

# CALLAN

## English

**Student's transition material**

**Stage 4 (2nd edition) – Stage 5 (3rd edition)**

## **"a" and "an" for jobs**

**When we talk about a person's job, we use the words "a" and "an". For example, we say "Yasmin is a doctor, and her husband Peter is an artist".**

Which of these sentences is right: "Yasmin is a doctor", or "Yasmin is doctor"?

"Yasmin is a doctor" is right.

Do you have a job?

Yes, I have a job. ~ No, I don't have a job.

What's your job?

I'm a/an ...

What's my job?

You're a teacher.

## **Making adverbs from adjectives**

**A common way to make an adverb is by adding the letters "ly" to an adjective. For example, "bad" is an adjective, and "badly" is an adverb. We say "My mum is a bad cook", but "My mum cooks badly".**

Tell me a common way to make an adverb.

A common way to make an adverb is by adding the letters "ly" to an adjective.

Give me some examples, please.

bad – badly; quick – quickly; slow – slowly etc.

## **"Some" in questions**

**We sometimes use the words "some", "somebody" and "something" in questions instead of "any", "anybody" and "anything". We generally do this when we offer things to people, or because we think the answer will be "yes". For example, a parent can ask a child "Would you like some chocolate cake?", or we can ask a friend "Is there something wrong?" when we think they are feeling sad.**

When do we use "some", "somebody" and "something" in questions instead of "any", "anybody" and "anything"?

We use "some", "somebody" and "something" in questions instead of "any", "anybody" and "anything" when we offer things to people, or because we think the answer will be "yes".

### Give me some examples, please.

Would you like some wine with your meal? ~ Is there somebody at the door? ~  
Shall we do something different this weekend?

**take**

**Ireland**

**get dressed**

**We can use the verb "take" to say the time that is necessary for us to do something. For example, if I need fifteen minutes to walk home from here, I can say "It takes fifteen minutes for me to walk home from here", or "It takes me fifteen minutes to walk home from here". We can also say how long a specific person needs by saying, for example, "I take fifteen minutes to walk home from here, but my brother only takes ten minutes".**

What does the sentence "It takes five minutes to make a cup of tea" mean?

The sentence "It takes five minutes to make a cup of tea" means that five minutes are necessary to make a cup of tea.

How long does it take you to go home from here?

It takes me about ... to go home from here.

Does it take longer to fly from here to Ireland than to go by train and ship?

No, it doesn't take longer to fly from here to Ireland than to go by train and ship; it takes less time.

How long do you take to get dressed in the morning?

I take about ... to get dressed in the morning.

About how long will you take to reach the station from here if you run?

I'll take about ... to reach the station from here if I run.

**We can also use "take" to talk about other things besides time that are necessary for us to be able to do something. For example, I can say "It'll take two of us to lift that heavy box", or "It took a lot of hard work to build this house".**

How many people do you think it takes to lift up a small car?

I think it takes ... people to lift up a small car.

**should**

**obligation**

**alternative**

**ambulance**

**The sentences “I must study” and “I should study” are not the same. The first sentence, “I must study”, means that I have an obligation to study; I have no alternative. The second sentence, “I should study”, means that I have alternatives; I can chat with friends if I like, or go for a walk, but studying is the right thing for me to do. The best idea is to study.**

**What’s the difference between these two sentences: “I must study” and “I should study”?**

The difference between those two sentences is that “I must study” means that I have no alternative, whereas “I should study” means I have alternatives but that studying is the right thing for me to do.

**Must we do exercises in the Callan App every day?**

No, we don’t have to do exercises in the Callan App every day.

**But should we do exercises in the Callan App every day if we want to learn more quickly?**

Yes, we should do exercises in the Callan App every day if we want to learn more quickly.

**Do you think people should be more polite in the shops and streets?**

Yes, I think people should be more polite in the shops and streets.

**Do you agree that young people should help the old?**

Yes, I agree that young people should help the old.

**What should we do when somebody is dangerously ill?**

When somebody is dangerously ill, we should immediately call an ambulance.

**What do you think I should do if I want to make a lot of money?**

If you want to make a lot of money, I think you should ...

**still**

**yet**

**in progress**

**We use “still” for something that is in progress at the moment, whereas we use “yet” for something that has not begun or happened. For example, “It’s still winter; it isn’t spring yet. It’s still 20...; it isn’t 20... yet. It’s still Monday; it isn’t Tuesday yet” etc.**

**We generally use “still” in positive sentences, whereas we generally use “yet” in questions and negative sentences, but not always. We must learn when to use “still” and when to use “yet” by practice.**

**What’s the difference between “still” and “yet”?**

The difference between “still” and “yet” is that we use “still” for something that’s in progress at the moment, whereas we use “yet” for something that hasn’t begun or happened. We generally use “still” in positive sentences, whereas we generally use “yet” in questions and negative sentences.

**Give me some examples, please.**

My parents are still sleeping; they haven’t woken up yet. ~ John’s still singing; the song hasn’t finished yet.

**Has the lesson finished yet?**

No, the lesson hasn’t finished yet; it’s still in progress.

**Have we finished speaking yet?**

No, we haven’t finished speaking yet; we’re still speaking.

**Have they gone home yet?**

No, they haven’t gone home yet; they’re still here.

**Has the spring (summer etc.) begun yet?**

No, the spring (summer etc.) hasn’t begun yet; it’s still ...

**Will I still be in this country in two weeks’ time?**

Yes, you’ll still be in this country in two weeks’ time.

**Past continuous**

**I was speaking**

**while**

**particular**

**We use the present continuous for an action that is in progress now. For example, “I am speaking English now”.**

**We use the past continuous for an action that was in progress at a particular time in the past. For example, “I was speaking English at this time yesterday”. If I say “I was sleeping at 4 o’clock this morning”, it means that I went to sleep before 4 o’clock and I woke up after 4 o’clock; at 4 o’clock, I was in the middle of sleeping.**

**When do we use the present continuous?**

We use the present continuous for an action that is in progress now.

**Give me an example, please.**

I am speaking English now.

**When do we use the past continuous?**

We use the past continuous for an action that was in progress at a particular time in the past.

**Give me an example, please.**

I was speaking English at this time yesterday.

**The most common use of the past continuous is to say that an action was in progress when another action happened. For example, "I was cooking lunch when she arrived" means that, when she arrived, I was in the middle of cooking lunch.**

**Were you chatting to anybody when I came into the room at the beginning of the lesson?**

Yes, I was chatting to somebody when you came into the room at the beginning of the lesson. ~ No, I wasn't chatting to anybody when you came into the room at the beginning of the lesson.

**Were the students standing or sitting when I left the classroom at the end of the last lesson?**

The students were ... when you left the classroom at the end of the last lesson.

**Was it raining while you were coming to school today?**

Yes, it was raining while I was coming to school today. ~ No, it wasn't raining while I was coming to school today.

**What were you doing at this time last Sunday?**

I was ... at this time last Sunday.

**Do you think most people in this town were sleeping at midnight last night?**

Yes, I think most people in this town were sleeping at midnight last night.

**Where were you living ten years ago?**

I was living ... ten years ago.