive tense, we use *be* + *being* + past participle. Only two tenses are normally used in this way: 'The report *is being written*.' (present progressive passive) 'The report *was being written*.' (past progressive passive)

progressive tenses: use 627

1

✗ Every year she is making two trips to Singapore.	✓ Every year she makes two trips to Singapore.

When we mention a habit or a regularly repeated action, we normally use a simple tense: 'The sun *rises* in the east and *sets* in the west.'

2

✗ Most of the children are living quite near the school. ✗ When he was a boy, my father was attending a boarding school.	✓ Most of the children live quite near the school. ✓ When he was a boy, my father attended a boarding school.

When we are talking about a situation that is permanent, we use a simple tense. A progressive tense suggests that the situation is temporary. Compare: 'He *is* normally very serious but today he *is being* silly.'

3

✗ Computers are useless unless you are knowing how to use them.	✓ Computers are useless unless you know how to use them.
✗ Whether or not I pass is depending on how hard I work.	✓ Whether or not I pass depends on how hard I work.

Know and *depend* belong to a group of verbs which, in one or more of their meanings, are not used in progressive tenses. These meanings are all connected with states, for which reason the verbs are sometimes called 'stative' verbs:

Honey *comes from* bees.
Paula *comes from* Italy.
That black hat *doesn't suit* you at all.
He actually *believes* that eggs grow on trees.
I *like* oranges but I *don't like* grapefruit.

Verbs that are sometimes used wrongly in progressive tenses are listed below. The list includes verbs of perception (e.g. *see, hear, taste*), verbs of thinking (e.g. *know, wonder, realize*), verbs which express likes and dislikes (e.g. *like, prefer, hate*), and verbs which express relationships (e.g. *be, have, belong, own*).

agree, appear, be (✗ She is being lonely), *believe, belong, can't bear, care, come from* (✗ I am coming from Switzerland), *concern, consider, consist, contain, cost, depend, deserve, dislike, doubt, envy, equal, exist, expect, fear, feel* (= believe), *fit, forget, forgive, guess* (= suppose), *hate, have* (✗ I am having two sisters), *hear, hold* (= be able to contain), *hope, imagine, include, intend, interest, keep on, know, look* (= appear), *lack, like, look, love, matter, mean, measure* (= have a particular measurement), *not mind, need, notice, owe, own, please, possess, prefer, realize, recognize, refuse, regret, remember, resemble, see, seem, smell, sound, suit, suppose, suspect, taste, think* (= believe), *understand, want, weigh, wish, wonder*

Note that some of these verbs also have active meanings and therefore may also be used in progressive tenses. Compare:

This soup *tastes* absolutely awful! (state)
He *is tasting* the soup to see if it needs more salt. (action)

I *think* that nuclear weapons should be abolished. (state)
Please don't disturb me now. *I'm thinking*. (action)

Note also that the *-ing* form of a stative verb can be used in participle clauses: '*Knowing that she was angry with me*, I avoided her.' 'He denies *knowing anything about the report*.'

When an *-ing* form is used by itself (i.e. without *be*), it has no tense.

promise 628

1

| × He promised returning the book by today. | √ He promised to return the book by today. |

We **promise** (not/never) **to do** something, NOT **doing** something.

2

| × I promised to your parents that I would take care of you. | √ I promised your parents that I would take care of you. |

We **promise** someone (NOT **to** someone) **to do/that we will do** something.

⇨ 390.3

proof 629

1

| × The tape recordings contained proofs of his involvement. | √ The tape recordings contained proof of his involvement. |

When **proof** means 'evidence', it is uncountable and does not have a plural form.

2

| × We must have a proof that these drugs are harmless. | √ We must have proof that these drugs are harmless. |

When **proof** means 'evidence', it is not used with **a/an**. ⇨ 2.1

property 630

| × The sign on the door said 'LOST PROPERTIES'. | √ The sign on the door said 'LOST PROPERTY'. |

When **property** means 'possessions', it is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form: 'You are advised not to leave bags or personal **property** unattended.' Compare: 'She owns several **properties** in the south of France.'

propose 631

| × The organizing committee proposed each contestant to be given a prize. | √ The organizing committee proposed that each contestant should be given a prize. |

⇨ 839.9

prospect 632

1	✗ I feel very excited about the prospect to go to England.	✓ I feel very excited about the prospect of going to England.

If we look forward to doing something, we feel happy about the **prospect of doing** it.

2	✗ We talked about the team's prospect and whether they could win the championship again.	✓ We talked about the team's prospects and whether they could win the championship again.

When we mean 'chances of success', we use the plural noun **prospects**.

⇨ 603

protection 633

	✗ In view of the threat on his life, he has asked the police for a 24-hour protection.	✓ In view of the threat on his life, he has asked the police for 24-hour protection.

Protection is an uncountable noun and is not used with **a/an**.   ⇨ 2.1

proud 634

	✗ I felt very proud for myself.	✓ I felt very proud of myself.

We feel **proud of** someone.

provide 635

	✗ Vegetables provide us many vitamins.	✓ Vegetables provide us with many vitamins.
	✗ We were each provided a packed lunch.	✓ We were each provided with a packed lunch.

We **provide** someone **with** something. Compare: 'The government **provides** free health care (for everyone).' 'The government **provides** everyone **with** free health care.'

In the passive, these patterns look like this: 'Free health care is **provided** (for everyone).' 'Everyone is **provided with** free health care.'

purpose   636

✕ The main purpose to have senior masters in a school is to assist the deputy principal.	✓ The main purpose of having senior masters in a school is to assist the deputy principal.

We talk about the **purpose of** (**doing/having**) something.

pyjamas   637

✕ I rushed out to buy a new pyjama and a toothbrush.	✓ I rushed out to buy some new pyjamas and a toothbrush.

Pyjamas is a plural noun.   ⟹ 603

qualification   638

✕ Your salary depends on your qualification and experience.	✓ Your salary depends on your qualifications and experience.

To refer to all the examination passes, skills and achievements that make someone suitable/unsuitable for a particular job, we use **qualifications** (a plural noun): 'It's almost impossible to get a job nowadays unless you have the necessary **qualifications**.'   ⟹ 603

qualms   639

✕ Most lawyers have no qualm about earning interest on their clients' money.	✓ Most lawyers have no qualms about earning interest on their clients' money.

If we feel uncertain about whether it is right to do something, we have **qualms about** doing it: 'I've always had **qualms about** borrowing money from people.' **Qualms** is a plural noun.   ⟹ 603

quantifiers   640

1

✕ I asked him why some of animals looked sick.	✓ I asked him why some of the animals looked sick.

We can say 'some animals' or 'some of the/these/my/their/John's animals', but NOT 'some of animals'. When we use **some of** instead of **some**, the next word is normally a determiner. Similarly, compare:

I bought *a few stamps*.
A few of these stamps are torn. (NOT 'A few of stamps')

Most horses like being brushed.
Most of their horses are imported. (NOT *Most of horses*)

I gave *each child* a balloon.
I gave *each of the children* a balloon. (NOT *each of children*)

We do not use a determiner when the next word is a pronoun: '*Some of them* are still in bed.'

Quantifiers which are used in this way include: *all, any, both, each, either, enough, (a) few, half, (a) little, less, many, more, most, much, neither, one/two/three etc., several, some.*   ⇨ .2 below

2

✗ Adult programmes should be shown late at night when most of the children are in bed.	✓ Adult programmes should be shown late at night when most children are in bed.

We use an *of*-phrase after **most** when we wish to specify exactly who or what we are referring to: '*Most of the cars parked outside the hotel* had chauffeurs.'

Otherwise, we put **most** immediately in front of the noun: '*Most cars* have four wheels.' (NOT 'Most of the cars')

General quantifiers which are used in this way include: *all, any, enough, (a) few, (a) little, less, many, more, most, much, several, some.*

3

✗ There was very few traffic on the road.	✓ There was very little traffic on the road.
✗ There are too many people for too little jobs.	✓ There are too many people for too few jobs.

We can say 'very few cars' but NOT 'very few traffic'. **Few** is used only with words which have a plural meaning. On the other hand, we can say 'too little work' but NOT 'too little jobs'. **Little** is used only with words which have an uncountable meaning.

Since **few** and **little** are similar in meaning, we sometimes think of them as a pair. Altogether, there are five of these pairs:

+ PLURAL	+ UNCOUNTABLE
a few	a little
few	little
fewer	less
many	much
a number of	an amount of

Note also that *a great/good deal of* is used only with uncountable nouns.
⇨ 202.1

4

✗ Each students were given a new dictionary.	✓ Each student was given a new dictionary.
	✓ Each of the students was given a new dictionary.
✗ Neither books were very interesting.	✓ Neither book was very interesting.
	✓ Neither of the books was very interesting.

When the noun comes immediately after **each**, **every**, **either** and **neither**, it is always singular. When these words are followed by an *of*-phrase, the noun in the *of*-phrase is always plural.

5

✗ Each of the six Asean countries were represented at the conference.	✓ Each of the six Asean countries was represented at the conference.
✗ Neither letter were properly addressed.	✓ Neither letter was properly addressed.

⇨ 44.13

6

✗ We gave all them a present.	✓ We gave them all a present.
	✓ We gave all of them a present.

We can say 'them all' or 'all of them', but NOT 'all them'. **All**, **both** and **each** normally go immediately after a personal pronoun. Before a personal pronoun, we use **all of**, **both of**, etc. Compare: 'They've invited *us both* to dinner at their house.' 'They've invited *both of us* to dinner at their house.'

When we use the *of* structure ('both of us'), the quantifier ('both') is emphasized.

7

✗ When we reached the shops, we found that they all were closed.	✓ When we reached the shops, we found that they were all closed.
✗ They each were delighted with the photographs.	✓ They were each delighted with the photographs.

We normally put **all**, **both** and **each** immediately before the main verb: 'My brothers *both* work for Gibson Mortimer.'

However, when the main verb is **be** (and there are no auxiliary verbs), we put **all**, **both** and **each** immediately after it: 'My brothers are *both* accountants.'

8

✗ We all have seen a road accident at some time in our lives.	✓ We have all seen a road accident at some time in our lives.
✗ I asked the girls if they each could describe the man.	✓ I asked the girls if they could each describe the man.

When the verb phrase has two or more parts ('have seen', 'could describe'), **all**, **both** and **each** normally go immediately after the first part, i.e. after the first auxiliary verb.

quantity   641

× Drink large quantity of water and seek medical attention immediately.	✓ Drink large quantities of water and seek medical attention immediately.

⇨ 823.3

questions   642

1

× Where you are going tonight?	✓ Where are you going tonight?
× You did not watch the programme?	✓ Didn't you watch the programme?

In questions, the subject and auxiliary verb normally change places. The auxiliary verb goes immediately before the subject.

Not normally becomes **-n't** and is added to the end of the auxiliary verb: 'Is**n't** he coming with us?' 'Why have**n't** you finished yet?'

Note that in spoken **wh**-questions, the auxiliary verb is often contracted: 'Where**'ve** they sent him?' 'When**'s** she coming?'

2

× You like Italian food?	✓ Do you like Italian food?
× How long it takes to send a letter to France?	✓ How long does it take to send a letter to France?
× What meant you to say?	✓ What did you mean to say?

When there is no auxiliary verb, we put **do/does/did** in front of the subject. The main verb is a bare infinitive ('like', 'take', 'mean').

3

× Who did tell you that?	✓ Who told you that?
× How many drivers did finish the race?	✓ How many drivers finished the race?

When the **wh**-word or **wh**-phrase is the subject, we do not normally use **do/does/did**. Compare:

Mr Wilson signed the contract.	SUBJECT
Who signed the contract?	SUBJECT
What/Which contract did Mr Wilson sign?	OBJECT
Why/When/Where did he sign the contract?	ADVERBIAL

When the **wh**-word or **wh**-phrase is the subject, we use **do/does/did** only when we wish to express great interest or curiosity: 'If the children didn't eat the chocolate, who *did* eat it?'

4

× Does he likes his new school?	✓ Does he like his new school?
× Where will she lives?	✓ Where will she live?

When the verb phrase begins with an auxiliary verb, the main verb cannot be finite. It is either a bare infinitive or a participle.

Where *did/can* she *go*?   (*do*/modal + bare infinitive)
Where *has* she *gone*?   (*have* + *-ed*)

Where *can* she *have gone*?   (modal + *have* + *-ed*)
Where *is* she *going*?   (*be* + *-ing*)

Where *can* she *be going*?   (modal + *be* + *-ing*)
Where *has* she *been going*?   (*have* + *been* + *-ing*)
Where *can* she *have been going*?   (modal + *have* + *been* + *-ing*)

5

× Can you tell me where can I buy some postcards?	✓ Can you tell me where I can buy some postcards?

6

× How many children do Angela have?	✓ How many children does Angela have?

7

× Do they have some children?	✓ Do they have any children?

question tags   643

1

× She earns a lot of money, isn't it?	✓ She earns a lot of money, doesn't she?
× They made the film in Venice, isn't it?	✓ They made the film in Venice, didn't they?

In some languages, the form a question tag never changes. In English, a question tag matches the subject and verb in the previous clause.

The pronoun in the question tag matches the subject of the previous clause: Compare: '*This book* is rather expensive, isn't *it*?' '*These books* are rather expensive, aren't *they*?'

If there is an auxiliary verb in the previous clause, we use the same auxiliary in the question tag. Compare: 'They *are* coming tomorrow, *aren't* they?' 'They *can* come tomorrow, *can't* they?'