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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.)

Dependent clauses: sequencing

We use ***Having + past participle*** or ***After + present participle*** to show the order of events when telling a story or describing a series of events.

Examples: ***Having lived*** through difficult times together, they were very close friends.
After getting dressed, he slowly went downstairs.
Having finished their training, they will be fully qualified doctors.

We also use participle clauses with conjunctions and prepositions such as ***before, after, instead of, on, since, when, while*** and ***in spite of***.

Examples: ***Before cooking***, you should wash your hands.
Instead of complaining about it, they should try doing something positive.
On arriving at the hotel, he went to get changed.
While packing her things, she thought about the last two years.

Past modals of deduction: must / might / can't have

We use ***must*** to say that you believe something is certain.

Example: This ***must*** be her house. I can see her car in the garage.

We use ***might*** to say something is a possibility.

Example: She's not here yet. She ***might*** be stuck in traffic.

We use **can't** to say that you believe something is not possible.

Example: It **can't** be far now. We've been driving for hours.

For the past, we use **must / might / can't have + past participle**. This is the same for I / you / he / we / they.

Examples: Oh, good! We've got milk. Mo **must have bought** some yesterday.
I think I **might have left** the air conditioning on. Please can you check?
She **can't have driven** there. Her car keys are still here.

Might have + past participle can also refer to the present or future when a time expression clarifies the context.

Examples: Police think the suspect **may have left** the country using a fake passport **by now**.
By this time next year, they **might have moved** to England.

It is also possible to use **may** instead of **might** and **couldn't** instead of **can't**.

Examples: I can't remember my password! But I **may have written** it in my notebook.
I thought I saw Dara this morning but it **couldn't have been** him – he's in China this week.

Relative clauses

Defining relative clauses

Defining relative clauses define or identify the person, thing, time, place, or reason. They cannot be left out. No commas are used before or after the defining relative clause.

Example: The woman **who** lives next door works in a bank.
That's the stadium **where** football match plays.

That can be used instead of **who**.

Example: He's the man **that/who** I met at the conference.

The relative pronoun can be left out if it is the object of the verb in the relative clause.

Example: The laptop (***that***) I bought last week has started making a strange noise!

Non-defining relative clauses

Non-defining relative clauses give extra information which can be left out. Commas are used before and after non-defining clauses unless they end a sentence.

Examples: Vanneth, ***who's retired now***, spends a lot of time with his grandchildren.
We want to see the new Avenger film, ***which was released on Friday***.

Who and ***which*** cannot be replaced by *that*.

Example: Yesterday I met my new boss, ***who was very nice***.

Not: ~~Yesterday I met my new boss, *that* was very nice.~~