10 free C2 English grammar worksheets

Each worksheet has a rule box, typical mistakes, three exercises, a writing task, speaking questions and a full answer key. Free to print and share with your students.

Contents

1. Subjunctive Worksheet: I Insist He Be, Be That As It May
2. Advanced Cleft Sentences Worksheet: Information Focus
3. Tense for Distance Worksheet: I Was Wondering, I'd Hoped
4. Advanced Modality Worksheet: Would Have Thought, Might Have Known
5. Advanced Conditionals Worksheet: But For, If Anything, If So
6. Voice and Agency Worksheet: Get Passive, Middle Voice
7. Complex Noun Phrases Worksheet: Pre- and Post-Modification
8. Idiomatic Verb Patterns Worksheet: Can't Help, Would Sooner
9. British vs American Grammar Worksheet
10. Spoken Grammar Worksheet: Ellipsis, Fronting and Tails

Subjunctive Worksheet: I Insist He Be, Be That As It May

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
insist / suggest / recommend / demand + that + subject + base form	She insisted that he leave.
essential / vital / important + that + base form	It is essential that she be informed.
Negative: not + base form · British alternative: should	We asked that he not be told. / that he should not be told.
Fixed formulas	Be that as it may… Come what may… Suffice it to say…

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
The doctor recommended that she takes a rest. (formal)	The doctor recommended that she take a rest.
It is vital that he doesn't be late.	It is vital that he not be late.
Be it as it may, we must go on.	Be that as it may, we must go on.

1. Complete

Complete with the subjunctive form of the verb in brackets.

1. The board demanded that the director _____ (resign).
2. It is essential that every passenger _____ (be) on board by 9.
3. I suggest that she _____ (not / sign) the contract yet.
4. The judge ordered that the prisoner _____ (release).
5. We recommend that each guest _____ (bring) photo ID.
6. It is important that he _____ (inform) immediately.
7. They insisted that I _____ (stay) for dinner.
8. The law requires that a company _____ (publish) its accounts.

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. It is crucial that she (be / is being) present.
2. He proposed that the meeting (be postponed / is postponed).
3. (Be that as it may / Be it that it may), the plan failed.
4. We'll finish on time, come what (may / might).
5. The teacher asked that we (not / don't) use phones.
6. Suffice it (to say / saying) that he was not pleased.
7. I'd rather you (didn't / not) mention it. (unreal past, not subjunctive)
8. If that's your decision, so (be it / it be).

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. The manager insisted that he apologises. (formal)

2. It is vital that the patient doesn't eat before surgery.

3. They requested that the documents are sent by Friday. (formal)

4. Come what might, I'll be there.

5. Suffice to say it that he lost.

6. It's essential that everyone is arriving on time.

Writing

Write formal recommendations (6 sentences) from a safety committee after an accident at a festival. Use the mandative subjunctive at least four times and one fixed formula.

Speaking

- What would you recommend that a new student in your city do first?
- What rules would you insist that every school follow?
- Which fixed expressions in your language sound old-fashioned but are still used?
- Is it important that children learn a second language from age five?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 resign · 2 be · 3 not sign · 4 be released · 5 bring · 6 be informed · 7 stay · 8 publish

2. Choose: 1 be · 2 be postponed · 3 Be that as it may · 4 may · 5 not · 6 to say · 7 didn't · 8 be it

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 The manager insisted that he apologise. · 2 It is vital that the patient not eat before surgery. · 3 They requested that the documents be sent by Friday. · 4 Come what may, I'll be there. · 5 Suffice it to say that he lost. · 6 It's essential that everyone arrive on time.

Writing, model answer: Following the incident at this year's festival, the committee makes the following recommendations. We recommend that the number of tickets be reduced by twenty per cent. It is essential that every entrance be staffed by trained personnel. The committee further insists that a medical team remain on site until all visitors have left. We propose that the organisers not sell alcohol after midnight. Be that as it may, the festival remains a valuable event for the city.

Advanced Cleft Sentences Worksheet: Information Focus

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
Reversed wh-cleft: this / that + is + wh-clause	That's exactly what I was afraid of.
it-cleft for contrast: it isn't X that..., it's Y	It isn't the price that bothers me, it's the quality.
what + do: focusing on an action	What she did was call the police.
What happened was (that)... · all-clefts	What happened was that we got lost. All I did was ask.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
What she did was to called the police.	What she did was (to) call the police.
That's the thing what annoys me.	That's the thing that annoys me. / That's what annoys me.
It is not the money, is the principle.	It isn't the money, it's the principle.

1. Rewrite

Rewrite each sentence with the cleft structure given.

1. The noise worries me. (That's what...) → _____
2. He resigned. (What he did...) → _____
3. The price doesn't bother me; the quality does. (It isn't... it's...) → _____
4. We missed the train and had to walk. (What happened...) → _____
5. I only asked a question. (All...) → _____
6. I need some peace and quiet. (What...) → _____
7. The ending of the film surprised me. (What...) → _____
8. She left because of the manager, not the salary. (It was...) → _____

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. What he did (was / did) apologise.
2. (That's / It's) exactly what I meant.
3. It wasn't until I moved (that / when) I understood.
4. What happened (was / is) that the power failed.
5. All she wanted (was / were) a quiet life.
6. (What / Which) I can't stand is rudeness.
7. It's you (who / which) should apologise.
8. The reason (why / because) I called is simple.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. What I did was to calling her.
2. That's which I wanted to say.
3. Is not the weather that worries me.
4. What happened it was that we got lost.
5. All what I need is time.
6. It was in Rome where we met. (cleft)

Writing

Retell a misunderstanding or an incident at work (6–7 sentences). Use at least four different cleft structures to guide the listener's attention.

Speaking

- What really annoys you about modern life? Start with 'What really annoys me is...'
- Tell me about an incident, starting with 'What happened was...'
- Correct a false statement about your life: 'It wasn't... that..., it was...'
- Name one thing you need right now: 'All I need is...'

Answer key

1. Rewrite: 1 That's what worries me: the noise. / The noise is what worries me. · 2 What he did was resign. · 3 It isn't the price that bothers me, it's the quality. · 4 What happened was that we missed the train and had to walk. · 5 All I did was ask a question. · 6 What I need is some peace and quiet. · 7 What surprised me was the ending of the film. · 8 It was the manager, not the salary, that made her leave.

2. Choose: 1 was · 2 That's · 3 that · 4 was · 5 was · 6 What · 7 who · 8 why

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 What I did was (to) call her. · 2 That's what I wanted to say. · 3 It isn't the weather that worries me. · 4 What happened was that we got lost. · 5 All (that) I need is time. · 6 It was in Rome that we met.

Writing, model answer: What happened was that our biggest client received the wrong invoice. It wasn't the amount that upset them, it was the fact that it had someone else's name on it. What my manager did was call them immediately. All I had done was copy an old template. That's what nobody had noticed. What I learned is that every document needs a second pair of eyes. It was a small mistake that taught me a big lesson.

Tense for Distance Worksheet: I Was Wondering, I'd Hoped

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
Past continuous for tentative requests	I was wondering if you could lend me your car.
Past simple / continuous of hope, want, think	We were hoping you'd join us. I thought you might like this.
Past perfect for disappointed expectations	I'd hoped to finish by now.
would / might / could + modal softeners	Would you mind if I left early? It might be better to wait.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
I wonder you can help me.	I was wondering if you could help me.
I was hoping that you help me.	I was hoping (that) you could / would help me.
Would you mind to open the window?	Would you mind opening the window?

1. Rewrite

Make each sentence more polite and tentative, starting with the words given.

1. Can you help me with this report? → I was wondering _____
2. We want to leave early. → We were hoping _____
3. Give me a discount. → I was wondering whether _____
4. I expected a better result. → I'd hoped _____
5. Close the window. → Would you mind _____
6. This is a bad idea. → I'm not sure it would _____
7. Do you want to come? → I thought you _____
8. Can I ask you something? → Could I _____

2. Choose

Circle the more tactful option.

1. (I want / I was hoping) to speak to the manager.
2. (Did you want / Do you want) to see the menu, sir?
3. (I'd hoped / I hope) you would call me yesterday.
4. (Would it be / Is it) possible to change my booking?
5. (I was thinking / I think) we could try a different approach.
6. (You're wrong. / I'm not sure that's quite right.)
7. (Would you mind / Do you mind to) waiting a moment?
8. (I wondered / I wonder) if you had a minute.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. I was wondering if you can help me.
2. We were hoping that you will join us.
3. Would you mind to wait here?
4. I had hoped finishing by Friday.
5. I was wondering could you call me back.
6. Did you wanted anything else?

Writing

Write a polite email to a colleague asking for a favour, with one gentle complaint (6 sentences). Use at least four distancing structures.

Speaking

- Ask your teacher or partner for a big favour as politely as possible.
- Complain about a hotel room without sounding rude.
- When do people in your culture use indirect language?
- Disagree politely with this statement: ‘English grammar is easy.’

Answer key

1. Rewrite: 1 I was wondering if you could help me with this report. · 2 We were hoping to leave early. · 3 I was wondering whether you might be able to give me a discount. · 4 I’d hoped for a better result. · 5 Would you mind closing the window? · 6 I’m not sure it would be a good idea. · 7 I thought you might like to come. · 8 Could I possibly ask you something?

2. Choose: 1 I was hoping · 2 Did you want · 3 I’d hoped · 4 Would it be · 5 I was thinking · 6 I’m not sure that’s quite right. · 7 Would you mind · 8 I wondered

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 I was wondering if you could help me. · 2 We were hoping that you would join us. · 3 Would you mind waiting here? · 4 I had hoped to finish by Friday. · 5 I was wondering if you could call me back. · 6 Did you want anything else?

Writing, model answer: Hi Martin, I hope you had a good weekend. I was wondering if you might have time to look at my presentation before Thursday. I was hoping to get some feedback on the second half in particular. I’d also hoped we could agree the final figures last week, but I know you were very busy. Would you mind sending them to me by Wednesday? Thanks so much, I really appreciate it.

Advanced Modality Worksheet: Would Have Thought, Might Have Known

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
I would have thought (that)…: polite disagreement or surprise	I would have thought she'd be pleased.
might / could have + participle: reproach	You might have warned me!
I might have known / guessed: not surprised (irony)	I might have known it would rain.
could do with: need · should for logical expectation · need / dare as modals	I could do with a holiday. They should be there by now. How dare you!

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
You might warn me! (past)	You might have warned me!
I could do with to have a rest.	I could do with a rest.
How you dare speak to me like that!	How dare you speak to me like that!

1. Complete

Complete with the expressions in the box: would have thought · might have known · could do with · should · needn't · dare · might have · could have done with.

1. It's been a long week. I _____ a long sleep.
2. She sent it at nine, so it _____ be in your inbox by now.
3. You _____ told me the meeting was cancelled! I came for nothing.
4. He forgot again? I _____ he would.
5. I _____ you'd prefer the window seat.
6. You _____ come if you don't want to.
7. We _____ an extra pair of hands yesterday.
8. I _____ not tell my mother what happened.

2. Choose

Circle the best option.

1. I (would have thought / would think) that was obvious.
2. You (might have / might) asked before borrowing my car!
3. The parcel left yesterday, so it (should / must to) arrive today.
4. I (could do with / could do) a cup of tea.
5. I (might have known / might know) you'd be the last to arrive.
6. (Need / Do need) I say more?
7. How (dare / dares) she say that!
8. We (needn't have / mustn't have) worried. Everything was fine.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. You might told me earlier.
2. I would thought you knew.
3. I could do with have a holiday.
4. How you dare!
5. Need I to explain?
6. It should to be ready by now.

Writing

Write an ironic diary entry (6–7 sentences) about a frustrating day. Use at least five structures from this sheet.

Speaking

- What could you do with right now?
- Tell me about a time someone might have warned you but didn't.
- Complete: 'I would have thought that by now, people...'
- What happened recently that made you think 'I might have known'?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 could do with · 2 should · 3 might have · 4 might have known · 5 would have thought · 6 needn't · 7 could have done with · 8 dare

2. Choose: 1 would have thought · 2 might have · 3 should · 4 could do with · 5 might have known · 6 Need · 7 dare · 8 needn't have

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 You might have told me earlier. · 2 I would have thought you knew. · 3 I could do with a holiday. · 4 How dare you! · 5 Need I explain? · 6 It should be ready by now.

Writing, model answer: Today was one of those days. The train was cancelled again; I might have known. My colleague, who knew about the strike, might have mentioned it last night. I would have thought that a company of our size could organise a simple meeting online. I could have done with a coffee by ten, but the machine was broken. My boss should have left by six, but he stayed until eight. Need I say more? I could do with a very long holiday.

Advanced Conditionals Worksheet: But For, If Anything, If So

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
if anything: indeed, it's the opposite	He isn't lazy. If anything, he works too hard.
if so / if not / if need be / if necessary	Is it ready? If so, send it. If not, tell me.
if only to / if only for: at least for this reason	Come, if only for an hour.
Implied conditions: given, assuming, supposing, with, without, otherwise	Assuming the weather holds, we'll sail tomorrow.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
If anything happens, he is more tired now. (meaning: rather)	If anything, he is more tired now.
If need, we can stay later.	If need be, we can stay later.
Assuming that the train will be on time, we'll arrive at six.	Assuming (that) the train is on time, we'll arrive at six.

1. Complete

Complete with if anything, if so, if not, if need be, if only, but for, assuming or otherwise.

1. The changes didn't help. _____, things are worse.
2. Are you free tonight? _____, let's have dinner.
3. Please confirm by Friday; _____, we'll give your place to someone else.
4. We can work at the weekend, _____.
5. _____ the goalkeeper, we would have lost 5–0.
6. Is the shop open? _____, we'll go tomorrow.
7. Do try it, _____ to see what it's like.
8. _____ we leave at six, we'll be there for lunch.

2. Choose

Circle the best option.

1. The film wasn't too long. (If anything / If so), it was too short.
2. (Given / Unless) the circumstances, she did very well.
3. (Without / Unless) your help, I couldn't have done it.
4. Call me if you're late. (If not / Otherwise), I'll worry.
5. (Supposing / Provided if) you lost your job, what would you do?
6. Go to the party, if only (to say / for say) hello.
7. (If necessary / If need), we'll hire extra staff.
8. Is it serious? (If so / If anything), we need a doctor.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. If need is, I'll drive you.
2. But for you helped, we would have failed.
3. Is he coming? If yes, I'll cook more.
4. Given that the bad weather, the event was cancelled.
5. Leave now, otherwise you will have missed the bus.
6. Come, if only for say goodbye.

Writing

Write a short message to a team about a project at risk (6–7 sentences). Use at least five expressions from this sheet.

Speaking

- Has your city got better or worse in the last five years? Use 'If anything…'
- What would you do, if need be, to keep your job?
- Who would you not be where you are today but for?
- Supposing you could live anywhere, where would it be?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 If anything · 2 If so · 3 otherwise · 4 if need be · 5 But for · 6 If not · 7 if only · 8 Assuming

2. Choose: 1 If anything · 2 Given · 3 Without · 4 Otherwise · 5 Supposing · 6 to say · 7 If necessary · 8 If so

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 If need be, I'll drive you. · 2 But for your help, we would have failed. · 3 Is he coming? If so, I'll cook more. · 4 Given the bad weather, the event was cancelled. · 5 Leave now, otherwise you'll miss the bus. · 6 Come, if only to say goodbye.

Writing, model answer: Hi all, a quick update on the website launch. Assuming the designers deliver on Monday, we can still launch on the 15th. If not, we'll need to move the date. But for Ana's extra work last week, we would already be behind. If need be, I can ask for two more developers. The budget isn't a problem; if anything, we've spent less than planned. Please send me your updates by Friday, if only to confirm that nothing has changed.

Voice and Agency Worksheet: Get Passive, Middle Voice

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
Middle voice: active form, passive meaning	This shirt washes well. The book reads easily.
Ergative verbs: same verb, with or without agent	I opened the door. The door opened.
get passive: informal, often negative or unexpected	He got fired. She got stuck in traffic.
have / get + object + participle (experience) · agentless passive to hide responsibility	I had my car broken into. Mistakes were made.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
This book is selling itself very well.	This book is selling very well.
The door was opened by itself.	The door opened by itself.
He was got fired.	He got fired.

1. Complete

Complete with the correct form of the verb in brackets, choosing active, passive, middle voice or get passive.

1. Her new novel _____ (sell) incredibly well.
2. The ice _____ (melt) quickly in the sun.
3. He _____ (catch) cheating and was expelled.
4. This fabric _____ (not / iron) easily.
5. Suddenly, the lights _____ (go out).
6. The minister admitted that 'mistakes _____ (make)'.
7. I _____ (my bag / steal) on the metro.
8. The meeting _____ (cancel) at the last minute.

2. Choose

Circle the most natural option.

1. The door (opened / was opened) on its own.
2. This car (drives / is driven) beautifully.
3. She (got hurt / was got hurt) playing rugby.
4. The vase (broke / was broken itself) when it fell.
5. Her poems (translate / are translated) well into Spanish.
6. We (got lost / were lost by) in the old town.
7. The price of oil (increased / was increased) sharply. (no agent)
8. He (got himself arrested / arrested himself) at the protest.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. This book reads itself easily.
2. The window was broken by itself.
3. She was got promoted last year.
4. These shoes are wearing well.
5. The cake was burned itself in the oven.
6. I had stolen my wallet.

Writing

Write two short versions (3 sentences each) of an announcement about a data leak at a company: one that hides responsibility, and one that takes responsibility.

Speaking

- Think of a product that sells well in your country. Why does it sell?
- When did you last get lost, stuck or caught in something?
- Why do politicians and companies like the passive?
- Describe something that broke, opened or stopped suddenly.

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 is selling / sells · 2 melted / melts · 3 got caught · 4 doesn't iron · 5 went out · 6 were made · 7 had my bag stolen · 8 was cancelled / got cancelled

2. Choose: 1 opened · 2 drives · 3 got hurt · 4 broke · 5 translate · 6 got lost · 7 increased · 8 got himself arrested

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 This book reads easily. · 2 The window broke by itself. · 3 She got promoted last year. · 4 These shoes wear well. · 5 The cake burned in the oven. · 6 I had my wallet stolen.

Writing, model answer: Version 1: It has come to our attention that some customer data was accessed. Mistakes were made in the configuration of a server. Steps are being taken to prevent this happening again. Version 2: We made a serious mistake: our team left a server unprotected and an attacker accessed your data. We take full responsibility. We have fixed the problem and we will contact every customer affected.

Complex Noun Phrases Worksheet: Pre- and Post-Modification

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
Determiner + adverb + adjective + noun modifier + head noun	a highly effective water treatment system
Compound modifiers with hyphens	a five-year-old boy · a well-known writer · a long-term plan
Post-modification with prepositions and participles	a plan to reduce traffic in the centre · people living alone
Plural nouns become singular as modifiers	a ten-minute walk (not ten-minutes)

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
a ten minutes walk	a ten-minute walk
a research about climate change	research on climate change / a study of climate change
the plan of the government for reducing of traffic	the government's plan to reduce traffic

1. Rewrite

Turn each set of information into one noun phrase.

1. a report · it was published recently · the government wrote it · it is about unemployment

2. a boy · he is eight years old

3. a walk · it takes twenty minutes

4. a plan · it is for the long term · it aims to cut emissions

5. people · they live alone · in big cities

6. a system · it treats water · it is very effective

7. a decision · it was taken quickly · it was controversial

8. a study · it lasted ten years · on sleep · in teenagers

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. a (three-hours / three-hour) meeting
2. a (well-known / well known) author (before a noun)
3. a (ten-dollar / ten-dollars) bill
4. (sports / sport's) shoes
5. a (customer service / customers' service) problem
6. people (waiting / waited) for the bus
7. a proposal (to build / of building) a new airport
8. the (last two / two last) chapters

3. Correct the mistakes

Each phrase has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. a five-years plan
2. a well known in Europe writer
3. the increase of the prices of houses
4. people who they live in rural areas
5. a two-weeks holiday
6. a research about sleep

Writing

Write 5 newspaper headlines or first lines using dense noun phrases, then unpack one of them into three simple sentences.

Speaking

- Describe your job or studies in one long noun phrase.
- Unpack a headline from today's news into simple sentences.
- Describe a product you use every day, using compound adjectives.
- What long-term plans does your city or company have?

Answer key

1. Rewrite: 1 a recently published government report on unemployment · 2 an eight-year-old boy · 3 a twenty-minute walk · 4 a long-term plan to cut emissions · 5 people living alone in big cities · 6 a highly effective water treatment system · 7 a quickly taken, controversial decision / a controversial, hastily taken decision · 8 a ten-year study of sleep in teenagers

2. Choose: 1 three-hour · 2 well-known · 3 ten-dollar · 4 sports · 5 customer service · 6 waiting · 7 to build · 8 last two

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 a five-year plan · 2 a writer well known in Europe · 3 the increase in house prices · 4 people living / who live in rural areas · 5 a two-week holiday · 6 research on sleep / a study of sleep

Writing, model answer: 1. New government-funded study links poor sleep to falling exam results. 2. Record-breaking heatwave forces early closure of city-centre schools. 3. Locally grown organic vegetables now cheaper than supermarket alternatives. 4. Ten-year plan to reduce car traffic in historic centre approved. 5. Award-winning young architect designs low-cost housing project. Unpacked (1): The government has paid for a new study. It shows that students who sleep badly get lower exam results. The results are falling.

Idiomatic Verb Patterns Worksheet: Can’t Help, Would Sooner

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
can’t help + -ing / can’t help but + verb	I can’t help laughing. I can’t help but wonder.
would sooner / would just as soon + base verb	I’d sooner stay in than go to that party.
have yet to + verb: not yet	We have yet to receive a reply.
be to + verb (plans, orders) · there’s no telling / no knowing	All staff are to leave by six. There’s no telling what he’ll do.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
I can’t help to laugh.	I can’t help laughing.
I’d sooner to stay at home.	I’d sooner stay at home.
We have yet received an answer.	We have yet to receive an answer.

1. Complete

Complete with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. I can’t help _____ (feel) we’ve forgotten something.
2. I’d sooner _____ (walk) than wait for the bus.
3. The new hospital has yet _____ (open).
4. Visitors are _____ (sign) in at reception.
5. She couldn’t help but _____ (smile).
6. There’s no _____ (tell) how long the strike will last.
7. It’s high time the council _____ (do) something.
8. I would just as soon _____ (not / go) to the meeting.

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. I can’t help (worrying / to worry) about her.
2. He’d sooner (die / to die) than apologise.
3. The winner has yet (to be / be) announced.
4. The President (is to / is going) visit Brazil next month, the palace announced.
5. There’s no (knowing / know) what she’ll say.
6. I couldn’t help but (notice / noticing) his shoes.
7. You (are not to / don’t have to) tell anyone. It’s an order.
8. I’d sooner you (didn’t / don’t) smoke here.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. I can’t help to think about it.

2. We have yet to receiving the money.

3. I’d sooner staying at home.

4. There’s no tell what will happen.

5. All students are to arriving by eight.

6. She couldn’t help but laughing.

Writing

Write a short opinion paragraph (6–7 sentences) about a new technology. Use at least five patterns from this sheet.

Speaking

- What can’t you help doing, even though you know you shouldn’t?
- What would you sooner do than go to a big party?
- What is something you have yet to try?
- Is there a situation in your country where there’s no telling what will happen?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 feeling · 2 walk · 3 to open · 4 to sign · 5 smile · 6 telling · 7 did · 8 not go

2. Choose: 1 worrying · 2 die · 3 to be · 4 is to · 5 knowing · 6 notice · 7 are not to · 8 didn’t

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 I can’t help thinking about it. · 2 We have yet to receive the money. · 3 I’d sooner stay at home. · 4 There’s no telling what will happen. · 5 All students are to arrive by eight. · 6 She couldn’t help but laugh.

Writing, model answer: I can’t help feeling that artificial intelligence is moving faster than our laws. The government has yet to publish clear rules. There’s no telling what these tools will be able to do in five years. Personally, I’d sooner use them for boring tasks than for anything creative. Companies are to report their use of AI from next year, which is a start. Still, I can’t help but wonder who will check those reports. It’s high time we had a serious public debate.

British vs American Grammar Worksheet

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
Present perfect (UK) vs past simple (US) with just, already, yet	UK: I've just eaten. US: I just ate.
have got (UK) vs have (US) · gotten (US) as past participle of get	UK: Have you got a car? US: Do you have a car? US: It's gotten cold.
Collective nouns: plural verb common in UK, singular in US	UK: The team are playing well. US: The team is playing well.
Prepositions and the subjunctive	UK: at the weekend, different to / from. US: on the weekend, different from / than. US: I suggest he go.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
(In a UK text) I suggest that he go, and the team is ready on the weekend.	(UK) I suggest that he should go, and the team are ready at the weekend.
(In a US text) Have you got the tickets? I've already bought them at the weekend.	(US) Do you have the tickets? I already bought them on the weekend.
It has gotten cold. (in a UK text)	It has got cold.

1. Rewrite

Rewrite each British sentence in American English.

1. Have you got a minute?

2. I've just seen him.

3. The government are discussing the plan.

4. What are you doing at the weekend?

5. Have you finished yet?

6. It's got much colder.

7. She lives in Baker Street.

8. I suggest that she should apply.

2. Choose

Which version is typically British (UK) and which American (US)? Circle the British option.

1. (at the weekend / on the weekend)
2. (Have you got / Do you have) any brothers?
3. (The team are / The team is) arriving tomorrow.
4. (I've already eaten / I already ate).
5. (different to / different than)
6. (He has got used to it / He has gotten used to it).
7. (Monday to Friday / Monday through Friday)
8. (I'll write you / I'll write to you).

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence mixes the two varieties. Make it consistently British.

1. Did you finish yet? I've got to leave.
2. I've gotten a new job and I start Monday.
3. The committee is meeting at the weekend and they have decided.
4. She lives on Oxford Street and works at the weekend.
5. I just saw the news and I've already called my mum.
6. Write me when you arrive.

Writing

Write a short email (6 sentences) to an American colleague about weekend plans, then rewrite the same email for a British colleague, changing every grammar feature that differs.

Speaking

- Which variety of English do you hear most? Where?
- Do you think teachers should teach one variety or both? Why?
- Which British or American expressions do you find strange?
- Does your language have regional grammar differences? Give an example.

Answer key

1. Rewrite: 1 Do you have a minute? · 2 I just saw him. · 3 The government is discussing the plan. · 4 What are you doing on the weekend? · 5 Did you finish yet? / Have you finished yet? (both used in US) · 6 It's gotten much colder. · 7 She lives on Baker Street. · 8 I suggest that she apply.

2. Choose: 1 at the weekend · 2 Have you got · 3 The team are · 4 I've already eaten · 5 different to · 6 He has got used to it · 7 Monday to Friday · 8 I'll write to you

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 Have you finished yet? I've got to leave. · 2 I've got a new job and I start on Monday. · 3 The committee are meeting at the weekend and they have decided. · 4 She lives in Oxford Street and works at the weekend. · 5 I've just seen the news and I've already called my mum. · 6 Write to me when you arrive.

Writing, model answer: US: Hi Josh! Did you get my message yet? I just booked the cabin for the weekend. Do you have a sleeping bag? The team is really excited. I suggest that everyone bring warm clothes; it's gotten cold. UK: Hi Josh! Have you got my message yet? I've just booked the cabin for the weekend. Have you got a sleeping bag? The team are really excited. I suggest that everyone brings / should bring warm clothes; it's got cold.

Spoken Grammar Worksheet: Ellipsis, Fronting and Tails

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
Situational ellipsis: subject and auxiliary dropped	(Do you) Want a lift? (It) Sounds great. (I'll) See you later.
Heads: the topic first, then the sentence	That new café, have you tried it?
Tails: a comment or clarification at the end	He's a great cook, your brother. It was lovely, that film.
Vague language and softeners	sort of, kind of, or something, and stuff like that, a bit

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
(In an essay) Sounds like a good idea, the new policy.	The new policy sounds like a good idea.
Want you a coffee?	Want a coffee? / Do you want a coffee?
Is nice, your flat.	It's nice, your flat. / Nice flat!

1. Rewrite

Write the full, written form of each spoken sentence.

1. Sounds good.

2. Want a hand?

3. Seen Tom lately?

4. Lovely day, isn't it?

5. That restaurant by the river, have you been?

6. She's really clever, your sister.

7. Told you so.

8. Bit cold in here.

2. Rewrite

Make each sentence more spoken by using ellipsis, a head or a tail.

1. Do you want some more tea?
2. I don't know.
3. Your neighbour's dog is very noisy.
4. Have you finished already?
5. It was a great party.
6. I'll see you tomorrow.
7. Is anybody sitting here?
8. The new manager seems nice.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each spoken sentence has one non-natural form. Write a natural version.

1. Want you some help?
2. Is very good, this book.
3. Have seen the film?
4. Sounds it good.
5. That shop, you know it it?
6. Was amazing, the concert.

Writing

Write a natural WhatsApp exchange (8 short messages) between two friends planning to meet. Use ellipsis, at least one head, one tail and some vague language.

Speaking

- Have a two-minute chat with your partner using only short spoken forms.
- Describe a film you saw recently using a tail: 'It was brilliant, that film.'
- How does spoken grammar work in your language? Do you drop words too?
- When is spoken grammar not appropriate in English?

Answer key

1. Rewrite: 1 That sounds good. · 2 Do you want a hand? · 3 Have you seen Tom lately? · 4 It's a lovely day, isn't it? · 5 Have you been to that restaurant by the river? · 6 Your sister is really clever. · 7 I told you so. · 8 It's a bit cold in here.

2. Rewrite: 1 More tea? / Want some more tea? · 2 Dunno. / Don't know. · 3 Very noisy, your neighbour's dog. / Your neighbour's dog, it's very noisy. · 4 Finished already? · 5 Great party, that. / It was a great party, that. · 6 See you tomorrow. · 7 Anyone sitting here? · 8 Seems nice, the new manager.

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 Want some help? / Do you want some help? · 2 It's very good, this book. · 3 Seen the film? / Have you seen the film? · 4 Sounds good. · 5 That shop, do you know it? · 6 It was amazing, the concert. / Amazing, the concert.

Writing, model answer: A: Free tonight? B: Should be. Why? A: That new Thai place near the station, been yet? B: Not yet. Any good? A: Supposed to be amazing. Bit pricey, but still. B: Sounds great. Seven-ish? A: Perfect. Book a table or something? B: On it. See you there!