



PUC SPEL Online is a web-based English language tutoring system developed by PUC to help you improve your English vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. You can access the online courses from your own computer with an internet connection and at any time you are available. The course provides convenience and flexibility for you to practice your English independently outside of your classrooms with the support of online tutors.

Grammar Reference

1. Grammar Reference (Please remember that this grammar reference section is not a lesson plan for teachers. In fact, it is and should be designed in such a way that students can comprehend the grammar points on their own.)

a. I wish / if only

Use **wish** to express wanting something to be different from reality.

To talk about a wish in the present or a permanent wish, we use **wish + simple past**. The most common verbs are **wish + were** and **wish + had**.

Example: She **wishes** she **were** taller.
I **wish** I **had** a pen.
Jack **wishes** he **had** a luxury house.

To talk about a wish in the past, we use **wish + had + past participle**.

Example: She **wishes** she **had gone** to the party last week.
I **wish** I **hadn't eaten** that hamburger.

Use **wish + object + would** to show you want something to change. This structure is often used to show anger or annoyance.

Example: I **wish** all of my students **would arrive** on time.
My mother **wishes** I **wouldn't make** any noise.

Use **wish + could** to talk about an ability that you want but don't have. **Wish + couldn't** aren't usually used.

Example: John **wishes** he **could play** piano as well as his older brother.

I *wish* I *could* swim.

If only can be used instead of *I wish*. The meaning is a little bit stronger than I wish.

Example: *If only* we could leave early! (*I wish* we could.)
If only he hadn't taken the present! (*I wish* he hadn't.)

b. Review of past tenses

The simple past, past perfect, and past continuous are often used for narratives.

The *simple past* is used for the main completed events.

Example: I *took* the money and *ran*.
She *drank* a cup of coffee this morning.

The *past perfect* is used for an action that happened before another action.

Example: She *had* never *been* to an opera before last night.
You *had studied* English before you moved to New York.

The *past continuous* is used for an action in progress over a period of time. It's often a background action in the narrative.

Example: Last night at 6 PM, I *was eating* dinner.
At midnight, we *were still driving* through the desert.

c. Phrasal verbs

There are four main types of phrasal verbs.

1. **Intransitive:** The verb has no object.

Example: I ***grew up***.

This car is terrible. It ***breaks down*** all the time!

You're doing really well, so ***carry on*** like this.

2. Transitive – Separable: The verb has an object, and the verb and particle can split.

Example: Please ***turn off*** the TV.

Please ***turn*** the TV ***off***.

Please ***turn*** it ***off***.

When the object is a **pronoun (he/she/it, etc.)**, the verb and particle must split.

Example: Not: ~~I turned off it.~~

3. Transitive – Inseparable: The verb can take an object, but the verb and particle cannot split.

Example: He ***got on*** the bus. / He ***got on***.

Not: ~~He got the bus on.~~

I'll ***look after*** your dog while you're on vacation.

Not: ~~I'll look your dog after while you're on vacation~~

4. Three-part: The verb has a particle and a preposition. The particle cannot split. (Transitive, inseparable)

Example: We're ***looking forward to*** seeing you.

Not: ~~We're looking seeing you forward to.~~

I would have ***gotten away with*** it, too, if it hadn't been for you meddling kids.

Not: ~~I would have gotten away it with, too, if it hadn't been for you meddling kids.~~