

We do not use **the** before **half** unless we wish to refer to a particular **half**.
Compare: 'We ate **half** the cake and put **the other half** back in the tin.'

For more information about fractions, ➡ 318.

handful

345

× Only a handful people managed to finish the race.

✓ Only a handful of people managed to finish the race.

➡ 823.2

happen

346

1

× Last week happened to me something very strange.

✓ Last week something very strange happened to me.

In a statement, we put the subject ('something very strange') before the verb ('happened'). The normal word order does not change when the verb is **happen**.

2

× When I pressed the button, it happened something most peculiar.

✓ When I pressed the button, something most peculiar happened.

When **happen** means 'take place', we use the normal word order, i.e. subject + verb.

When **happen** means 'to occur by chance', we often use the pattern **it + happen + that**-clause: '**It happened that** we both arrived in Helsinki on the same day.'

3

× It had happened a serious road accident.

✓ There had been a serious road accident.

➡ 421.3

4

× What has happened with your friend, Mohsen?

✓ What has happened to your friend, Mohsen?

Something **happens to** someone/something: 'What's **happened to** the toaster? It's not working.'

hardly

347

1

× My mother and father have worked hardly all their lives.

✓ My mother and father have worked hard all their lives.

➡ 26.3

2	<div> <div>×</div> <div>The bag was so heavy that I couldn't hardly lift it.</div> </div>	<div> <div>✓</div> <div>The bag was so heavy that I could hardly lift it.</div> </div>
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⇒ 512.9

3	<div> <div>×</div> <div>He was so exhausted that he hardly could stand up.</div> </div>	<div> <div>✓</div> <div>He was so exhausted that he could hardly stand up.</div> </div>
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⇒ 29.1

4	<div> <div>×</div> <div>Hardly we had arrived than we had to leave again.</div> </div>	<div> <div>✓</div> <div>Hardly had we arrived than we had to leave again.</div> </div>
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⇒ 31.1

hardware**348**

<div> <div>×</div> <div>We stock a full range of general hardwares.</div> </div>	<div> <div>✓</div> <div>We stock a full range of general hardware.</div> </div>
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Hardware is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

harm**349**

<div> <div>×</div> <div>A little meat will not do you a harm.</div> </div>	<div> <div>✓</div> <div>A little meat will not do you any harm.</div> </div>
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Harm is an uncountable noun and is not used with *a/an*.

⇒ 2.1

hate**350**

<div> <div>×</div> <div>She hates to have nobody to talk to.</div> </div>	<div> <div>✓</div> <div>She hates having nobody to talk to.</div> </div>
<div> <div>×</div> <div>I would hate hurting the child's feelings.</div> </div>	<div> <div>✓</div> <div>I would hate to hurt the child's feelings.</div> </div>

For the difference between ***hate doing*** and ***hate to do***, ⇒ 839.6

have**351**

1	<div> <div>×</div> <div>Mr Smart haven't returned to the office yet.</div> </div>	<div> <div>✓</div> <div>Mr Smart hasn't returned to the office yet.</div> </div>
	<div> <div>×</div> <div>Are you sure that Rostinah have gone home?</div> </div>	<div> <div>✓</div> <div>Are you sure that Rostinah has gone home?</div> </div>

When the subject is third person singular subject, we use **has/has not/hasn't**.
All other subjects take **have/have not/haven't**.

2

! Has he any sisters or brothers?

✓ Does he have any sisters or brothers?

! We had not very much time to answer all the questions.

✓ We didn't have very much time to answer all the questions.

When **have** is the main verb and there are no auxiliary verbs, we normally form questions and negative sentences with **do**:

Do you have any books on bee-keeping?

Did you have any trouble finding your way here?

She *doesn't have* any money.

They *didn't have* the magazine I wanted.

Compare the use of **have** as an auxiliary verb: '*Hasn't* he *given up* smoking?'
'The books you ordered *haven't arrived* yet.'

3

× These tests show whether someone is having an infection.

✓ These tests show whether someone has an infection.

When **have** refers to a state, it is not used in progressive tenses: 'She *has* a headache.' 'The company *has* branches all over the country.' ➡ 627.3

4

× I have to say only one thing.

✓ I have only one thing to say.

The patterns **have to do something** and **have something to do** are both grammatical, but their meanings are not the same. We use **have to do something** to express obligation: 'If the traffic lights are red, you *have to stop*.' (= you must stop)

Otherwise, we use **have something to do**: 'On a long journey, I always like to *have* a good book *to read*.'

In this pattern, the object of **have** is often an indefinite pronoun: 'He *has nobody* to talk to.' 'Do you *have someone* to help you?'

5

× We had him to put a new lock on the door.

✓ We had him put a new lock on the door.

If we tell or order someone to do something, we **have** them **do** it, (NOT **to do** it). Compare: 'We *got* him *to put* a new lock on the door.'

Note the similar structure with **doing**. 'She *had* us all *thinking* that there was going to be a test.' (= she caused us all to think that there was going to be a test)
'He soon *had* the television *working* again.'

6

× He was told not to return to school until he had cut his hair.

✓ He was told not to return to school until he had had his hair cut.

If someone says 'I cut my hair', 'I repaired my car', 'I painted my house', they mean that they did these things themselves. However, most people do not do these things themselves; they employ someone to do them. To refer to a situation in which a person employs or causes someone to do something, we use the 'causative' structure **have/get** + object + past participle:

George **had a tooth extracted** yesterday.

How much will it cost to **have the car repaired**?

We're **having the house painted** next week.

Where can I **get this film developed**?

Note that the same structure can be 'non-causative': 'Mr Evans **has had his car stolen**.' 'She **got her fingers caught** in the door.'

In these sentences, the subject is the victim of the action and does not cause it.

7

× I have my car service every six months.

✓ I have my car serviced every six months.

When we pay someone to do a job for us, we **have/get** the job **done** (NOT **do**), i.e. **have/get** + object + past participle. ➡ 29.6 above

have to

352

1

× The patients have also to pay for medication.

✓ The patients also have to pay for medication.

We use **have to** as if it were a single word; the two parts are inseparable. Adverbs normally come in front of it. ➡ 29.4

2

× Had you to walk all the way home?

✓ Did you have to walk all the way home?

× Most of us haven't to work on Sundays.

✓ Most of us don't have to work on Sundays.

When **have to** is used in present simple and past simple tenses, questions and negative sentences are normally formed with **do**: '**Do you have to** get permission to leave the country?' 'I was delighted that I **didn't have to** wait.'

3

× You have to collect your bags and then to go through customs.

✓ You have to collect your bags and then go through customs.

After **have to**, we always use bare infinitives: 'I **had to buy** the food and **cook** it myself.' ➡ 178.5

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|---|--|---|
| 4 | × Some people have said that I have to write a book about the journey. | ✓ Some people have said that I should write a book about the journey. |
|---|--|---|

If a person in authority orders us to do something, or if something is a rule or law, we **have to** do it: 'You **have to** stop when the traffic lights are red.'

If someone simply suggests that we do something, they say that we **should** or **ought to** do it: 'He thinks that I **should** apply for the job.'

With **should** or **ought to**, we are free to decide. With **have to**, we are not free to decide.

he 353

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | × Most of the villagers were much older than he. | ✓ Most of the villagers were much older than him/than he was. |
|---|--|---|

⇒ 590.7

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 2 | × The man with the camera he was taking photographs. | ✓ The man with the camera was taking photographs. |
|---|--|---|

⇒ 591.1

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 3 | ! Everybody should stop smoking if he wants to improve his health. | ✓ People who want to improve their health should stop smoking. |
|---|--|--|

⇒ 42.4

head 354

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | × Something hit me on my head. | ✓ Something hit me on the head. |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|

⇒ 610.3

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | × The plane was heading to London. | ✓ The plane was heading for London. |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

When we go in the direction of a place, we **head for** or **towards** it.

headache 355

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| | × I always get headache if I don't wear my glasses. | ✓ I always get a headache if I don't wear my glasses. |
|--|---|---|

Headache is a countable noun.

⇒ 182.2

health

356

- × If you want to have a good health, eat lots of vegetables.
- × I hope that you are both in a good health.

- ✓ If you want to have good health, eat lots of vegetables.
- ✓ I hope that you are both in good health.

Health is an uncountable noun and is not used with *a/an*.

⇒ 2.1

hear

357

1

- × I heard someone to say that the driver was drunk.

- ✓ I heard someone say/saying that the driver was drunk.

⇒ 839.3–5

2

- × I was not hearing anyone go out.

- ✓ I did not hear anyone go out.

Hear is not normally used in progressive tenses.

⇒ 627.3

3

- × The engine was so quiet that I hardly heard it.

- ✓ The engine was so quiet that I could hardly hear it.

When we want to say that we are able to **hear** something that continues over a period of time, we use **can/could**. Compare: 'I **heard** a loud crash.' 'I **could hear** the radio from upstairs.'

help

358

1

- × Two people stopped and helped me changing the wheel.

- ✓ Two people stopped and helped me change the wheel.
- ✓ Two people stopped and helped me to change the wheel.

We **help** (someone) **do** or **to do** something, NOT **doing**.

⇒ .2 below

2

- × We were helped carry the piano upstairs by one of our neighbours.

- ✓ We were helped to carry the piano upstairs by one of our neighbours.

Compare: 'One of our neighbours **helped us carry/to carry** the piano upstairs.'

⇒ 839.4

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|---|---|
| 3 | × I couldn't help to notice the hole in his trousers.
✓ I couldn't help noticing the hole in his trousers. |
|---|---|

A person **cannot help doing** something, NOT **to do** something: 'I **can't help worrying** about him.'

Note the alternative: 'I **couldn't help but notice** the hole in his trousers.' The expression **cannot help but** is followed by a bare infinitive ('notice').

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|---|---|
| 4 | × Thank you for all the help you have given me for my studies.
✓ Thank you for all the help you have given me with my studies. |
|---|---|

We give someone **help with** something: 'Do you need any **help with** the washing up?'

hence

359

- | | |
|---|--|
| × These people have no money hence they cannot afford proper medical attention. | ✓ These people have no money and so/therefore they cannot afford proper medical attention. |
|---|--|

Hence is an adverb, not a conjunction, and cannot be used to link clauses.

⇒ 28.3

It is normally followed by a phrase: 'In many companies, women are required to do the same work as men and **hence** their insistence on equal pay.' 'He was involved in a serious road accident – **hence** the scars.'

Note that **hence** is used mainly in formal styles.

here

360

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | × Here is the magazines you asked me to get.
✓ Here are the magazines you asked me to get. |
|---|---|

⇒ 44.14

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 | × Hurry up! Here the train comes.
✓ Hurry up! Here comes the train. |
|---|--|

⇒ 31.3

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 | × A lot of tourists come to here, especially in the summer.
✓ A lot of tourists come here, especially in the summer. |
|---|---|

We do not use **to** before **here** unless we are pointing to something: 'Before she had it cut, her hair came right down **to here**.' ➞ 802.2

highlight

361

× This report **highlights on the need for** further research.

✓ This report highlights the need for further research.

We **highlight** (= emphasize) something, WITHOUT **on**.

him

362

! I fully understand **him not wanting to** pursue the matter.

✓ I fully understand his not wanting to pursue the matter.

➞ 590.8

his

363

× This morning you will visit the district of La Defense with **his famous** buildings.

✓ This morning you will visit the district of La Defense with its famous buildings.

× Would you please send me some more information about your organization and **his publications**.

✓ Would you please send me some more information about your organization and its publications.

➞ 42.3

his or her

364

! An incentive scheme encourages a worker to produce more than **his or her** colleagues.

✓ An incentive scheme encourages workers to produce more than their colleagues.

➞ 42.4

hit

365

× He **hitted** her unintentionally.

✓ He **hit** her unintentionally.

Hit (infinitive), **hit** (past simple), **hit** (past participle).

➞ 419.1

holiday

366

- × I first met him while I was on holidays in Scotland.
- × Last year we went on holidays to Malta.

- ✓ I first met him while I was on holiday in Scotland.
- ✓ Last year we went on holiday to Malta.

Someone is **on holiday** or goes **on holiday** or returns **from holiday**, NOT **holidays**. The plural form **holidays** is used with a determiner: 'Where are you going for *your holidays* this year?'

home

367

- × When I arrived at home, there was a letter waiting for me.
- × On my way to home, I stopped at the supermarket.

- ✓ When I arrived home, there was a letter waiting for me.
- ✓ On my way home, I stopped at the supermarket.

After a verb or phrase of movement, we do not use a preposition before **home**. Compare: 'Let's *go to my house*.' 'Let's *go home*.' ➡ 802.2

homework

368

- × As soon as I get home, I do my homeworks.

- ✓ As soon as I get home, I do my homework.

Homework is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

hope

369

1

- × I hope that something could be done to improve the situation.
- × We hope that you would consider our suggestion.

- ✓ I hope that something can be done to improve the situation.
- ✓ We hope that you will consider our suggestion.

When **hope** is in the present tense, it is followed by **will/can** (NOT **would/could**). Compare:

I *hope/am hoping* that something **will/can** be done.

I *hoped/was hoping* that something **would/could** be done.

➡ 874.1

2

- × I hope to hearing from you again soon.

- ✓ I hope to hear from you again soon.

We **hope to do** something (NOT **to doing**). Note the alternative: 'I **look forward to hearing** from you again soon.'

3

× I hope you and Robert to be very happy in your new home.

✓ I hope that you and Robert will be very happy in your new home.

Hope cannot be followed by a noun phrase + **to**-infinitive. Instead, we use a **that**-clause. Compare:

I **hope** + **to visit** London again.

× I **hope** + you + **to visit** London again.

I **hope** + **that** you will visit London again.

housework

370

× While I'm doing the houseworks, I like to listen to the radio.

✓ While I'm doing the housework, I like to listen to the radio.

Housework is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

how

371

1

× After leaving school, they suddenly discover how difficult it is to find a job.

✓ After leaving school, they suddenly discover how difficult it is to find a job.

When **how** comes at the beginning of a subordinate clause, the word order does not change to that of a question. Compare:

How long is the film?

He wants to know **how long the film is**. (NOT 'how long is the film')

How much did you pay?

He asked me **how much I paid**. (NOT 'how much did I pay')

⇒ 389.1

2

× They knew I had been to London and asked me how it was like.

✓ They knew I had been to London and asked me what it was like.

× This is how the British High Commissioner's new \$4 million residence will look like.

✓ This is what the British High Commissioner's new \$4 million residence will look like.

We ask or tell someone **what** a person, place or thing is **like** (NOT **how**).

Compare: '**How does it feel** to have finished all your exams?' '**What does it feel like** to have finished all your exams?'

however

372

× The car was badly damaged, however none of the passengers was hurt.

✓ The car was badly damaged but none of the passengers was hurt.

✓ The car was badly damaged. However, none of the passengers was hurt.

To link two contrasting clauses, we use **but**, **although** or (**and**) **yet** (conjunctions). **However** (an adverb) links sentences, not clauses.

hundred

373

× The war lasted almost hundred years.

✓ The war lasted almost a hundred years.

× We were travelling at about two hundreds kilometres per hour.

✓ We were travelling at about two hundred kilometres per hour.

× The company employs over two hundreds of workers.

✓ The company employs over two hundred workers.

⇒ 538

I

374

1

× I and my husband are the victims of inconsiderate neighbours.

✓ My husband and I are the victims of inconsiderate neighbours.

× I and my father did not talk to each other after that.

✓ My father and I did not talk to each other after that.

When we are talking about ourselves and another person, we normally mention ourselves last.

2

× Nobody is allowed to use the computer but I.

✓ Nobody is allowed to use the computer but me.

× My sisters and brothers are all younger than I.

✓ My sisters and brothers are all younger than me.

✓ My sisters and brothers are all younger than I am.

⇒ 590.6–7

ideal

375

× The most ideal way to learn English is to go and live in England.

✓ The ideal way to learn English is to go and live in England.

Ideal (= 'the most suitable') has a superlative meaning already and is not normally used with **most**. ➡ 15.4

if ➡ **conditionals** (163)

if only

376

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × If only I don't have to work tonight. × If only they will stop phoning me. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If only I didn't have to work tonight. ✓ If only they would stop phoning me. |
|---|---|---|

To express a wish about something in the present or future, we use **if only** and the past tense ('would' is the past tense of 'will'). Compare: 'I wish I didn't have to work tonight.' 'I wish they would stop phoning me.'

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × If only you came to me before, I could have helped you. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If only you had come to me before, I could have helped you. |
|---|---|---|

To express a regret about something that happened or did not happen in the past, we use **if only** and the past perfect tense (**had** + main verb). Compare: 'I wish that you **had come** to me before.' ➡ 163.6

ignore

377

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × They always ignore that their country attacked us first. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ They always ignore the fact that their country attacked us first. |
|--|---|

➡ 838.7

ill

378

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Some ill people cannot afford to see a doctor. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Some people who are ill/sick cannot afford to see a doctor. ✓ Some sick people cannot afford to see a doctor. |
|--|--|

➡ 16.1

imagine

379

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × I cannot imagine to live in a cold climate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I cannot imagine living in a cold climate. |
|---|--|

We **imagine** (someone) **doing** something (NOT **to do** something): 'I can't **imagine** Eric **getting up** at five in the morning just to go fishing.'