# APEX ENGLISH TUTORING

# BASIC ENGLISH LESSONS–VOLUME 2

Welcome to Volume 2.

In Volume 1, I taught you the ‘W’ and several forms of the ‘H’ Question words.

I will continue with some other ‘question words’.

## Basic English Lesson - other question words

As I mentioned, I have taught you the basic five 'W' and the 'H' question words.

But there are many other words that begin questions too.

Here are some, using the verbs 'to be':

"Is he/she/it/Tom/Jane OK?"

"Are they going to school/work/play football/the park today?"

"Were they/the children/the boys/the girls upset/happy/bored?"

"Was he/she/Jack able to answer the question?"

There are more, but this is enough for now.

## Basic English - other Question words

You've (hopefully) learned the W question words (and an H word).
**'Did'** is a word that starts questions too.

I ask: "Did you?"
You say: "Did I what?"

"Did you ....enjoy the party?
"Did you (verb) the (noun)?"

verbs: like, see, answer, remember etc.

nouns: movie, question, the milk, accident.

Put verbs and nouns together: see/movie, see/accident, answer/question, remember/the milk.

## QUIZ/Practice

Now practise with these to write 3 or 4 'did' questions in your notebook.

## Basic English Lesson - other questions with 'did'

"Did she....?"
"Did he...?"
"Did they...?"

"Did (name) ..... ?
"Did it ....?"
"Did we..?

Now practise asking questions.

"Did she/he like...the movie?"
"Did they do ... the washing up?"
"Did it cost much money?"
"Did it take very long?"
"Did we enjoy the exam?"
"Did Tom and Betty come to the meeting?"

So many variations to practice with.

Practise writing questions using 'did' in your notebook.

## Basic English Lesson - more question words

'Did' was the last one.

How about '**do**'?
Lots of questions start with 'do'.

"Do you..?"
"Do you like ....?"

"Do you (speak, enjoy, play, understand, watch, read) + noun?"

nouns: English, computer games, novels, TV shows, tennis, cricket.

'enjoy' + 'playing tennis', 'reading mystery novels', enjoy watching TV sitcoms'.

"Do they (verb) + (noun)?"

"Do we...?"

"Do tigers live around here?"

"Do birds visit your garden?"

"Do people like your paintings?"

So many!!!!

Practice: write a few questions using 'do' as the question word in your notebook.

## Basic English Lesson - more Question words

This time it's '**can**' and '**may**' to start questions.

'May' is rather formal.
'Can' is less formal.

"Can I help you?" "May I help you?"

Think about this: "Can you help me?" is right but "May you help me?" is just WRONG.

"May I leave the table?" is more polite than "Can I leave the table?"

"Can we go (swimming/play/running/hiking)?"

"Can you (hear/understand) me?"

And of course - "can't" is also used.

"Can't we?"
"Can't you behave yourself?"
"Can't you (hear/understand) me?"

"Can you think of other questions that begin with 'can' or 'can't'?"

Write them in your notebook.

## Basic English Lesson - more question words

"Am I doing the right thing?" (asking yourself or others)
"Are you OK?"
"Are they going to work today?"
"Are we out of lockdown tomorrow?"
"Were we enjoying ourselves?" (asking yourself or others)
"Were you frightened?"
"Were they right or wrong?"
"Was she happy with her exam result?"
“Was it good or bad?"
"Was the food good or bad?"

**Basic English Lesson - older/elder**

Study the explanation of the difference in the picture.

"Older people deserve respect from younger people."

"John is the elder of my two brothers. I am fifteen, he is twelve and my other brother, Robert, is just ten."

## Basic English Lesson - pronunciation

'Time' is sometimes pronounced as /tɑː(r)m/ to rhyme with 'farm'.

But that is incorrect. It is pronounced as /taɪm/.

Practice this: "I like to find time."

Use this to practice with: /aɪ/ /laɪk/ to /faɪnd//taɪm/

Then read the 'English' version to check your pronunciation.

## Basic English Lesson - go

Look at the picture to learn how to use 'go' (on its own) with words.

There is no 'a' used - but sometimes we can use 'the'.

"Go the whole hog." means 'go all the way' - and there's another use of words with 'go'.

How about 'go together', 'go away', 'go figure' (slang), 'go jump' (slang too), 'go jump in the lake'?

'go' + noun = 'go home'

'go' + verb = 'go shopping' and 'go dancing'.

Also: 'go fishing', 'go running', 'go skiing', 'go swimming' etc.

Notice the verbs end with –ing.

Any more?

Don't forget the tenses: 'went shopping', 'going fishing', 'has gone dancing', 'have gone running', 'will be going home next week', 'won't be going', 'didn't go and jump in the lake' etc.

Any more?

**Basic English Lesson - 'go on'**

Look at the picture to learn three ways to use 'go on'.

As you can see, 'go on' needs 'a' sometimes.

More:

'go on a tour' but also 'go on tour'.

A rock band might 'go on tour' but a tourist might pay someone to show them the sights. So, they would pay money to 'go on a tour'.

'Go on holidays' is the same as 'go on a holiday'.

"We go on holidays once a year."

"We go on a holiday once a year."

'Go on a voyage (of discovery)'.

'Go on TV/radio'.

'go on a TV / radio show'.

'Go on stage'.

'Go on a stage'.

Can you think of any more?

Again, don't forget the tenses:

'went on stage', 'going on a date', 'gone on a cruise', 'will be going on vacation next year.'

**Basic English Lesson - 'go to ...'**

Take care when using 'go to'.

We say "go to bed' not 'go to the bed'. ('went to bed)

'Go to the bed' is right but only if you mean you are walking to the bed, not to go to sleep.

And 'go to school' ( 'went to school')

Go to church.

Go to class.

Can you answer these?

"When did you go to bed last night?" (time)

"How do you go to school?"

Or

"When you were young how did you go to school?" (walk/ bicycle/bus etc.)

**Basic English Lesson– ‘go to a … ‘**

Look at the picture. All three are nouns. We use nouns only with ‘go to a…’.

Examples:

‘We are going to a dance.’

A lecture, a performance, a concert, a dress rehearsal, a lunch, a dinner, a BBQ (barbecue), a restaurant, a coffee shop, a café.

**Basic English Lesson - another 'go to' phrase.**

We add 'the' because the place is a definite/specific place.

Others:

'Go to the…
bank, post office, swimming pool, concert, performance, bathroom, kitchen, workshop, shop, supermarket,

department store, storeroom, hairdresser's, bakery, restaurant, dentist, doctor, clinic.

Can you think of any more?

And of course, tenses:

'went to the...' ,

'has/have gone to the ....',

'is/are going to the...,

'will be going to the ...'

'will have gone to the ....'

and

'gone to the ....'.

**Basic English Lesson - 'go for...'**

Look at the picture. They are all **nouns** being used with 'go for'.

You can 'go for' many things.

They usually involve 'doing something physical' - like walking, running, swimming, jogging etc.

But remember, it's **'go for' + a noun** (not a verb).

So, it's wrong to say: "I like to go for a swimming when it's hot."

Instead, you would say: "I like to go for a swim when it's hot."

What do you like to 'go for?

## Basic English Lesson - shapes (1)

'**square**' (noun and adjective) /skweə(r)/

A square is a shape with four straight sides of equal length and four corners called right angles.
"The garden has flower beds that form a perfect square."

What squares can you see around you?

## Basic English Lesson - shapes (2)

'rectangle' (noun) /rekˌtæŋg(ə)l/

'rectangular' (adjective) /rekˈtæŋgjʊlə(r)/

Means: a shape with four straight sides and four angles of 90°.

A square is a rectangle but a rectangle cannot be a square.

## Basic English Lesson - shapes (3)

'triangle' (noun) /traɪæŋg(ə)l/

A triangle is a flat shape that has three straight sides and three angles.

'triangular' (adjective) /traɪˈæŋgjʊlə(r)/

The ship has square sails but it also has a triangular sail.

## Basic English Lesson–shapes (4)

'circle'  (noun)  /sɜː(r)k(ə)l/

A circle is a round shape consisting of a curved line that completely encloses a space and is the same distance from the centre at every point.

'circular' (adjective) /sɜː(r)kjʊlə(r)/

Means: in the shape of a circle

'a circular tray'.

## Basic English Lesson - shapes (5)

'oval'  (noun and adjective) /əʊv(ə)l/

Means: a long narrow circle.

'an oval table', 'an oval mirror', 'an oval face'.

## Basic English Lesson - shapes (6)

Here are all the shapes in one picture - plus a few extra.

## Basic English Lesson - Colours (1)

Some of you will know these already.

But for those who are learning Basic English these will be useful.

**Red** is the first colour.

Look around you.

What do you see that's **red**?

Write the words (including these colours on a special page) in your **Notebook.** You **DO** have a notebook don't you?

## Basic English Lesson - colours (2)

This one is '**blue**'.

What do you see that's **blue**? (a 'what' question)

Eyes? sky? ocean?

Do you have 5 **blue** things near you?

I can see a blue bowl and four other things…

## Basic English Lesson - colours (3)

Green this time.

Light green, **dark green**. **Lime green.**

Grass is **green**. Eyes? Traffic light? How about 'be **green** with envy'.

Anything else? Lettuce? Green vegetables?

## Basic English Lesson - colours (4)

**Yellow.**

Many things are coloured **yellow**.

Can you name some?
Canaries are yellow. Peppers are **yellow** as well as **red** and **green**.

## Basic English Lesson - colours (5)

**Purple**.

I like **purple**.

What's your favourite colour?

Anything **purple** around you?

## Basic English Lesson - colours (6)

### Orange

**Oranges** are orange. The woman in the picture is painting the wall orange.

The colour **orange** is in a **r a i n b o w** along with other colours.

When did you last see a rainbow? (a 'when' question)

What is orange in your house? (a 'what' question)

## Basic English Lesson - colours (7)

### Brown

This is the last of the colours I am going to teach you here. There are many more colours but these will do for now. So, what is brown?

Skin? Chocolate? Coffee? Soil? Hair? Eyes? Wood? Any more?

**Basic English Lesson - colours ( 8 )**

How could I forget these?

**black** and white.

Chessboard?
Zebra?
Newspapers?

Print on a page - like what you are seeing right now.

**Basic English Lesson - other plurals.**

In **Volume 1**, I taught you that most plurals end with 's'.
(cat - cats).

Others, however, change the 'y' at the end to '-ies'.
(lolly - lollies, bully–bullies, lorry–lorries, curry–curries).

Some words: 'tomato' and 'potato' (both ending in 'o') are spelt this way: 'tomatoes' and 'potatoes'.

'Taco' (Mexican food) does not have an 'e' - the plural is spelt 'tacos'.

Anyway, you just have to learn to remember them.

## Basic English Lesson–this and that and those

Study the picture to learn the differences.

## Basic English Lesson - greetings & goodbyes/farewells

### *Greetings*

Hello, hi, good morning, good afternoon, good evening (NOT good night).

### *Goodbyes / Farewells*

Goodbye, bye, bye bye, later, see you later, good night, talk later, see you, 88 ('bah' is Chinese for '8' - so 'bah bah' sounds like 'bye bye'.

## Basic English Lesson

I've been asked to explain the difference between 'hope' and 'wish'.

So, here is the explanation.

'Hope' mainly expresses a desire that is possible or likely to happen.

"I hope you have a lovely day today!" (It's your birthday and many people will say Happy Birthday to you. Also, your friends have organised a party. Parties are fun times."

'Wish' usually expresses a desire that is impossible or unlikely to happen.

'I wish it would rain!" (There are no clouds in the sky. It is very hot. Water levels are very low. The weather forecast tells us that it will not rain today."

"I wish you'd grow up!"  (unlikely unless the person starts 'acting their age')

"I hope you grow up!"  (likely unless the person dies at a young age)

"I hope to live to an old age." (Living to an old age 'runs' in my family; my father, my grandfather and uncles on my father's side lived until they were in their 90's. My great grandfather died at 103.)

"I wish I had a better job."

"I hope I get that job I applied for."

However, and there's often a 'but' in English.

We do say 'I wish you a Happy Birthday!" and we express 'Birthday wishes'. There's a song: "We wish you a Merry Christmas!"

There are other confusing words in English and I will post them in future as Basic English Lessons on the group's page.

**Basic English Lesson  Modal Verbs**

Modal verbs are quite common in English.

The most frequently used ones are:
can
may
might
could  should  would
will
must

When to use them? Here's a list with some examples.

**1 To express 'likelihood' of something happening.**

Some things seem likely, but we don't know for sure. In these cases, you can use the modal verbs 'should' and 'must' to show probability (likelihood) without certainty (being sure).

Her parents must be so proud.

My baby sister should be asleep by now.

## 2 To express possibility

In situations when something is possible but not certain, use the modal verbs 'could', 'may', or 'might'.

Looking at the dark clouds, it might rain today.

She may become the best player in the team.

## 3 To ask permission to do something

If you want to ask permission to do something, start your question with 'can', 'may', or 'could' or even 'would'.

Usually, in more formal and polite usage, 'may' is better for permission; if you ask “Can I go to the bathroom?” it could be misinterpreted as, “Do I have the ability to go to the bathroom?”

(However, in modern usage 'may' and 'can' are both perfectly acceptable options when describing possibility or permission.)

May I leave early today?

Could I play too?

Would I be allowed to bring my dog to school tomorrow?

## 4 To make a request (usually asking a question)

If you want to ask someone else to do something, start your question with 'will', 'would', 'can', or 'could'.

Would/Will/Could/Can you get your feet off the table please?

Will/Can/Would/Could you turn that music down?

## 5 To make a suggestion or give advice

What if you wanted to recommend something, but not command/order it? If you’re giving suggestions or advice without ordering someone around, you can use the modal verb 'should'.

You should try Dad's pizza.

That guy should stop annoying her.

## 6 Command

But if you want to command someone, use the modal verbs 'must', 'have to', or 'need to'.

That guy has to stop annoying her.

You must fasten your seatbelt now.

You need to be here before 7 a.m.

## 7 Obligation or necessity

Modal verbs can express a necessary action, such as an obligation, duty, or requirement. Likewise, the negative form expresses that an action is not necessary. Use the same modal verbs as with commands: 'must', 'have to', or 'need to'.

We must (have to/need to) wait for our manager to arrive before we open the store.

You don’t need to/have to come if you don’t want to.

## 8 To express habit

To show an ongoing or habitual action—something someone does regularly—you can use the modal verb 'would' for the past tense and 'will' for the present and future. The phrase 'used to' is also acceptable if you’re talking about a habit that no longer exists.

When I lived alone, I would fall asleep with music playing.

I will arrive early and leave late every time there is a party.

*********These are very useful  because you will use them often, so please take your time to learn about them.

**Basic English Lesson - Phrasal Verbs**

**Phrasal verb** = **verb** + **preposition**.

COLLECT PHRASAL VERBS in your **notebook**. Learn what they mean, and when to use them.

THEY ARE REALLY USEFUL.

Google 'phrasal verbs' and you will see many because there are many, many phrasal verbs. Listen for them too.

I post them on my other FB page regularly.

The picture shows a small selection of the common phrasal verbs to get you started.

## Basic English Lesson - Conjunctions (1)

A very quick lesson to point out the ***three types*** of conjunctions (words that we use to join phrases and sentences together).

We will look at each type one by one.

For now, learn the names of the three types of conjunctions: **coordinating**, **subordinating**, and **correlative**.

## Basic English Lesson - conjunctions (2)

The first type is the **'coordinating conjunctions'**.

They 'coordinate' words and phrases. "You **AND** me" 'coordinates' us together.

'And', 'but', 'for', 'so', **AND** 'or' are very commonly used. [note how 'and' is used in that sentence?]

"He is expensive to hire, **BUT** he is very good."

"She does not know which dress to buy: this one **OR** that one."

"She couldn't make up her mind, **SO** she bought them all!"

"I don't expect children to be rude, **NOR** do I expect to be disobeyed."

"We listened closely, **FOR** he brought news of what happened to our friends."

"Ned Kelly was a criminal, **YET** many people admired him.

Remember them with this acronym:

**FANBOYS** (**F**or, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, **S**o)

## Basic English Lesson - Conjunctions (3)

So far, I have taught you about 'coordinating conjunctions' (FANBOYS).

This time it's **'subordinating conjunctions'**.

Look at the picture.

An easy way to think of how they are used is to think of **giving reasons**.

'Because', 'even though' or 'since'.

'Why did you go home?"

"**Because** I was tired/bored/angry."

"She's the person who drove the car **that** took me away."

"**Even though** I was tired, I helped out with the farm work."

"**Since** she was going to the store, I went with her to buy groceries too."

"**In case** you were wondering, I am John's younger brother."

"**Supposing** you came with us, what would you do?"

"**Wherever** you go, I will go as well."

"**Once** the story of our life had been published, there was no escaping other reporters' questions **even though** there was nothing left to tell anyone."

## Basic English Lesson

You are reading a sentence right now. It has a 'subject' 'you', a 'verb' 'are reading', and an 'object' 'a sentence'.

A subject 'does things' while an object 'has things done to it'.
The subject 'you' is reading. The object 'sentence' is 'being read'. This sentence also has a time of 'doing' - 'right now'.

## QUIZ

Tom is playing football on Friday.

Which word is the subject?
What is the object word?
What is the verb?
When is Tom playing football?

## Answers to Quiz

| | |
|---|---|
| Which word is the subject? | Tom |
| What is the object word? | football |
| What is the verb? | is playing |
| When is Tom playing football? | on Friday |

## Basic English Lesson

More irregular plurals:

shelf - shelves
calf - calves
hero - heroes
sheep - sheep
fungus - fungi
alumnus - alumni
syllabus - syllabi
curriculum - curricula

## Basic English Lesson - reflexive pronouns (1)

'Reflexive' /rɪˈflɛksɪv/ (referring to pronouns) means denoting a pronoun that refers back to the subject of the clause in which it is used, e.g. myself, themselves.

If that is hard to understand, let's use some examples.

We start with the personal pronoun ( I ).

I - myself

I do it myself. I did it myself. I believe in myself.

I went there (by) myself.

You - yourself.

You do it (by) yourself. You did it (by) yourself. You should believe in yourself.

You (plural) - yourselves

You can do it (by) yourselves. You should believe in yourselves.

You went (by) yourselves?

You went there (by) yourself.

**QUIZ**

I play computer games by _____.

You can teach yourself English by _____. (singular you)

You all can practise English by _____.

## Answers to Quiz

I play computer games by myself.

You can teach yourself English by yourself. (singular you)

You all can practise English by yourselves.

## Basic English Lesson - pronunciation of 'the'

'The' is pronounced differently depending on the starting letter of the word that follows it.

For words that start with vowels (a e i o and u) 'the' is pronounced /ðiː/ (thee) with the 'th' sounded as in 'there'.

One exception is this word: uterus which starts with 'U'.

The uterus /juːt(ə)rəs/ is the organ in a woman's body where babies grow. A less technical name for this is womb.

Although it starts with a 'u' it is sounded as a Y.

For words that begin with consonants (not vowels: b, c, d etc.) 'the' is pronounced /ðə/.

So, look at the starting letter of the word after 'the' and choose the right pronunciation.

## Practice quiz

The onion.
The umbrella.
The batteries.
The apples
The century.
The eggplant.
The ice cream.
The zoo.

Practise with other words.

## Basic English Lesson - when to use 'a' and 'an'

This lesson is similar to the previous one that explained the different pronunciations of 'the'.

The difference is that it is more to do with grammar than pronunciation.

We use 'a' when the word following begins with a consonant.

a ball, a cat, a dog, a flower, a golden era, a zebra.

We use 'an' when the word following begins with a vowel (a e i o and u).

an apple, an egg, an ice cream, an orange, an umbrella.

There are exceptions. 'an hour', 'an honour'.

'Herb' is also pronounced 'erb' so it would be 'a herb' as well as 'an herb.'

The rule is very easy to remember.

**Quiz - practice**

___ jeep
___ Australian
_____snake
___ elephant
___ brave person
___ uterus  (be careful!)
___ oval face
___ idea

**Basic English Lesson - 'subject - verb agreement'**

Read this article (Part 1) to learn more.
https://www.apexenglishtutoring.com.au/post/improve-your-grammar-subject-verb-agreement-part-i

Then read Parts 2 and 3.

https://www.apexenglishtutoring.com.au/post/improve-your-grammar-subject-verb-agreement-part-ii

https://www.apexenglishtutoring.com.au/post/improve-your-grammar-subject-verb-agreement-part-iii

## Basic English Lesson - Idioms

I won't bother posting any examples of Idioms here.

A Google search for 'Idioms' will give you many examples.

For now, let me explain that an idiom /ɪdɪəm/ is a saying that people use to say something more complex in a much easier way - **IF** the other person knows the meaning. Most native English speakers **PICK UP** idioms throughout their lives.

Idioms make your English more 'colourful'.

So, learn a few or as many as you can and learn when to use them appropriately.

Collect them in your **NOTEBOOK**.

## Basic English Lesson - adverbs of frequency

An adverb of frequency describes how often an action happens.

There are six main adverbs of frequency that we use in English: always, usually (or normally), often, sometimes, rarely, and never.

They lie on a 'continuum' where 'always' is on the left at one end and 'never' is on the right at the other end.

There are variations or degrees of frequency (occasionally, regularly, almost always, almost never) but these are the seven you need to learn first.

I **always** am here posting. (every day and several times a day)

I **usually** have my lunch around midday. (most days)

I **often** go swimming. (I swim nearly every day in summer.)

I **sometimes** (or **occasionally**) eat chocolate. (not every day, maybe once a month).

I **rarely** go travelling overseas. (I haven't travelled overseas for a few years.)

I **never** tell lies. (true! )

## QUIZ

How often do you do these things?

(That's a 'How often' question word too!)

## Basic English Lesson

Apostrophes are important to get right.

Go here to learn about them.

[https://www.apexenglishtutoring.com.au/post/it-s-its-not-it-s-using-apostrophes](https://www.apexenglishtutoring.com.au/post/it-s-its-not-it-s-using-apostrophes)

## Basic English Lesson - Calendar months of the year

January /dʒænjuəri/

February /februəri/ - difficult to pronounce so learn it.

March /mɑː(r)tʃ/ April /eɪprəl/

May /meɪ/ June /dʒuːn/

July /dʒʊˈlaɪ/ August /ɔːgʌst/

September /sepˈtembə(r)/ October /ɒkˈtəʊbə(r)/

November /nəʊˈvembə( r)/ December /dɪˈsembə(r)/

# Conclusion

You've reached the end of **Volume 2**.

Congratulations!

I hope you've learned just a bit more English.

If you're confident and want to put into practice what you've learned then you should take the next step.

Get **My 'simply better' Method: Module A** to learn how to **PRACTISE** your basic English.

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## Last Words

I plan to continue creating My 'simply better' Basic Lessons and posting them on Facebook, exclusively for my Newsletter Subscribers.

Don't forget to visit www.apexenglishtutoring.com.au

to read my range of Blog articles and if you want to,

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