ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

SPEAK LIKE ME

VERB CONJUGATION

I am I need
You are You need
He/she/it is He/she/it needs
We are We need
You are You need
They are They need

*my brother needs / my parents need

*everyone needs food [-one/-body same as he/she]

*google needs/need more employees

QUESTION WORDS

When are you leaving? [kdy]

Where do you live? [kde]

Why are you here? [proč]

Who is that? [kdo]

How are you? [jak]

How often do you go there? [jak často]

How far is it from here? [jak daleko]

How long is the movie? [jak dlouho]

What is your phone number? [co]

Which number is yours? [který]

How much time/many bananas [kolik]

Where are you from? [odkud]

What kind of [movies] do you like? [jaký]

Whose [car] is that? [čí]

"That lesson was weird" - in what way?

"That lesson was weird" - how so?

PRESENT SENTENCES

You **are** happy

You **aren't** happy

Are you happy?

You **need** help

You **don't need** help

Do you need help?

PAST SENTENCES

You **were** happy

You **weren't** happy

Were you happy?

You **needed** help

You **didn't need** help

Did you need help?

1.4

FUTURE SENTENCES

You **will be** happy

You **won't be** happy

Will you be happy?

You will need help

You **won't need** help

Will you need help?

CLAUSES

I wanted a banana **so** I bought one in a shop **and** it was delicious conjunctions start new clauses | all rules restart in a new clause | only one past tense per clause

HOW VS WHAT LIKE

How was the party?

I DON'T WANT DETAILS

What was the party like?

I WANT DETAILS

ASKING 'WHAT IS THE THING THAT'

What makes you happy? WHAT IS THE THING THAT MAKES...'

WHY VS HOW COME

Why were you late? CAN SOUND SERIOUS

How come you were late?

FRIENDLY | POSITIVE STRUCTURE

PREPOSITIONS ON THE END

What is the movie about?

o čem je ten film

ASKING ABOUT LEVELS

How [drunk] were you?

How [happy] did you feel?

SHORT ANSWERS

Do you like it? **Yes, I do**COPY THE FIRST VERB

QUESTION STRUCTURE ABUSE

I don't know where is the party -> I don't know where the party is

*this is not a question, so don't use question structure; just use normal subject + verb after the question word

SVOPT

I put my keys there yesterday

*put with who or for what after the place
*you can put time at the beginning

ADJECTIVES & ADVERBS

l also have a cat ADVERBS GO BEFORE VERBS

2.8

I go there **from time to time**ADVERBIAL PHRASES GO AT THE END

*adjectives go before nouns - a big dog
*with to be adverbs go after - I am also...

EVEN

3.3

They **even have** melons POSITIVE SURPRISE

They don't even have melons

NEGATIVE SURPRISE

What does that **even mean**? **USED FOR EMPHASIS**

THERE IS/THERE ARE

There is a problem

There are some problems

Are there any problems?

*there is and there are contract to there's

COULD, MIGHT & WOULD

REAL
I will help him

100%

THEORETICAL

I would help him

I **might** help him

I **might** help him

I **can** help him

could help him

*follow: modal + bare infinitive | flip to make question

SHOULD, SUPPOSED TO & HAVE TO

I **should** help him 1 PERSON'S OPINION

I am supposed to help him 2+ PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

I **have to** help him

SOUNDS BETTER THAN 'MUST' | QUESTION 'DO YOU HAVE TO...'

PAST MODALS

I should have helped him

MODAL + HAVE + 3RD FORM

5.1 VERBS + INFINITIVE

I want **to go** to the party second verb is infinitive

I wanted **to go** to the party FIRST VERB CAN BE ANY TENSE

I want **him to go** to the party put extra people in the middle of the two verbs

PREPOSITIONS + ING

I'm sorry **for being** late

What's the point of doing this?

What are the chances of seeing that?

5.5

5.3

NOUNS + INFINITIVE

It was a **surprise to see** him there

It was an **honour to meet** you

It was a great **team to be** in

5.2 VERBS + ING

started smoking

START/STOP + ING

I **love speaking** English

OPINION VERBS + ING

PREPOSITIONS + PERSON+ ING

I'm looking forward to meeting you PHRASAL VERBS + ING

*avoid, resist, imagine & spend are all followed by + ING

I'm sorry **for <u>my wife</u> being** late

What's the point of <u>us</u> doing this?

What are the chances of him seeing that?

5.6

ADJECTIVES + INFINITIVE

It's **bad to eat** chocolate every day

I'm glad to hear that

It was too **cold to go** outside

PRESENT SIMPLE VS CONTINUOUS

I live in Prague

PERMANENT OR REPEATED THINGS

*the time in-between repeated events can be short or long

I am living in Prague for 6 months



TEMPORARY THINGS

*temporary can be right now, or a couple of weeks or months

I lived in England

HAPPENED IN THE PAST AND IS FINISHED

*can be short (I ate a banana) or long (I lived in England)

6.3 THE FOUR FUTURES

1. I am about to watch a movie

VERY NEAR FUTURE (AROUND 2MINS)

2. I will watch a movie

THINKING OF IT FOR THE FIRST TIME

3. I am going to watch a movie

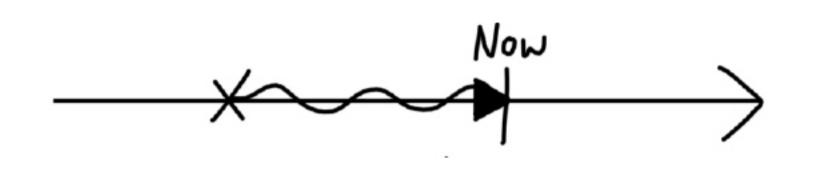
A PLAN YOU HAVE IN YOUR HEAD

4. I am watching a movie

SOMETHING YOU ARRANGED

6.4 PRESENT PERFECT 1

Today has been busy



Time period is continuing

✓ Thing is true for that whole period

*how has [your week] been? (put object in middle)
*recently = can be both continuing or finished

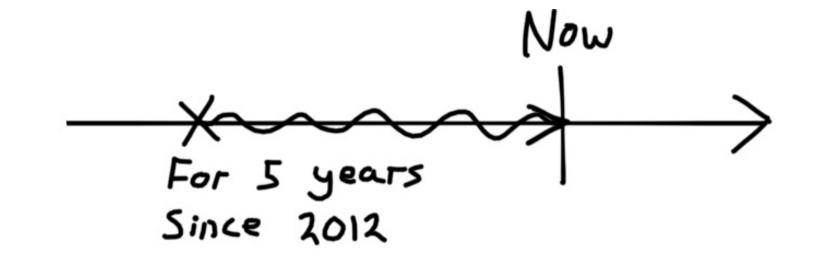
*the last few days = **continuing** (counting back from now)

PRESENT PERFECT 2

6.2

PAST SIMPLE

I have been working here since 2012



STARTED IN THE PAST, STILL CONTINUING

*use for + length of time; use since + point in time

*only use have been + ING for positive actions

*if not an action, use have + 3rd form (I have known...)

*if action is negative, use have + 3rd form (I haven't worked)

MAKING NOUNS FROM VERBS (GERUNDS)

Eating vegetables is healthy

THE SUBJECT (NOUN) IS EATING VEGETABLES

One of my favourite things is having breakfast in bed

THE OBJECT (NOUN) IS HAVING BREAKFAST IN BED

*we can turn verbs into nouns by adding -ING (to eat -> eating)

*remember that subjects and objects are nouns

*so if you want to use a verb as the subject or object just turn them into nouns with -ING

MAKING ADJECTIVES FROM VERBS (PARTICIPLES)

To surprise | To

That was surprising

DESCRIBING SOMETHING

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

*common mistake = I was boring (this means you're describing yourself as a boring person)
*I was stressed; that was stressful (present participle isn't always with -ing)

COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

1 SYLLABLE

2+ SYLLABLES

Cold

Interesting

Colder MUCH/WAY

More Interesting
MUCH/WAY

The Coldest

The Most Interesting

BY FAR

BY FAR

*adjectives ending with **-y** can work both ways (sexy, funny, scary etc)

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

This is something **that** you have to do

I know a guy **who** studied there

*in Czech you say **něco co** (something what) and **někdo který** (someone which)

8.1

THE FIVE WENTS

1. I went to London / a wedding GO TO | PLACES & EVENTS

2. I went to see some friends / Big Ben GO TO SEE | PEOPLE & SIGHTS

3. I went on holiday / a trip / a date GO ON | HOLIDAYS, DATES & TRIPS

4. I went - swimming GO - ING | ACTIVITIES WITH - ING

5. I went for a swim GO FOR | ACTIVITIES WITH 'A'

*if two versions possible (go swimming vs go for a swim), the -ING one sounds more intense

8.2

PRONOUNS

DINS	
SUBJECT	OBJECT
	Me
You	You
He/she/it	Him/her/it
We	Us
You	You

They Them

POSSESSIVE THIS/THAT

My | mine This (1;
Your | yours These (2)
His/her/its | his/hers/its

Our | ours
Your | yours
Their | theirs

This (1; close)

These (2+; close)

That (1; far) Those (2+; far)

Would you like an ice cream?
e)
Yes, a chocolate one please

Do you like dogs?

REFLEXIVE*

Myself

Yourself

Himself/herself/itself

Ourselves

Yourselves

Themselves

ONE/ONES

Yes, but only small one

Yes, but only small ones

*often used to say **by myself** etc

8.3

PASSIVE SENTENCES

OBJECT + TO BE + PAST PARTICIPLE

[BY SOMEONE]

Bob was arrested Bob is being arrested Bob will be arrested

*with passive sentences we start the sentence with the object, not the subject

*we do this when we don't know who the subject is, don't care, or are embarrassed to say

8.4

IMPERATIVES

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

Do it

Don't do it

Please **sit down**

Please **don't sit down**

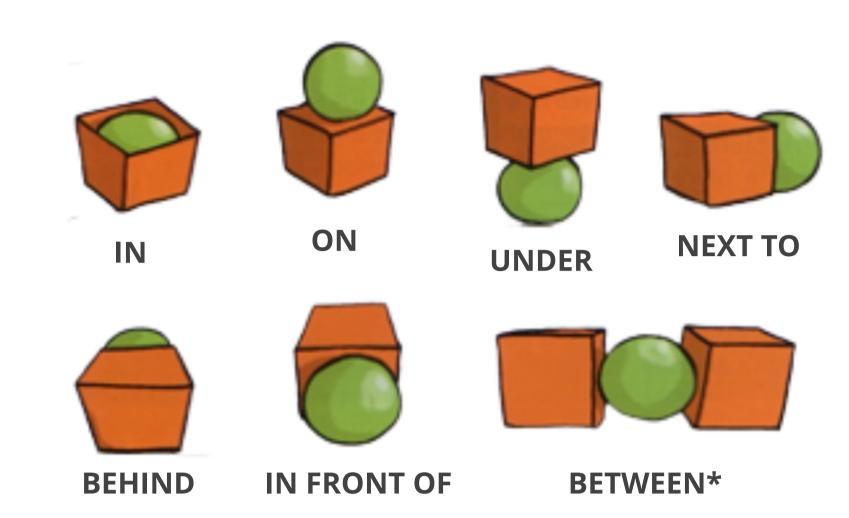
*just say the infinitive without 'to'

*add don't to make a negative imperative

9.1 **PREPOSITIONS**

ON	AT	IN
0.1		
SPECIFIC DAYS	SMALL GROUPS OF DAYS	BIG THINGS
Tuesday	The Weekend	June
May 28th	Christmas	2022
Christmas Day	Easter	The 21st Century

IN	AT	ON
SURROUNDS YOU	CLOSE TO YOU	TOUCHING IT
A building	A bus stop	The table
A city/country	A table	The wall
The sea	The traffic lights	Your face



^{*}always use **at** for telling the **time** (at 9pm)

MODALS OF CERTAINTY

My keys must be at home

100% SURE

My keys might be at home

50% SURE

My keys can't be at home

100% SURE THEY AREN'T

*in the past: must have been, might have been, couldn't have been

ALLOWED, ABLE & MAY

I'm allowed to swim

SMÍM | I HAVE PERMISSION

I'm able to swim

UMÍM | I HAVE THE ABILITY

I may swim

MAY IS A POSH WAY TO SAY MIGHT OR ALLOWED TO | USED OFTEN TO ASK "MAY I..."

*I know how to is the same as I'm able to, but usually for things you learned

11.1 A

ONE THING YOU CAN COUNT OR ONE OF A CATEGORY

This is a book

IT IS ONE BOOK AND I CAN COUNT IT

Prague is a safe city

PRAGUE IS IN THE CATEGORY OF 'SAFE CITIES'

11.3

THE

The

EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS WHICH ONE OR THERE'S ONLY ONE

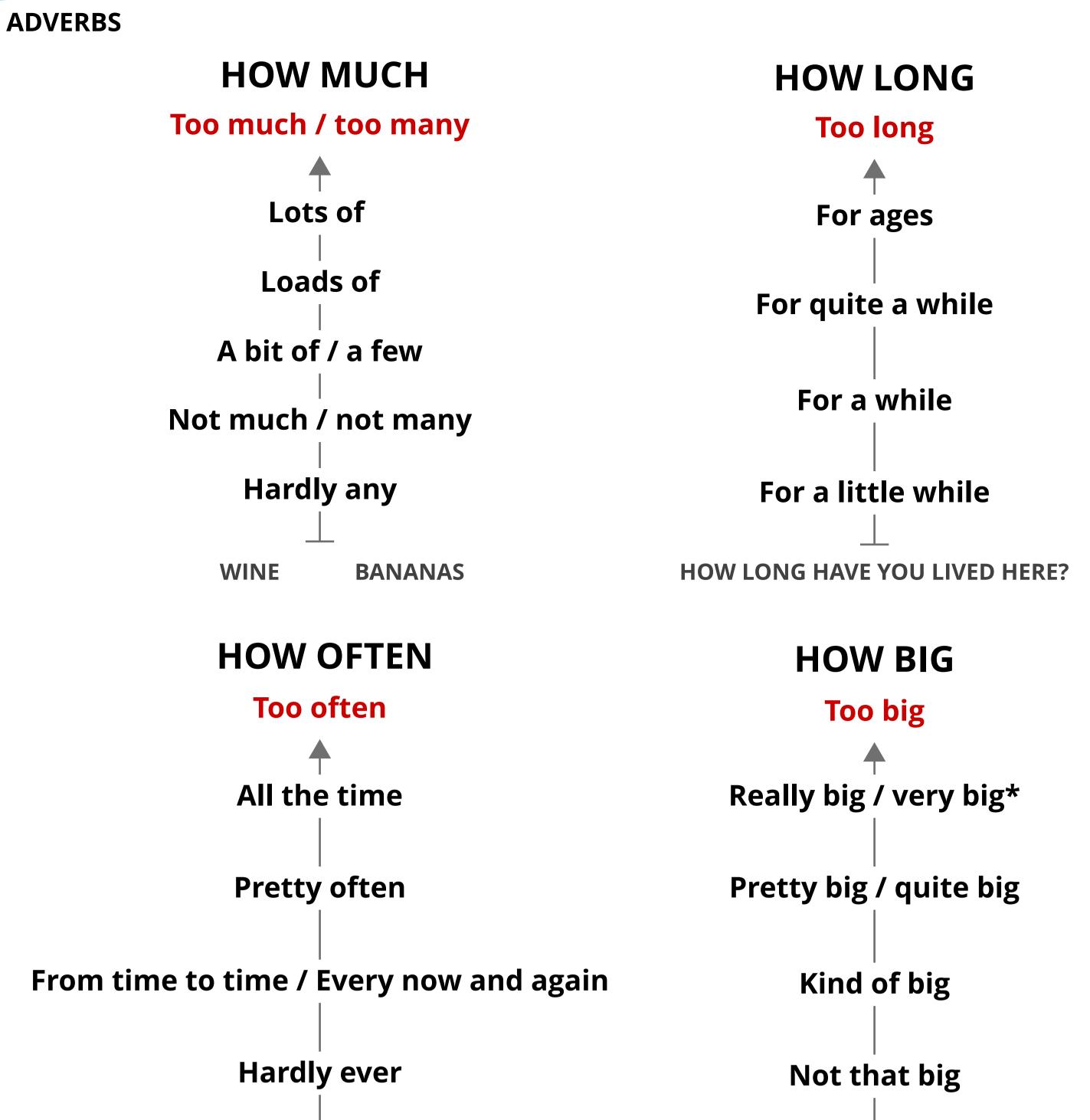
Let's go to the pub

EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS WHICH PUB WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

I love the moon

THERE IS ONLY ONE MOON (FOR OUR PLANET)

9.2



SHALL & LET'S

Shall we go to the cinema?

SHALL IS FOR SUGGESTIONS

*really is with emotion (it's really great!), very is without emotion (you're very sick)

Let's go to the cinema

LET'S IS FOR TELLING PEOPLE WHAT TO DO

*often go together: "Shall we go to the cinema?" - "Yes, let's go!" *you can use **shall we?** as a question tag: "Let's go to the cinema, shall we?"

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO TO THE GYM?

4 SPECIAL MODAL VERBS

- 1. I get to meet lots of cool people in my job **COOL OPPORTUNITIES**
- 2. I happened to see your mum yesterday **COINCIDENCES**
- 3. I had better get back to work IF YOU DON'T DO IT, SOMETHING BAD WILL HAPPEN
- 4. We might as well finish off the bottle **NO REASON WHY NOT**

11.2

SOME/ANY



NEGATIVE QUESTIONS

HOW BIG IS YOUR HOUSE?

PLURAL OR UNCOUNTABLE

I want some books | I don't want any books

BOOKS ARE PLURAL, SO WE USE SOME/ANY

I need some help | Do you need any help?

HELP IS UNCOUNTABLE, SO WE USE SOME

11.4

ANY VS EVERY

Any vs Every

WHICHEVER OF THE OPTIONS VS ALL OF THE OPTIONS

You can do any activity at the hotel

ALL THE ACTIVITIES ARE POSSIBLE, YOU CAN CHOOSE WHICHEVER YOU WANT

You can do every activity at the hotel

YOU WILL DO ALL THE ACTIVITIES

^{*}we say at school/work/home because we mean generally in those places

^{*}between is when there are just two things, among is when there are lots of things

CONDITIONALS

I will help | if you ask me

REAL | IF + PRESENT

I would help | if you asked me

THEORETICAL | IF + PAST

I would have helped | if you had asked me

PAST THEORETICAL | IF + HAD + 3RD FORM

MIXED CONDITIONALS

I will speak English | if I am born in England

I would speak English | if I were born in England PRESENT THEORETICAL RESULT

I would have spoken English | if I had been born in England

PAST THEORETICAL CONDITION

IF ONLY

If only Chris was here

IF ONLY + PAST | WISHFUL THINKING ABOUT THE PRESENT

If only Chris had been there

IF ONLY + HAD + 3RD | WISHFUL THINKING ABOUT THE PAST

EXTRA CONDITIONALS

1. Had I known about the party, I would have come! HAD I KNOWN IS A QUICKER WAY TO SAY IF I HAD KNOWN

2. If I were you, I would tell someone

13.3

USE IF I WERE YOU TO GIVE ADVICE

3. If it wasn't for my kids, I would come to the party

USE IF IT WASN'T FOR TO SAY THE REASON FOR SOMETHING, BOTH POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE

WISHES ABOUT THE PRESENT

I wish I was rich

WISH + PAST | THIS IS YOUR WISH ABOUT NOW

WISHES ABOUT THE PAST

I wish I had studied more

WISH + HAD + 3RD FORM | THIS IS YOUR WISH ABOUT THE PAST

13.1

PAST CONTINUOUS

I was washing the dishes at that time

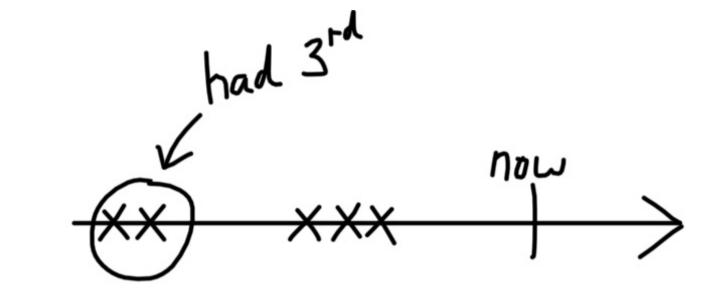


DESCRIBES WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT A SPECIFIC POINT IN THE PAST

*often used to connect two things together with while/when

13.2 **PAST PERFECT**

I realised that I had left my keys at home

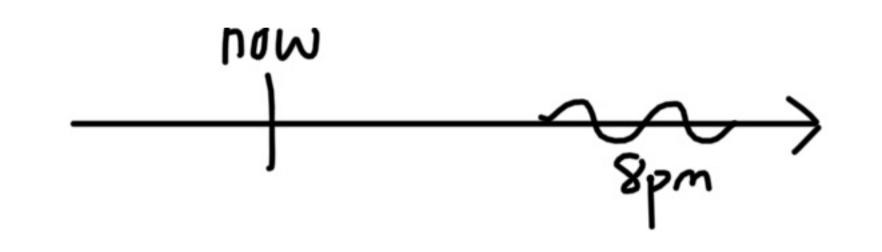


WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE SOMETHING ELSE IN THE PAST

*use had been + ING for longer actions that happened

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

I will still be working an hour from now

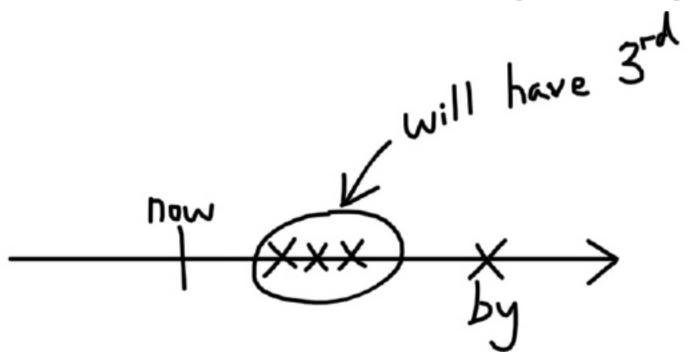


DESCRIBES WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A SPECIFIC POINT IN THE FUTURE

*same usage as past continuous, just in the future!

13.4 **FUTURE PERFECT**

I will have finished it by Friday



WHAT WILL ALREADY BE FINISHED BY A CERTAIN POINT IN THE FUTURE 13.5 **FUTURE EXTRAS**

1. The meeting starts in 10mins

FOR MEETINGS, TRAINS & BUSES, USE PRESENT SIMPLE

2. I think this is going to be terrible

WE ALSO USE GOING TO FOR OUR FUTURE PREDICTIONS

PRESENT PERFECT 3

I have been to America



HAPPENED AT SOME POINT IN MY LIFE

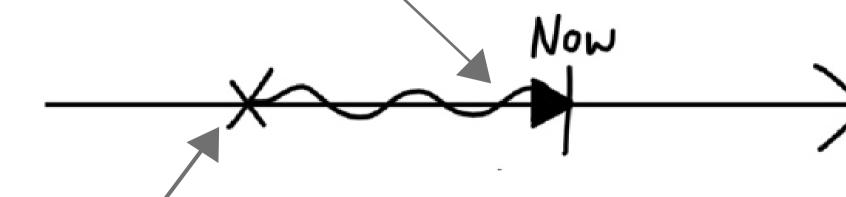
*only says if you have done something or not, no details

*if you give any details, switch to the past

*it's common to ask have you ever and reply no, I've never...

PRESENT PERFECT 4

How long has it been



14.5

Since you last went to the gym

HOW LONG SINCE THE LAST TIME YOU DID SOMETHING

*we say has it been as we're interested how long between the last time and now

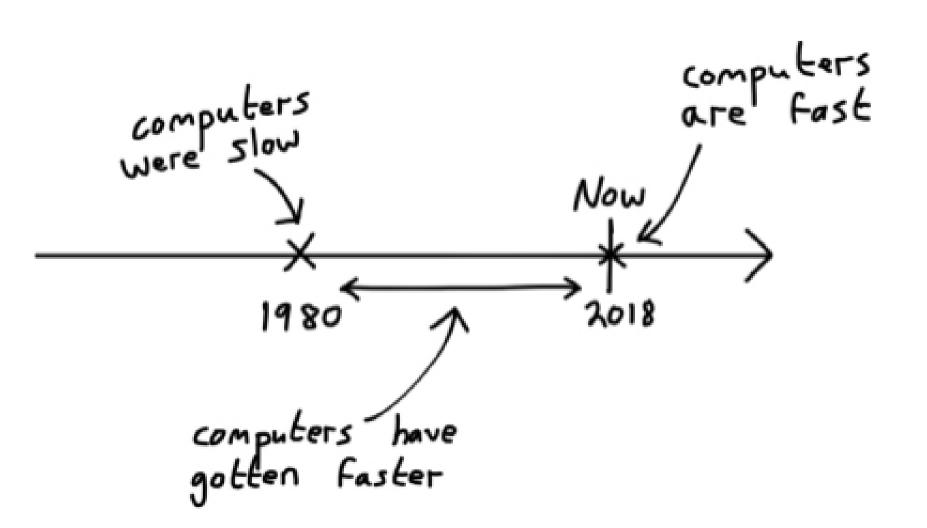
*since you last is a faster way to say since the last time that you...

*this sentence is always the same, just change the verb [went, saw, talked etc]

*to answer, say it's been [a while, ages, 2 months etc]

PRESENT PERFECT 5

Computers have gotten faster



CHANGES BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

*often with 'get', but not always

PRESENT PERFECT 6

14.4

I have lost my keys

FINISHED ACTION -> USEFUL NOW/PROBLEM NOW

PRESENT PERFECT EXTRAS

I have just left the office WE USE JUST TO MEAN VERY RECENTLY

We **have already studied** this **ALREADY EMPHASISES IT HAPPENED BEFORE**

We **haven't studied** this **yet** YET IS USED FOR NEGATIVES AND QUESTIONS

We **are yet** to receive payment **FANCY WAY TO SAY WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED PAYMENT YET**

We **have yet** to receive payment **FANCY WAY TO SAY WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED PAYMENT YET**