

CALLAN

English

Student's transition material

Stage 7 (2nd edition) – Stage 8 (3rd edition)

"Should" and "ought to" for the past

We express the idea of past time with "should" and "ought to" by following them with the word "have" and a past participle. For example, we say "I should have gone to the chemist's this morning, but I forgot", or "He ought to have told us about his decision, but he chose to keep it a secret".

If we say someone "should have done" something or "ought to have done" something, it means that it would have been a good idea to do it, but they did not, in fact, do it. The sentence "You should have phoned me" means that you did not, in fact, phone me.

How do we express the idea of past time with the modals "should" and "ought to"?

We express ... by following them with the word "have" and a past participle.

Give me an example, please.

They ought to have gone to the police after the accident, but they didn't.

Is there anything you should have done yesterday but didn't do?

Yes, there's ... ~ No, there isn't ...

What?

What do I mean if I say that I ought to have followed my friend's advice?

If you say that ..., it means that you did not, in fact, follow your friend's advice, but you now realize that the advice was good.

Present simple for the future

timetable

schedule

We can use the present simple to speak about a future action when we are talking about timetables or schedules. For example, we can say "The film starts at 10 p.m.", "My train leaves in fifteen minutes", or "England play rugby against Australia next Saturday".

Give me an example of the present simple for the future, please.

The meeting starts at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

When does this lesson finish?

This lesson finishes at ...

Do you know when your national football team play their next game?

Yes, I know when my ... ~ No, I don't know when my ...

Two meanings of "quite"

gradable

ungradable

fantastic

awful

The word "good" is a gradable adjective. This means we can put other words in front of it to communicate how good something is. For example, we can say "fairly good", or "very good", or "really good". The word "excellent", however, is an ungradable adjective. Something either is excellent, or it is not excellent. We cannot say "very excellent", for example.

When we put "quite" in front of a gradable adjective, it usually has a similar meaning to "fairly". For example, "quite tall" and "fairly tall" have similar meanings. However, when we put "quite" in front of an ungradable adjective, it means "completely", especially if we say "quite" with a heavy stress. For example, we can say "This music is quite awful!", or "That's quite impossible!".

Give me an example of the word "quite" with the meaning of "completely".

This wine is quite awful! ~ I'm sorry, but what you're planning to do is quite illegal!

Do you think learning a foreign language is quite easy, quite difficult, or quite impossible?

I think ...

Name a country where the weather is quite fantastic.

... is a country where ...

Modals for probability

logical

When we want to communicate how probable we think something is, we often use words such as "sure", "probably" or "perhaps". However, another common way of communicating these ideas is by using modal verbs such as "must", "might" etc. For example, instead of saying "Perhaps David is Australian", we can say "David might be Australian".

Tell me a common way of communicating how probable we think something is, besides using words like "sure", "probably" or "perhaps".

A common ..., besides ..., is by using modal verbs.

Give me an example, please.

I may buy some new clothes next weekend.

The modal “must” can express the idea that we are sure something is true because it makes logical sense in a particular situation. For example, if somebody says “John has just run 30 kilometres”, we can reply “He must be tired”. This is similar to saying “Judging from what you’ve just told me, I’m sure he is tired”.

Which modal can express the idea that we’re sure something is true because it makes logical sense in a particular situation?

The modal “must” can ...

Give me an example, please.

Alison must have a lot of money because she owns houses in four different countries.

The modals “should” and “ought to” can express the idea of “probably”. For example, we can say “The train should arrive soon”. This means the same as “I think the train will probably arrive soon”.

Which modals can express the idea of “probably”?

The modals “should” and “ought to” can ...

Give me an example, please.

They just said on the radio that it ought to be nice and sunny tomorrow.

The modals “may”, “might” and “could” can express the idea of “perhaps”. For example, if somebody asks us “Do you know where Sarah is?”, we can answer “She could be in her office”. This is similar to saying “Perhaps she’s in her office”.

Which modals can express the idea of “perhaps”?

The modals “may”, “might” and “could” can ...

Give me an example, please.

Quick! If you run, you might catch that bus!

The modal “can’t” expresses the idea that we are sure something is not true because it makes no logical sense in a particular situation. For example, if somebody says “This is Peter’s jacket”, we can say “No, it can’t be Peter’s jacket; it’s much too small”.

Which modal expresses the idea that we’re sure something is not true because it makes no logical sense in a particular situation?

The modal “can’t” expresses ...

Give me an example, please.

Amy can’t be home. She would have opened the door by now; we’ve been knocking for ages.

Now, I will give you a sentence, and you say a sentence with the same meaning, but with a modal:

She's just spent three hours in the gym, so I'm sure she's tired.

She's just spent three hours in the gym, so she must be tired.

Perhaps he knows where the exit is.

He might (or may/could) know where the exit is.

I'm certain that he isn't in his office because the lights are off.

He can't be in his office because the lights are off.

I think the cake will probably taste very good.

The cake should (or ought to) taste very good.

"The" + adjective = noun

the poor

the young

We can often make a noun by putting the word "the" in front of an adjective. For example, "the poor" means "poor people generally", and "the young" means "young people generally".

Are the lives of the rich in society always happy?

No, the lives ...; sometimes they're unhappy.

How can governments help the unemployed?

Governments ... by ...

Are the young generally healthier than the old?

Yes, the young ...

wish

We use the verb "wish" to communicate the idea that we would like to be able to change the way things are now, or the way things were in the past. For example, "I wish I were a millionaire", or "I wish I had learnt a musical instrument as a child".

What does the verb "wish" communicate?

The verb "wish" communicates the idea that we would like to be able to change the way things are now, or the way things were in the past.

We must remember that the verb that follows “wish” is one step back into the past from the time that we are referring to. Instead of the present simple, we use the past simple; for example, “Maria wishes she spoke perfect English” (in fact, she doesn’t speak perfect English). Instead of the past simple, we use the past perfect; for example, “Daniel wishes he had gone to the party last night” (in fact, he didn’t go to the party). Instead of the present continuous, we use the past continuous; for example, “I wish it wasn’t raining” (in fact, it is raining).

What must we remember when we use the verb “wish”?

When we use the verb “wish”, we must remember that the verb that follows it is one step back into the past from the time that we are referring to.

Give me an example, please.

I wish I had your ability to cook.

Do you have ten million pounds?

No, I don’t have ...

Do you wish you had ten million pounds?

Yes, I wish I had ... ~ No, I don’t wish I had ...

Are you relaxing on a beautiful beach at the moment?

No, I’m not relaxing ...

Do you wish you were relaxing on a beautiful beach at the moment?

Yes, I wish I was relaxing ... ~ No, I don’t wish I was relaxing ...

Did you meet a famous movie star yesterday?

No, I didn’t meet ...

Do you wish you had met a famous movie star yesterday?

Yes, I wish I had met ... ~ No, I don’t wish I had met ...

be used to something

get used to something

at first

accustomed

Instead of saying “I played football regularly at school”, we can use the auxiliary “used to” and say “I used to play football at school”. This sentence expresses a habit or repeated action in the past.

However, we have another, completely different, "used to" in English. In the sentence "I am used to hot weather", the word "used" is an adjective, followed by the preposition "to". If we say that we are "used to" something, it means that it is not strange or uncomfortable for us anymore because we have experience of it. If a person from a cold country goes to live in a hot country, at first they feel uncomfortable; they "are not used to" the weather. Then, they slowly become accustomed to the weather, or "get used to" the weather. Finally, one day they say "I am used to hot weather", because now they are comfortable with it.

What does it mean if we say that we are used to something?

If we say that ..., it means that it is not strange or uncomfortable for us anymore because we have experience of it.

Give me an example, please.

He's lived on that busy street for many years, so he is used to the traffic noise.

Name a region of the world where people aren't used to seeing snow.

... is a region of the world where people ...

When a family moves to a new town, do you think it's easier for the children to get used to everything than it is for the parents?

Yes, when a family moves ..., I think ... ~ No, when a family moves ..., I don't think ...

Notice that, because the word "to" is a preposition, we put the gerund ("-ing" form) after the expression "to be used to", not the infinitive. For example, we say "I am used to waking up early".

Why do we put the gerund after the expression "to be used to"?

We put ... because the word "to" is a preposition.

Give me an example, please.

At first it was difficult, but now I'm used to getting up early.

Are you used to studying with the Callan Method?

Yes, I'm used to studying ... ~ No, I'm not used to studying ...

Do you think you could ever get used to living in a country where your language wasn't spoken?

Yes, I think I could ... ~ No, I don't think I could ever ...

Relative clauses (3)

We have already learned a lot about relative clauses, but here are a few more things that we should know.

what

We use the relative pronoun "what" instead of "which" or "that" when we don't mention the thing that the relative clause describes. For example, instead of saying "She showed me the dress which she had bought", we can say "She showed me what she had bought".

When do we use the relative pronoun "what"?

We use ... when we don't mention the thing that the relative clause describes.

Give me an example, please.

She told the waiter what she wanted.

When you were a child, did you always like what you were given for your birthday?

Yes, when I was ..., I always ... ~ No, when I was ..., I didn't always ...

Have you already chosen what you're going to eat this evening?

Yes, I've already chosen what I'm ... ~ No, I haven't chosen what I'm ... yet.

whom

With formal English, some people prefer to use the relative pronoun "whom" instead of "who". However, this is only possible when the relative pronoun is not the subject of the verb that follows.

In the sentence "I recognized the criminal who stole the bag", the word "who" is the subject of the verb "stole"; in this sentence, we cannot use "whom".

However, in the sentence "I recognized the criminal who the policeman arrested", the word "who" is not the subject of the verb "arrested"; "the policeman" is the subject and "who" is the object. In this case, some people prefer to use the word "whom" instead of "who" and say "I recognized the criminal whom the policeman arrested". In informal English, however, the word "whom" is never used.

When do some people prefer to use the relative pronoun "whom" instead of "who"?

Some people ... with formal English, when the relative pronoun is not the subject of the verb that follows.

Give me an example, please.

The gentleman whom I contacted was the manager.

If you were employed by someone whom you disliked, what would you do?

If I ... whom I disliked, I'd ...

In very formal English, we sometimes have a preposition at the beginning of a relative clause, and in this case we cannot follow the preposition with the word "who"; we must use "whom" instead. For example, "She is the lady with whom I had a conversation", or "The manager to whom I sent the document has not replied". Remember, however, that in normal spoken English we put the preposition at the end and say "She's the lady who I had a conversation with", or "The manager who I sent the document to hasn't replied".

When we have a preposition at the beginning of a relative clause, can we follow the preposition with the word "who"?

No, when we have ..., we cannot follow ...; we must use "whom".

Give me an example, please.

We need to contact the customer from whom she took the payment.

Do you know the nationality of all the students with whom you are studying at the moment?

Yes, I know ... ~ No, I don't know ...

In normal spoken English, what do we say instead of "We need to contact the customer from whom she took the payment"?

In normal spoken English, instead of ..., we say "We need to contact the customer who she took the payment from".

whose

The meaning of the word "whose" at the beginning of a relative clause is similar to the meaning of a possessive adjective like "my", "your", "his" etc. For example, instead of saying "I have a dog. Its tail is long", we can say "I have a dog whose tail is long". Instead of saying "Yesterday I visited Mr Jones. I work with his sister", we can say "Yesterday I visited Mr Jones, whose sister I work with".

When do we use the word "whose" at the beginning of a relative clause?

We use the word "whose" ... instead of using a possessive adjective like "my", "your", "his" etc.

Give me an example, please.

The woman whose purse was stolen is on her way to the police station.

Do you know the people whose house is next to yours?

Yes, I know ... ~ No, I don't know ...