APEX ENGLISH TUTORING

BASIC ENGLISH LESSONS–VOLUME 3

Welcome to **Volume 3** of **My 'simply better' Basic English Lessons**.

I hope you have found the first two Volumes of my lessons interesting, useful, and easy to learn.

As you may already know, these lessons have been posted on the Facebook page, and this (like the other) collections are much easier for you to find and refer to.
Much better than scrolling!

I am sure there will be other future Volumes of Lessons to come. I will let you know if and when they will be produced.

Thanks for sticking with them. And I hope they are helping you improve your basic English.

Ok. Ready? Let's go!

Basic English Lesson

Comparatives /kəmpærətɪvz/
and Superlatives /sʊpɜː(r)lətɪvz/

Use with adjectives.

hot hotter hottest

comparative: Today is hot. Yesterday was hotter than today.
superlative: Tomorrow will be the hottest day. It will be hotter than today and yesterday.

cold colder coldest

use -er for comparatives
use -est for superlatives

smart - smarter - smartest
fast - faster - fastest
slow - slower - slowest
quick - quicker - quickest
late - later - latest
young - younger - youngest
old - older - oldest
clean - cleaner - cleanest

QUIZ

long - longer - _____
_____ - shorter - shortest
_____ - _____ - bravest

Basic English Lesson

superlatives and comparatives (2)

good - gooder - goodest?
NO!

good - better - best

Tom is good. Helen is better. Sue is the best. She is better than Tom and Helen.

bad - worse - worst

QUIZ
Rosemary's English is bad. Simon's English is worse. Brian's English is the worst. His English is worse than Simon's and Rosemary's.

Answer this: Rosemary's English is _____ than Simon's.

Basic English Lesson

comparatives and superlatives (3)

Most words of 1 syllable (hot, cold, big, small, old, young, rich, poor, tall, short, easy, hard, cheap, dear, quick, slow etc) use -er and -est (comparative and superlative.

Some words of 2 syllables eg. narrow - use -er and -est.
narrow - narrower - narrowest

Note: words ending in Y change the Y to I+est.

lucky - luckier - luckiest

Words of more than one syllable - 3 or 4 syllables

(comfortable, wonderful, terrible, horrible, valuable, expensive, etc) use 'more' and 'most'.

So, comfortable - more comfortable - most comfortable; terrible - more terrible - most terrible.

QUIZ

(A) tall - taller - _____
(B) _____ - happier -_____
(C) expensive -_____ -_____
(D) I am the _____ man in the world. (lucky)
(E) He is (young) _____ and (rich) _____ than me.
(F) This chair is the _____in the whole house. (comfortable)

Basic English Lesson

comparatives and superlatives (4)

Some words take both - er/ier and -est/iest.

Here is one.

likely - more likely - most likely

likely - likelier - likeliest

"Looking at the dark clouds in the sky, rain looks most likely."
"It seemed to be the likeliest/most likely place to look."

Quick Quiz - Basic English

(comparatives/superlatives) (5)

A His bed is _____ than mine. (neat)

B Of everyone here, I have the _____ car. (reliable)

C I do not like watching operations that show a lot of blood. But John does. He has a _____ stomach than me. (strong)

Basic English Lesson

comparatives and superlatives (6)

Here are some more commonly used ones.

much more most

many more most

far further furthest (the furthest)

less lesser least

well better best

Yesterday, I felt well but today I feel much better. Tomorrow I hope to feel the best I've felt all week.

Last year I was poor. This year I am much richer. I have more money. (not 'more richer' - 'much richer' means you have more money).

Of all the people in our group, I have walked the **furthest** today.

She swam **further** than Sarah.

I think I ate the **least** food yesterday. It was **much less** than what Bruce and Jenny ate.

QUIZ ANSWERS (1)

long - longer - LONGEST
SHORT - shorter - shortest
BRAVE - BRAVER - bravest

QUIZ ANSWER (2)

Rosemary's English is **better** than Simon's.

QUIZ ANSWERS (3)

(A) tall - taller - TALLEST

(B) HAPPY - happier - HAPPIEST
(C) expensive - MORE EXPENSIVE - MOST EXPENSIVE
(D) I am the LUCKIEST man in the world.
(E) He is YOUNGER and RICHER than me.
(F) This chair is the MOST COMFORTABLE in the whole house.

Basic English Lesson - 'gerund'

/dʒerənd/ noun

A '**gerund**' is a noun formed by **adding '-ing' to a verb**, that **describes an action**, such as 'running' or 'believing'.

Do not confuse gerunds with verbs.

Study the picture to learn more.

What are some other gerunds?

Basic English Lesson - adjectives

Adjectives describe nouns.

You may know the common adjectives.

E.g. 'bad', 'good' etc. but add colour to your English.

Instead of saying 'I'm having a bad/good day." say:

"I'm having a horrible/terrible/wonderful/terrific/fantastic day."

'Interesting' is an adjective that is overused.
"The book/movie/holiday/house was interesting."
Try other adjectives.

Here are some adjectives with nouns.

adjective - noun

Beautiful sunset/woman/weather/meal/restaurant

comfortable chair/life

shallow water/person

cold/hot drink/weather

big/large/gigantic man

small/tiny/little animal/bird/child/boy/girl

Any more?

How would you describe this scene of a campfire?

Use 'adjective + noun' or whole sentences.

What can you see in the picture? Stones, rocks, hand, glove, pieces of wood, flames, the ground around the campfire, a lighter in the bottom right of the picture. Use an adjective to describe each thing.

Basic English Lesson - Pronouns

Pronouns replace nouns

I, me, you, he, she, it, we, they, him, her, us, and them are all **personal pronouns**.

My brother misses *all the members of the family*.
He misses **us**.

Basic English Lesson - order of adjectives (1)

There is an **order** to adjectives when used to describe nouns.

Here is one order:

size - age - noun (in that order)
little - old - man
tall - young - woman
big - old - house

Not: old little man, young tall woman, old big house.

Basic English Lesson - order of adjectives (2)

Learn this order:

size + colour + noun (in that order)

big yellow moon

small green plants

enormous red pants

little black box

tiny blue buttons

Write some others as an exercise.

Basic English Lesson - order of adjectives (3)

I saw this once: I am a Spanish pretty girl.
It's wrong!

The order of adjectives should be:

description - nationality - noun.

"I am a **pretty Spanish girl**." is correct.

"She was talking with an **old Italian woman**."

Linda is a **beautiful African lady**.

Thomas is a **handsome English teenager**.

We stayed in an ugly Greek hotel.

Quiz

Correct this sentence:

Norwegian cute children grow up to be Norwegian attractive adults.

QUIZ–ANSWER

Cute Norwegian children grow up to be attractive Norwegian adults.

Basic English Lesson - order of adjectives (4)

Here is the definitive order of adjectives if you ever have to write a sentence like this.

He carried an ugly, small, thin, dirty, old, red, striped, Italian, cotton, sleeping bag.

In other words: **the order is this**:

Opinion - Size - Shape - Condition - Age - Colour - Pattern - Origin - Material - Purpose - Noun.

Words that might be used for each type of adjective:

Opinion/attitude/observations: delicious, lovely, nice, cool.

Size/height: small, tall, huge, tiny, short.

Shape/weight/length: round, square, long, fat.

Condition/state: wet, rich, hungry, clean, dirty.

Age (how old is it?): old, young, new, antique.

Colour: greenish-blue, red, brownish, greyish, purple etc.

Pattern: spotted, checked, flowery, zigzag, striped.

Origin (where it comes from): Italian, American, Indonesian, Turkish, British, German, etc.

Material (what is it made of?): wood, plastic, silver, synthetic, gold, wooden, metallic etc.

Purpose (what it's used for): gardening, shopping, riding, hammering, sharpening etc.

Noun (the name of things): houses, dogs, trees, waterfalls, rugs, Australians, doctors, teacher, man etc.

Not every sentence will contain all of these but the order is the same.

For example:
Size - condition - pattern - material - noun
or
Colour - origin - purpose - noun
or
Size - age - colour - noun
or
Opinion - size - shape - material - noun.

Quiz

Write a sentence with at least 4 adjectives in the right order. Name the types in order then write the sentence.

Basic English Lesson - directions (1)

Before knowing how to GIVE directions, let's look at ways to ASK for directions.

Use these phrases:

Start with this: “Excuse me…” **OR** “Pardon me....”
then:
"I'm looking for _____ (X street), the _____ (library, X supermarket, post office, X Bank etc."

OR

"I cannot (seem to) find the _____." (way out/entrance etc.)

OR

"Where is the (nearest/closest) _____?" (bathroom/toilet/ exit/ etc)

"Can you help me please?/Do you know where it is?/ Do you know the way?” etc.

The next step is to collect '**destinations**' - the names of places. Begin with places you might regularly use.

Write them in your NOTEBOOK.

Basic English Lesson - directions (2)

In the last lesson I taught you **how to ask for directions**.

This lesson is about **giving directions** to someone.

"Go to.... the corner, the bank/shop etc on the corner."

"Go down/up...this street/road."

"Turn left/right."

"Go straight ahead...."

"Go along...the road/the street."

"Cross...the street, the road, the bridge."

"Keep going..."

"It's on the right/left..."

"It will be on the left/right." (left hand side/right hand side).

"It's opposite the .... bank, the shop, the park, supermarket."

"It's across from the ....."

"It's between the ____ and the _____."

"It's next to the _____". (school/bank/post office/cafe/ service station etc).

Learn 'places' to help give directions.

Basic English Lesson - contractions

Apostrophes are used to show 'contractions'.

They are **usually two words written as one word**.

For example: I am = I'm (I'm is the contraction of ‘I am’.)

You'll (you will/shall)
He'll
She'll
It'll (It will)
They'll
We'll
I'd (I would)
You'd, they'd, we'd, she'd, he'd, it'd.
Would've, should've, could've

Wouldn't've (would not have) is a contraction but not in wide use, also shouldn't've and couldn't've. Avoid using these in written English—but spoken is ok. "I wouldn't've thought he would go."

Aren't, won't, didn't, don't, (are not, will not, did not, do not).
He's, she's, it's. (not we's, they's, you's).

Don't forget: **hers** and **his** are **NOT** contractions.

Basic English Lesson - tools (1)

'**hammer**' - a tool for hammering nails into wood.

The hammer in the picture is a **claw hammer**. The claw is used to remove **nails**. The other end, the part you hit nails with, is called the **head**.

Hammer is a noun as well as a verb.

Basic English Lesson - tools (2)

This tool is called a '**screwdriver**' to fix '**screws**' in wood or metal.

Basic English Lesson - tools (3)

This tool is called a '**saw**' and this type of saw is used to cut (or saw) wood.

The man is sawing a piece of timber (another name for wood) with a saw.

Basic English Lesson - tools (4)

A '**drill**' is a tool used to make holes in wood or metal.

Some are electric, others are manual - drilled by hand.

Drills are used with '**bits**' - the long thin metal pieces that cut the wood/metal.

Basic English Lesson - tools (5)

'**spanners**' are tools used to tighten/loosen **nuts**.

Basic English Lesson - tools (6)

This is a **nut** (the small round thing that is tightened/ loosened) on the **bolt** (the long piece which has a **thread**) with a **spanner**.

Basic English Lesson - tools (7)

'**pliers**' (**a pair of pliers**) are tools that hold and also (sometimes) cut **wire**. The picture shows 3 pairs of pliers.

Basic English Lesson - tools (8)

A '**tape measure'** is used to measure things.

Basic English Lesson - tools (9)

All of your tools need to be kept in a '**toolbox**'.

Basic English Lesson - suffixes ‘-able’

Many words end in -able.

Adding the suffix ‘-able’ to a word means that something is ‘**capable of doing/being something’**.

Just the word ‘**able**’ means capable of doing something.

reasonable means capable of having reason.

capable - capable of being capable.
suitable - able to suit

changeable - able to be changed / capable of being changed

variable - able to be varied
manageable—able to be managed

Other words with the suffix ‘-able’?

Basic English Lesson - the suffix '-less'

By adding the suffix '-less', you are describing something as not having or not affected by the thing mentioned.

For example: 'useless' means having no use.

'senseless' - having no sense.

'baseless' - having no base or substance. (baseless rumours).
'friendless' - having no friends.
'breathless' - having no breath.
heartless
painless
homeless
nameless
countless - unable to be counted.

The suffix '**free**' has a similar meaning.

'carefree'
'hasslefree'
'troublefree'
‘painfree’

There are many more. Do you know some more that end in the suffixes '-less' and '-free'?

Basic English Lesson - suffix '-ed'

This suffix is **used to show 'past tense'** of many words.

work - work+ed = worked

play - played

return - returned

save - saved

take - taked? NO...the past tense of take is 'took'.

Be careful to use the right suffix for making past tense.

Exercise:

Can you think of other words that use '-ed' as a suffix?

Basic English Lesson - suffix '-ful' (for adjectives)

This suffix means to **be full of something**. (note: one L not 2)

'beautiful' - to be full of beauty

'joyful' - to be full of joy/happiness

'plentiful'- to be full of plenty, to have more than enough

'bountiful' - is a synonym for plentiful.

Look at the picture to see more.

ADJECTIVES WITH THE SUFFIX "-FUL"

wonderful	useful	successful
powerful	helpful	grateful
careful	beautiful	awful

Can you think of others to develop your vocabulary?

Basic English Lesson - the noun suffix '-ant'

The suffix '-ant' means someone/something who/that does something.

Examples

'Servant' is someone who serves someone else.

'Attendant' is similar to a servant, someone who attends to people.

'Merchant' is someone who sells 'merchandise' or 'merch' (slang).

'Assistant' - someone who 'assists' or helps.

But not 'elephant' ok!

Basic English Lesson - suffix '-ious' or '-ous' (adjectives)

This suffix means **to be characterised by something**.

'**delicious**' - means having the character of being very good. We can talk of 'delicious food'.

'**famous**' - to be characterised by being well known, usually as a good person, associated with fame.

'**infamous**' - famous for being a bad person.

'**desirous**' - characterised by being desirable, wanted.
Can you think of any more?

Basic English Lesson - suffix '-er' and '-or'

The suffixes '-er' and '-or' both mean 'someone who does something- often as a job/profession'.

Here are some examples for '-er':

teacher - someone who teaches

bricklayer - someone who 'lays' or builds with bricks

piano/guitar/violin player - someone who plays these instruments

tennis player - someone who plays tennis

minister - politician in charge of a 'portfolio' e.g. health/ employment etc. Also a minister of religion - a pastor/priest etc.

soldier - someone who 'soldiers' (trains to fight in war).

banker - someone who works in a bank

financier - someone who works in finance (providing money for businesses)

picker - someone who picks fruit/vegetables

harvester - someone who harvests crops

manager - someone who manages (a business say)

farmer
shopper
customer
fighter
leader

'-or' suffixes

author - someone who writes books etc.
doctor
professor
contractor
pastor - a priest
instructor
competitor
supervisor
chancellor (leader of a university)
ambassador

Any more?

Basic English Lesson - suffix '-ist'

The suffix '-ist' **changes nouns, verbs, and adjectives into nouns**, with the meaning “one that works with, is connected with, or believes in” the thing referred to in the stem word.

Examples:
scientist - someone connected with science.
The ‘stem word’ here is ‘science’

pessimist - someone who believes the future is bad.
(stem word: pessimism)

optimist - someone who believes the future is good/bright.
(stem word: optimism or optimistic)

manicurist - someone who works with people's fingernails
(cutting, shaping, painting etc. stem word: manicure)

podiatrist - someone who takes care of/treats people's feet and nails.

artist -someone who produces works of art. (stem: art)

dentist - someone who takes care of/treats people's teeth.

Others:

Geologist, sociologist, psychologist, psychiatrist, etc.

Do you know any others?

Basic English Lesson - prefix ('re-')

The prefix '-re' means back, or again.

Examples:

return - go back
recover - go back to a healthy condition (recover from an illness)
recover - cover something again
remember - bring back a memory

renew - make new again
replay - play again
report - investigate then go back to give results
reform - make changes to make something better/improve
reverse - go backwards
remake - often applied to movies; old movies are remade with modern film-making methods.
revolve - turn round and round

There are many, many more.

Can you think of some others?
Don't forget to write them in your Notebook.

Basic English Lesson - each, every, all

These are sometimes confusing to use correctly.

The first one is '**each**'.

Use 'each' when referring to individual members/items of a group, one at a time.

Examples:
Each person sees things differently.
The soldiers each received a medal.
They hated each other.
We really need each other.

Basic English Lesson - each, every, all

The next one is '**every**'.

There are several meanings for 'every'.

1 It can be used before a singular noun to refer to all the individual members of a set without exception.

"The hotel assures every guest of personal attention."

"Every child is special."

2 It is used before an amount to indicate how often something happens.

"Tours take place every thirty minutes."

"I shave every morning."

3 It can be used for emphasis - all possible; the utmost.

"You have every reason to ask for a refund."

4 It can be used with 'each'.

"Each and every day is different here."

“Each and every child is special.”

Basic English Lesson - each, every, all

The last one is '**all**'.

It means **the total number of things, everyone or everything**.

Examples:

"I stayed home **all** day instead of going to work."

"**All** people are equal."

"He ignored her **all** night."

"She tries to do everything right **all** the time."

Basic English Lesson - words with 'omb'

Many words end in 'omb' or have 'omb' in them.

The word 'bomb' is not pronounced the same as 'tomb' or 'comb'.

bomb /bɒm/

tomb /tuːm/ rhymes with 'womb'

comb /kəʊm/

But 'bombard' is pronounced /bɒmˈbɑː(r)d/, (sombre) /sɒmbə(r)/,

'tomboy' is pronounced /tɒmˌbɔɪ/,

and 'combination' is pronounced /kɒmbɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/

The main difference is knowing which word has a **silent B**, or a **'voiced' B**.

Unfortunately, there is no easy way to know how to pronounce these words in different ways; **you just have to learn them**.

Basic English Lesson - Word of the Day

The word today is 'rhyme' /raɪm/

It can be a verb as well as a noun.

A rhyme is a short poem,(a countable noun) often for children, that has lines ending in the same sound (walk, talk, such, much, not, hot. etc).

Jack and Jill
Went up the hill ... etc.

is part of a famous **'nursery rhyme'**.

As a verb, we can say that 'pork' rhymes with 'walk' and 'talk'. Rhymed, rhyming, rhymes are verbs.

Basic English Lesson - everyday action verbs

Here is a selection of basic, everyday verbs.

Can you think of any more? Only the ones that are common. **Write them in your notebook.**

Think how you might use them. For example: **press** a button or a switch to call someone, to start something, or to turn a light on (also, **flick** a switch). **Crush** garlic. **Crumple** a piece of paper, **squeeze** a lemon, or someone's arm. **Squash** an insect. **Wring** your hands with worry.

Basic English Lesson - different/difference

'Differ**ent**' is **an adjective**.

'Differ**ence**' is **a noun**.

Note the different endings. This is the same for similar words: silent/silence, competent/competence, penitent/penitence', eloquent/eloquence, lenient/lenience etc.

"Cats and dogs are *different* (**adj**) animals. There are *differences* (**noun**)."

Extra: 'differently' is an adverb.

"I work *differently* from other English language sites."

Conclusion

You've now reached the end of **Volume 3**.

Congratulations! I hope you've learned just a little more

English. Remember to practise with the Quick Quizzes that I post on the Apex English Group page.

If you cannot remember how to complete the quizzes, please do not guess; go back to these Lessons, find the appropriate one, revise it, and then attempt the Quiz again.

It's a way for me to know you are learning, and you will see how you have learned too.

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