

English Grammar Nightmares:

The 3 Ps (Prepositions, Present Perfect, Phrasal Verbs)

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THANKS

- ◆ to **National Geographic Cengage Learning**
for sponsoring me
- ◆ to the **Centro Colombo Americano**
for inviting me to present

Challenges to Educators' Professional Growth

- ◆ teaching techniques (workshop tomorrow)
- ◆ current research
- ◆ knowing your students and their needs
- ◆ current materials
- ◆ networking: avoiding (feelings of) isolation
- ◆ subject matter knowledge (today's talk)

A simple grammar point?
Negating

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Negating

◆ in English:

I go (don't go) I should go (shouldn't) I can (cannot)

I am (am not) He eats (doesn't eat) I took (didn't take)

◆ in Spanish:

A simple grammar point?

Negating

◆ in English:

I go (don't go) I should go (shouldn't) I can (cannot)

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◆ in Spanish:

Use NO. That's all. Any exceptions? NO.

3 Particularly Problematic ESL Grammar Issues

1.

2.

3.

3 Particularly Problematic ESL Grammar Issues

1. Present Perfect

2. Prepositions

3. Phrasal Verbs

Present Perfect Tense

**Present Perfect Tense
is formed by
HAVE/HAS + Past Participle**

They have lived here 10 years.

We have eaten sushi before.

It has rained all day!

Present Perfect:

HAVE/HAS + PAST PARTICIPLE

Identify the present perfect tense and tell its time: present, past, or future.

1. **When you have finished the report, call me, ok?**
2. **Most people in this class have chosen their major.**
3. **She's lived in several places overseas.**
4. **Mr. Mendez has worked at Sears for almost 20 years.**
5. **Orlando has had snow only twice in its history.**
6. **Once you have paid into the system for 10 years, then you can start to withdraw your pension.**
7. **Have you ever eaten a shrimp taco?**
8. **I've been here for an hour.**

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Present Perfect:

HAVE/HAS + PAST PARTICIPLE

The form is complex!

What ELLS first learn:

I have a car.

I don't have a car.

Do you have a car?

What ELLs see:

I have studieded.

I don't have studied.

I have not studied.

Do you have studied?

Have you studied?

REVIEW:

WHY IS PRESENT PERFECT AN ELL PROBLEM?

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1. FORM: **ELLs are confused by the new HAVE.**
They know HAVE A CAR and HAVE MY SHOES, but they don't know HAVE EATEN or HAVE HAD.

REVIEW:

WHY IS PRESENT PERFECT AN ELL PROBLEM?

1. FORM: ELLs are confused by the new HAVE. They know HAVE A CAR and HAVE MY SHOES, but they don't know HAVE EATEN or HAVE HAD.
2. FORM: **The past participle is confusing because it looks like past tense** after *have*: HAVE WORKED or HAVE LIVED. Can you also say GO WORKED or LIKE FLOWN? What makes HAVE so special?

REVIEW:

WHY IS PRESENT PERFECT AN ELL PROBLEM?

1. FORM: ELLs are confused by the new HAVE. They know HAVE A CAR and HAVE MY SHOES, but they don't know HAVE EATEN or HAVE HAD.
2. FORM: The past participle is confusing because it looks like past tense after have: HAVE WORKED or HAVE LIVED. Can you also say GO WORKED or LIKE FLOWN? What makes HAVE so special?
3. USAGE: **When do you use this tense?** For the **past?** YES. For the **present?** YES. For the **future?** YES. PRESENT PERFECT IS THE MOST CONFUSING OF ALL THE VERB TENSES FOR ELLs.

HOW MANY Present Perfects are there?

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1. continuing past: I have lived here since 2000. I've lived here for 14 years.
2. indefinite past (facts/accomplishments):
I've been in Bolivia. (before/already/_____)
Have you (ever) _____?
3. recent past relevant to right now: I've turned in my passport application. (just/recently/_____)
4. multiple times: I've seen that movie at least 3 times.
(times, on more than one occasion)
5. _____

The 1st P : Present Perfect

We have finished #1.

PREPOSITIONS

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**In which language are
prepositions more difficult?**

English or Spanish?

PREPOSITIONS

Maria va a casarse _____ Pedro.

El chico no pudo dejar _____ comer los dulces.

Compramos este libro _____ ti.

Empezamos _____ comer a las 12.

Terminamos _____ comer a la 1.

PREPOSITIONS

PREPOSITIONS are small words that show the relationship between the word after it (its object) and the rest of the sentence.

Common examples are: **AT, IN, ON, BY, NEAR, TO, WITH, UNDER, BETWEEN, ABOVE, BELOW.**

We also have two-word prepositions:

DUE TO, BECAUSE OF, ACCORDING TO.

We also have three-word prepositions:

IN LIEU OF, IN SPITE OF, ON TOP OF.

PREPOSITIONS

PREPOSITIONS are tough for all second language learners because:

1. Prepositions don't translate well:

ON MONDAY? IN THE MORNING? WITH A SMILE?

2. One preposition can have multiple meanings.

dictionary.com: **at = 10, in = 8, on = 30**

3. Very hard to catch in normal conversation:

“He said the name ____ the killer and then closed his eyes.”

4. Second Language Acquisition Research:

Prepositions are one of the last language features to be acquired no matter what!

Common ELL Errors with PREPOSITIONS

1. Do you want sugar ____ your coffee?
2. The painting is ____ the left wall.
3. The accident happened ____ Monday.
4. The dog was barking ____ midnight.
5. He is really interested ____ sports.
6. She is very dedicated ____ her new job.
7. New Orleans is famous ____ its Cajun food.
8. In some ways, Portuguese is similar ____ Spanish.

Types of PREPOSITIONS?

Not all prepositions function the same way...

Think about which part of the sentence “triggers” or determines your choice of which preposition.

PREPOSITIONS

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PREPOSITIONS:

How do NSs know?

Some prepositions are determined by what comes AFTER the preposition:

Do you want sugar in your coffee?
on your pancakes?

The accident happened on Monday.
at 8:47.
in June.

PREPOSITIONS:

How do NSs know?

Some prepositions are determined by what comes BEFORE the preposition:

He is really interested in sports.

sick of

unfamiliar with

She is very dedicated to her new job.

satisfied with

tired of / from

How are the **bold** words similar? What goes after them?

1. Students were **annoyed** _____ the noises.
2. This is **confusing** _____ me.
3. I'm not **satisfied** _____ this repair.
4. She's really **good** _____ math.
5. I'm **tired** _____ playing tennis all day.
6. I'm **tired** _____ eating spaghetti every night.
7. Wow, we're so **proud** _____ you.
8. WD40 can be **harmful** _____ your skin.

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ADJECTIVE + PREPOSITION

How are the **bold** words similar?

What goes after them?

1. Students took **advantage** _____ the low fares.
2. Was your **decision** _____ quitting a wise one?
3. The **difference** _____ 40 and 48 is 8.
4. What's the **matter** _____ your cat?
5. I have a **question** _____ Chapter 6.
6. Due to a **lack** _____ interest, the trip was canceled.
7. Many countries have a **tax** _____ cigarettes.
8. Here is my **application** _____ the job.

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NOUN + PREPOSITION

How are the **bold** words similar? What goes after them?

1. What did you **dream** _____ last night?
2. I can't go with you. I have to **work** _____ my report.
3. Does this book **belong** _____ you?
4. No one **laughed** _____ his joke.
5. You can definitely **count** _____ me to help.
6. He **worries** _____ too many things.
7. I'm **thinking** _____ changing jobs.
8. You should **listen** _____ what your dad says.

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VERB + PREPOSITION

AT / ON / IN with time

AT / ON / IN with time

___ Monday

___ noon

___ May

___ 1999

___ my birthday

___ spring

a simple pyramid = a great visual

CLOCK TIME:

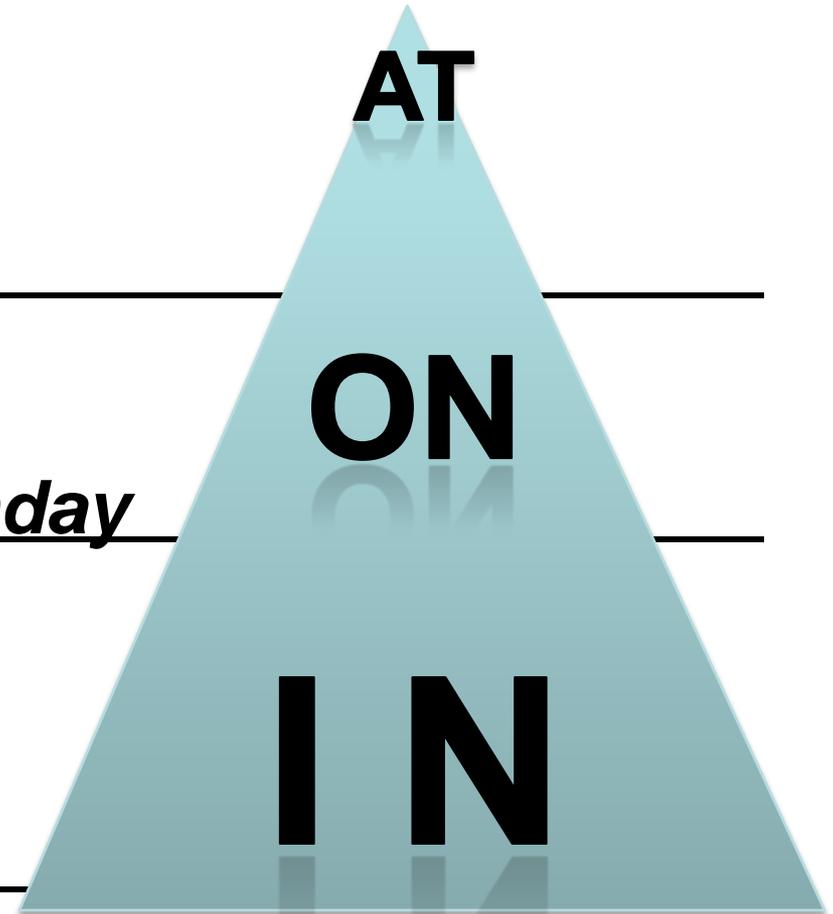
6 pm, noon, this moment

DAYS – DATES:

Monday, Dec. 25th, my birthday

EVERYTHING ELSE:

*June, spring, 1990, the 80s,
the 20th century*



REVIEW:

WHY ARE PREPOSITIONS AN ELL PROBLEM?

- **FORM**: They are very short words and are easily confused with each other: IN or ON or AT?
- 2. **USAGE**: One preposition can have 10+ different usages. ON MONDAY, ON THE TABLE, “ON ME”
- 3. **USAGE**: Some prepositions are determined by the object (___ MONDAY), but many others are determined by the word before (INTERESTED ___). It’s especially important for native teachers of ELLs to be aware of these two categories of prepositions.
- 4. **USAGE**: Not stressed in normal conversation, so they are very hard to hear and pick up naturally. You NEED an informed teacher, not just a teacher.

The 2nd P : Prepositions

We finished #2 on
Thursday, May 14th.

Phrasal Verbs:

ELLs' Worst English Nightmare!

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ELLs' Worst English Nightmare!

The coach called out the correct score.

I turned down the music.

He tried on the tennis shoes last.

He told off his boss (and then got fired).

You have to put in 75 cents to get a Coke.

Two guys held up the bank.

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Phrasal Verbs:

ELLs' Worst English Nightmare!

- A phrasal verb consists of two or three words.
- The first word is often a polysemous verb:
get, come, go, put, take, make, do, run, catch.
- The second word is a “particle.” Common particles:
in, out, on, off, up, down, away, back, over.
- The combination often has multiple meanings.

Let's Look at the Verb 'Take'

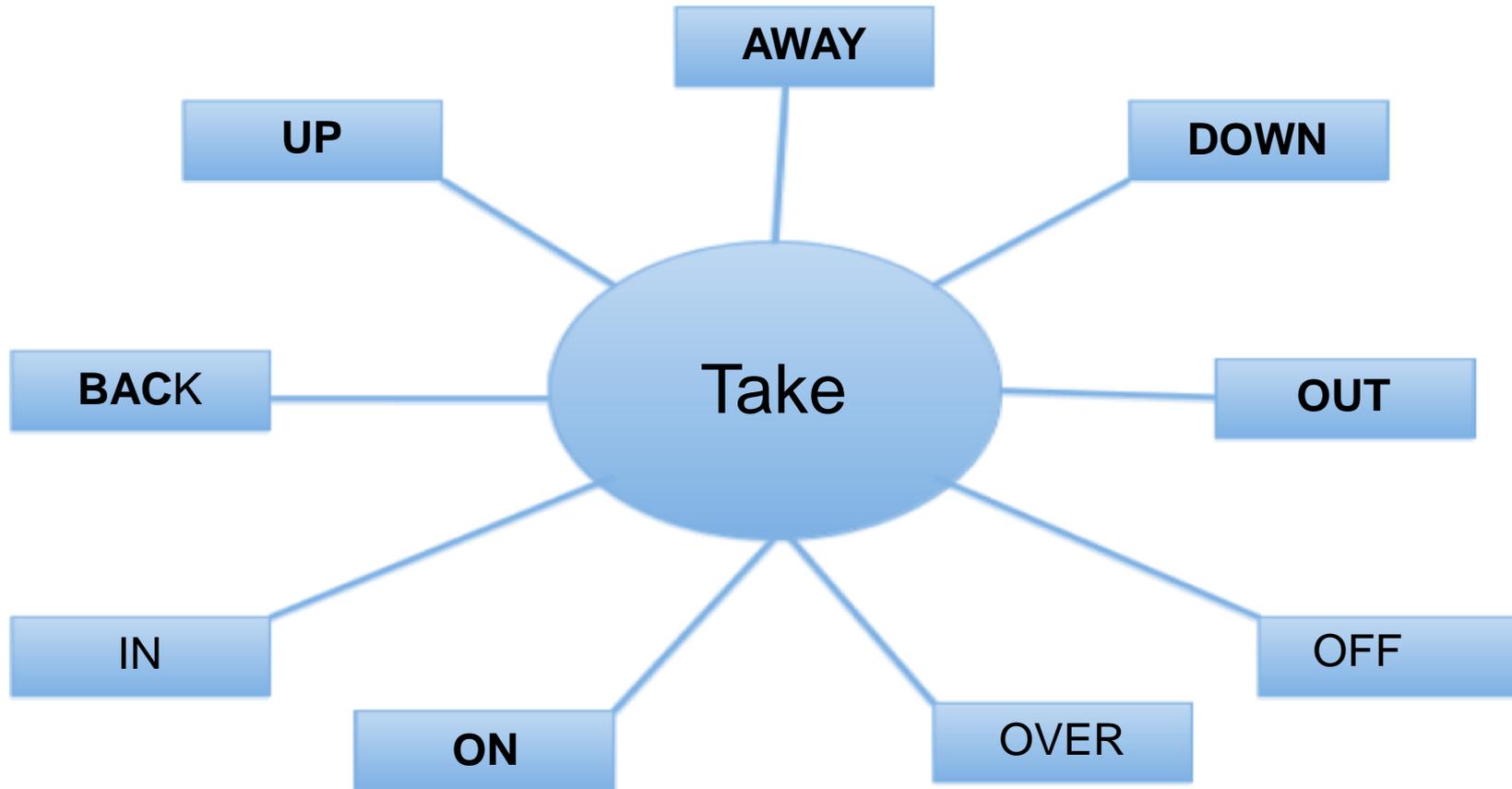


TAKE

According to the online Merriam-Webster dictionary the first definition that we find is the following,

1 : to get into one's hands or into one's possession, power, or control: as a : to seize or capture physically < *took them as prisoners* > b : to get possession of (as fish or game) by killing or capturing c (1) : to move against (as an opponent's piece in chess) and remove from play (2) : to win in a card game < *able to take 12 tricks* > d : to acquire by eminent domain
ETC ETC ETC

What if we add our 9 particles to TAKE?



We have 9 phrasal verbs!

BUT how many meanings are there for each phrasal verb?

25+ MEANINGS !



Some Examples

- The soldiers **took** the captives **away**.
- The dress my grandmother bought for me didn't fit, so I **took** it **back** and exchanged it for a bigger size.
- Are you **taking in** all of these phrasal verbs?
- My stomach felt funny when the plane **took off**.
- If the President is assassinated, the Vice-president will **take over**.
- This couch **takes up** too much space in the living room.

Phrasal Verbs

cause sentence problems

1. The coach **called** out the correct score.
2. The coach **called** the correct score out.
3. The coach **called** out it. **NO!**
4. The coach **called** it out.

Can you explain why #2 is possible?

Can you explain why #3 is not possible?

Phrasal Verbs

cause sentence problems

1. He **tried** on the tennis shoes.
2. He **tried** the tennis shoes on.
3. He **tried** on them. **NO!**
4. He **tried** them on.

Can you explain why #2 is possible?

Can you explain why #3 is not possible?

Phrasal Verbs

cause sentence problems

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Can you explain why #3 is not possible?

The 3rd P : Phrasal Verbs

Have you taken in all these phrasal verbs?

OR

Have you taken all these phrasal verbs in?

Challenges to Educators' Professional Growth

- 1 Solution: Skype with a teacher
September 1 – November 30
keith.folse@gmail.com

**The 3 Ps (Prepositions, Present Perfect,
Phrasal Verbs)**

Job Security for ESL Teachers

Questions?