

CALLAN

English

Student's transition material

Stage 5 (2nd edition) – Stage 6 (3rd edition)

"Any" with singular countable nouns

When we put the word "any" in front of a singular, countable noun, it communicates "it is not important which". For example, the sentence "I can meet you any day next week" means it is not important for me which day we meet; we can meet on the day you prefer.

Give me an example of the word "any" with the meaning of "it is not important which", please.

You can order any drink you want from the menu.

What do I mean if I say to you "Please sit on any chair"?

If you say to me "Please sit on any chair", you mean that it isn't important which chair I sit on; I can decide.

If you could meet any famous person from history, who would it be?

If I could ..., it'd be ...

Why?

Present continuous for the future

arrange

make an arrangement

As we know, we use "to be going to" to communicate a future intention. For example, the sentence "We're going to go to the theatre" suggests that we have already decided to go to the theatre; it is our intention to go.

However, we can also use the present continuous and say "We're going to the theatre" if we want to communicate that the visit has already been arranged; we have already bought the tickets, for example.

What's the difference between "We're going to go to the theatre" and "We're going to the theatre"?

The difference between "We're going to go to the theatre" and "We're going to the theatre" is that "We're going to go to the theatre" communicates that it is our intention to go, whereas "We're going to the theatre" communicates that the visit has already been arranged; we already have the tickets, for example.

Have you made any arrangements for this afternoon (or evening)?

Yes, I've made some ...; I'm meeting a friend etc. ~ No, I haven't made any ...

Are you coming to school tomorrow?

Yes, I'm coming ... ~ No, I'm not coming ...

Are you going away anywhere next weekend?

Yes, I'm going away somewhere ... ~ No, I'm not going away anywhere ...

Do you know what he/she is doing after the lesson?

No, I don't know ...

Ask him/her, please.

What are you doing after the lesson?

needn't

Instead of saying "don't need to do ...", we can say "needn't do ...". After "needn't", we use the infinitive without "to". For example, we say "You don't need to worry", but we say "You needn't worry".

Give me an example of "needn't", please.

She needn't worry about the exam.

Answer these questions with "needn't", please:

Do you need to look at your book to answer this question?

No, I needn't look ...

Does he/she need to help you to answer this question?

No, he/she needn't help me ...

Verbs not used in the continuous form

pizza

There are some verbs that we do not normally use in the continuous form. This is sometimes because the verb does not communicate an action in progress; nobody is doing anything. With these verbs, we use the simple form instead of the continuous form. For example, we say "I need a glass of water" – not "I am needing a glass of water". We say "I knew the answer" – not "I was knowing the answer". A few other verbs like this are "agree", "be", "believe", "hate", "hear", "love", "mean", "prefer", "see", "seem", "understand", and "want".

Which of these sentences is correct: "Olivia seems happy to be here" or "Olivia is seeming happy to be here"?

"Olivia seems happy to be here" is correct.

Why?

Because we don't normally use the verb "seem" in the continuous form.

Tell me some other verbs that we don't normally use in the continuous form, please.

Some other verbs that we don't normally ... are "agree", "be", "believe", "hate", "hear", "love" etc.

With the verbs "taste" and "smell", the correct form depends on the meaning. We can say "I am tasting the pizza" because an action is in progress – I am eating a small piece of pizza to check the taste. However, we do not say "The pizza is tasting great" because no action is in progress – the pizza is not doing anything. Instead, we say "The pizza tastes great".

Why do we say "I am smelling the coffee", but "The coffee smells amazing"?

We say "I am smelling the coffee", but "The coffee smells amazing" because "I am smelling the coffee" communicates an action in progress – I'm using my nose to smell, whereas "The coffee smells amazing" doesn't communicate an action in progress – the coffee isn't doing anything.

Common uses of the gerund

Three common uses of the gerund are:

- 1) as a subject in a sentence: for example, "Running keeps me healthy";
- 2) after a preposition: for example, "She is good at arranging parties";
- 3) after certain verbs: for example, "He enjoys baking cakes".

Tell me three common uses of the gerund, please.

Three common ... are as a subject in a sentence, after a preposition, and after certain verbs.

Give me an example of each, please.

Swimming can be fun. I'm bored of listening to that song all day.

She hates dancing.