

CALLAN

English

Student's transition material

Stage 6 (2nd edition) – Stage 7 (3rd edition)

Verb + adjective

Normally, we use an adverb with a verb to communicate how the action happens – for example, “Jack runs quickly”. However, with some verbs, we use adjectives instead of adverbs. In the sentence “Jack became rich”, for example, we use the adjective “rich” because we are describing the noun “Jack”, not how the action happens. For this same reason, we often use adjectives after verbs like “look”, “sound”, “feel”, “taste” and “smell”, and other common verbs such as “be”, “become”, “keep”, and “seem”. For example, we say “Those sausages smell great”, “Your cousin seems nice” etc.

Now think about the sentence “Jack became rich quickly”. The adjective “rich” is describing Jack, and the adverb “quickly” is describing the verb “became” – the speed at which the action happened.

In the sentence “Jack seems happy”, why do we use the adjective “happy” and not the adverb “happily”?

In the sentence ..., we use ... and not ... because “happy” is describing the noun “Jack”, not the verb “seems”.

So which is it right to say: “We need to keep quietly” or “We need to keep quiet”?

It’s right to say “We need to keep quiet”.

Make some other sentences with verbs that are followed by adjectives, please.

This fish tastes strange. ~ I feel comfortable. ~ This guitar sounds great.

used to

We use the expression “used to” for a habit or repeated action in the past, especially when the action is now finished. For example, the sentence “My dad used to play baseball” means that he was in the habit of playing baseball in the past, but not now.

When do we use the expression “used to”, and what does it mean?

We use ... for a habit or repeated action in the past, especially when the action is now finished.

Give me an example, please.

I used to read a lot of science fiction when I was a teenager.

Did you use to speak English better in the past than you speak it now?

No, I didn't use to ...; I used to speak it worse ...

Did you use to eat a lot of sweets when you were a child?

Yes, I used to ... ~ No, I didn't use to ...

Verb + infinitive or "-ing"

Sometimes in English, a verb is immediately followed by another verb. For example, "I want to swim" or "I enjoy swimming". The second verb must be either an infinitive with "to" or a gerund ("-ing" form).

Some verbs, such as "promise" and "fail", are always followed by an infinitive. For example, "The children promised to be good", or "I failed to notice the traffic lights".

Other verbs, such as "consider" and "finish", are always followed by a gerund. For example, "Oliver considered taking the train", or "Elizabeth finished reading the newspaper".

There is no rule to tell you which verbs are followed by an infinitive and which ones are followed by a gerund; they need to be learnt one by one.

In English, if a verb is followed immediately by another verb, what form must the second verb be?

In English, if a verb ..., the second verb must be either an infinitive or a gerund.

Tell me some verbs that are followed by an infinitive, please.

ask, refuse, agree

Tell me some verbs that are followed by a gerund, please.

avoid, practise, miss

Is the verb "promise" followed by an infinitive or a gerund?

The verb "promise" ... an infinitive.

Give me an example, please.

He promised to try harder next time.

Is the verb "consider" followed by an infinitive or a gerund?

The verb "consider" ... a gerund.

Give me an example, please.

You should consider buying a new car.

in time

on time

show

The phrase “in time” means “before it’s too late”. For example, “We got to the theatre in time to have a quick drink before the show”. The phrase “on time” means “at the correct, or arranged, time”. For example, “My flight from London to Paris left on time”.

What’s the difference between “in time” and “on time”?

The difference ... is that “in time” means “before it’s too late”, whereas “on time” means “at the correct, or arranged, time”.

Give me an example of the difference, please.

We reached the city centre in time to do some shopping before meeting friends for dinner. – As always, Mr Brown started the monthly company meeting on time, at exactly 9:15 a.m.

Relative clauses (1)

Relative pronoun

relate to

I have a **black** cat (adjective)

I have a cat **which is black** (relative clause)

The sentences “I have a black cat” and “I have a cat which is black” have the same meaning. In the second sentence, the clause “which is black” is called a relative clause, and, like the adjective “black” in the first sentence, it is telling us about the noun “cat”. So, an adjective is a word that we use to describe a noun, and a relative clause is a clause that we use to describe a noun.

What’s a relative clause?

A relative clause is a clause that we use to describe a noun.

We put a relative clause immediately after the noun it describes, and it usually starts with a word like “who”, “which” or “that”. We call these words relative pronouns. In the sentence “Here is my house, which I love very much”, the relative pronoun “which” relates to “my house”, so the clause “which I love very much” means “I love my house very much”.

Where do we put a relative clause?

We put a relative clause immediately after the noun it describes.

What do we call the words "who", "which" and "that"?

We call the words "who", "which" and "that" relative pronouns.

The difference between "who", "which" and "that" is that we use "who" for people, "which" for things and animals, and "that" for people, things and animals.

What's the difference between "who", "which" and "that"?

The difference between "who", "which" and "that" is that we use ...

Give me a sentence with a relative clause in it, please.

I know a guy who lives in that street. ~ The movie that I saw yesterday was great.

Now, I will say two sentences and I want you to join them together using a relative clause.

Yesterday, I saw a movie. The movie lasted for three hours.

Yesterday, I saw a movie that (or which) lasted for three hours.

Mary has a friend. Her friend lives on a boat.

Mary has a friend who (or that) lives on a boat.

I am reading a book. My mother gave me the book.

I am reading a book which (or that) my mother gave me.

The waiter dropped a bowl. He was carrying the bowl.

The waiter dropped the bowl that (or which) he was carrying.