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# Practical English Usage

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LESSONS 11-20

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# Lesson 11: Assume and Presume



*Assume* and *presume* are commonly used to mean the same thing – to suppose. However, the subtle difference lies in the level of certainty.

**Assume** implies less certainty; a supposition without proof or evidence.

- I just **assumed** more people would come.

**Presume** implies more certainty; a supposition after weighing probabilities.

- I **presumed** more people would come after I specifically invited them.

*Assume* and *presume* also share another meaning; *to adopt a position or to take on oneself*.

- She **assumed** the role of leader.
- She **presumed** too little dissatisfaction within her team.

# Lesson 12: Gossip



*Gossip* is an interesting word because it has 3 uses.

## 1. Verb.

- I **gossiped** with my neighbor.

## 2. Countable noun.

- My neighbor and I are **gossips**.
- You shouldn't listen to what **gossips** say.

## 3. Uncountable noun.

- You shouldn't listen to **gossip**.
- **Gossip** is a dangerous thing.
- I'm meeting my friends for a **gossip**.

# Lesson 13: Everyday and Every Day



*Everyday* is an adjective that means ordinary, commonplace or normal.

- This meal is not special, it's just **everyday** food.
- I don't like this song, it's **everyday** pop music.
- I love my **everyday** shoes because they are so comfortable.

*Every day* simply means each day.

- I eat the same food **every day**.
- I hear this song on the radio **every day**.
- I wear these shoes **every day** because they are so comfortable.
- I practice English **every day**.

# Lesson 14: Who or Whom.



Use the he/him method.

He = who

Him = whom

When *he* can be used in a sentence, we use *who*.

- Did **he** close the door?
- **Who** closed the door?
- **He** closed the door.

When *him* can be used in a sentence, we use *whom*.

- Should I ask **him** about my exams?
- **Whom** should I ask about my exams?
- You should ask **him** about your exams.

# Lesson 15: Parts of Speech.



Part of Speech	Function/Job	Examples	Example Sentences
Verb	State/Action	Be, have, learn, write, love, must	I <b>am learning</b> English. I <b>love writing</b> English.
Noun	Thing/Person/Name	Mike, phone, pencil, London, cat, chair	<b>Mike</b> sits in a <b>chair</b> . He has a <b>cat</b> and a <b>pencil</b> .
Adjective	Describe a noun	Blue, big, wet, good, Interesting, long	I have a <b>big, blue</b> coat which is very <b>long</b> .
Adverb	Describe a verb, adjective or adverb	Very, quite, slowly, well, badly	My dog is <b>very</b> old. He walks <b>quite slowly</b> .
Pronoun	Replace a noun	I, you, he, she, they, it, some, them	I like <b>her</b> , <b>she</b> is nicer than <b>him</b> .
Preposition	Links nouns to other words	To, at, after, on, through, in	I went <b>to</b> the café <b>after</b> a day <b>at</b> the beach.
Conjunction	Links clauses, sentences or words	And, but, when, if,	I will go to the beach <b>and</b> the cafe <b>if</b> it is hot.
Interjection	A short exclamation	Oh, hi, well, hey	<b>Hi</b> , How are you? <b>Well</b> , I'm fine, thank you.

## Lesson 16: Farther and Further.



- They moved **farther** down the road.
- They moved **further** down the road.

*Farther* and *further* have the same meaning and both are correct.  
*Further* is more commonly used.

*Further* is used in metaphorical and more abstract contexts, especially when referring to time:

- We are going to stay here for a **further** 3 days.
- Do you have any **further** comments?
- I would like to start the meeting without **further** delay.

The same approach applies for *farthest* and *furthest*.

- It is the **farthest** station from my house.
- It is the **furthest** station from my house.
- Team 'A' has moved **furthest** with the project.

## Lesson 17: It's and Its.



These two words are often confused by native English speakers as well as second language learners. Learn the difference, and never make this common mistake again.

**It's** is a contraction of *it is* or *it has*.

- **It's** a lovely, sunny day again.
- Is the computer working? Yes, **It's** been fixed.

**Its** is a *possessive* word.

- Every painting had **its** own unique style.
- The government and **its** policies are very unpopular.

# Lesson 18: Practise and Practice.



In British English we use both *Practise* and *Practice*.

## 1. *Practise* is a verb.

- I **practise** the violin.
- I **practised** for a long time.
- She **practises** her English every day.

## 2. *Practice* is a noun.

- I have done my violin **practice**.
- I did a lot of **practice**.
- She has an appointment at the doctor's **practice**.

Practise using practise and practice.

# Lesson 19: Live and Stay.



To *live* somewhere is to be there permanently and to *stay* somewhere is to be there temporarily.

**Live = Permanent** (Live here is a verb. Do not confuse with the adjective/adverb live (Rhymes with five).

**Stay = Temporary**

Live

- Where do you **live**? I **live** in a house. I **live** in Berlin. I **live** in Germany.

Stay

- Where did you **stay** in France? I **stayed** in a hotel. I **stayed** on a campsite.
- You go to the shops and I'll **stay** here.
- I'm **staying** with friends while I search for an apartment.

# Lesson 20: Female and Male, Feminine and Masculine.



We use *female* and *male* to talk about the sex of people, animals and plants.

- A **female** lion is called a lioness.
- A **male** deer is called a stag.
- How do we tell the difference between **male** and **female** plants?

We use *feminine* and *masculine* to talk about qualities and behaviours associated with women and men.

- Chopping down trees is a very **masculine** thing to do.
- The colour scheme is very **feminine**.

Note: Do not use *male* and *female* when men and women should be used.

- These jobs are reserved for women (not ~~females~~).

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