



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.)

Passive of present continuous, present perfect, future

We often use the passive when it is not known, or it is not important to know, who has performed the action.

The phrase **by + performer of action (or agent)** is only used when it is important to know who performed the action.

Example:

The music **is being played**.

The music **is being played by my favorite musician**.

Note: Only transitive verbs can be used in the passive.

Intransitive verbs, such as happen, seem, sleep, etc., cannot be used in the passive form.

Present continuous

Use the passive of the present continuous for ongoing actions.

Example:

Some students **are being allowed** to study remotely for part of their study week.

Form:

.... + be + being + verb (past participle) + ...

Present perfect

Use the passive of the present perfect for recently completed actions.

Example:

Movie fans **have been given** access to nearly unlimited movie libraries in the cloud.

Form:

.... + have + been + verb (past participle) + ...

Future

Use **will + passive** or **be going to + passive** for actions that will begin in the future,

Example:

Most store purchases **will be made** by using a mobile device linked to an online account.

More and more doctor's examinations **are likely going to be done** over the Internet.

Form:

... + will + be + past participle + ...

... + be going to + be + past participle + ...

Note: If the agent (the person or thing doing the action) is unknown or obvious from the context, it's better to use a **passive form**. However, if the person or thing doing the action needs to be emphasized, it's better to use an **active form**.

Example:

The spyware **is being used** to collect information about government workers. (Agent is unknown.)

Social networking sites **have been used** in criminal investigations. (Agent is clear from context.)

A criminal organization **has created** this virus, not an amateur hacker. (Agent is emphasized.)

Note: The passive is very rarely used with the **present perfect continuous**. Use the passive of the present perfect instead.

Example:

People **have been posting** more videos to the Internet this year than ever before.

More videos **have been posted** to the Internet this year than ever before.

Negative and tag questions for giving opinions

We use negative questions or tag questions to offer an opinion and invite someone to react.

Example:

Isn't it weird how some students use mobile devices constantly?

Doesn't it seem like children spend too much time playing video games?

Wouldn't it be great if smartphones came loaded with a few apps?

Shouldn't the government fine sites that contain fake information?

Mobile apps are awesome, **aren't they**?

It makes children more aggressive, **doesn't it**?

We can also use negative questions or tag questions to offer an opinion about a past event and invite someone to react.

Example:

Wasn't it weird how the director's microphone kept turning on and off during his speech?

Didn't it seem like the director's speech would never end?

Shouldn't the company have provided us with coffee and tea before the speech?

The director's speech was really boring, **wasn't it**?

The director has given some pretty boring speeches, **hasn't he**?

The director's speech had just put about everyone to sleep when the fire alarm rang, **hadn't it**?

We use the phrase **don't you think** to form negative or tag questions for opinions.

Example:

Don't you think there are too many websites full of misinformation?

It's actually dangerous, **don't you think**?

Note: Use an affirmative tag question when the subject is a negative, such as nobody or nothing.

Example:

Nobody left any voice mail messages, **did they**?

Yes, they did. / No, they didn't.