

2 High Intermediate Grammar Esl 216 Fall 2014

2 High Intermediate Grammar Esl 216 Fall 2014 Mastering HighIntermediate English Grammar A Deep Dive into ESL 216 Fall 2014 This article provides a retrospective analysis of the key grammatical concepts typically covered in a highintermediate ESL course like ESL 216 Fall 2014 focusing on clarity and accessibility for learners While the specific curriculum might vary across institutions the core grammatical structures explored remain largely consistent Understanding these concepts is crucial for achieving fluency and accuracy in English I Verb Tenses and Aspects Perfecting the Timeline of Events A cornerstone of highintermediate grammar is the mastery of complex verb tenses and aspects Simply understanding the past present and future is insufficient a nuanced understanding of the relationship between these tenses is vital A Perfect Tenses These tenses present perfect past perfect future perfect highlight the completion or duration of an action in relation to another point in time Present Perfect Uses havehas past participle eg I have lived here for five years Emphasizes the relevance of a past action to the present Past Perfect Uses had past participle eg I had eaten before he arrived Shows an action completed before another past action Future Perfect Uses will have past participle eg By next year I will have finished my degree Indicates an action completed before a future point in time B Progressive Continuous Aspects These tenses emphasize the ongoing nature of an action Present Progressive Uses amisare present participle eg She is studying right now Focuses on an action happening at the moment of speaking Past Progressive Uses waswere present participle eg They were playing when the phone rang Shows an ongoing action interrupted by another Future Progressive Uses will be present participle eg I will be working tomorrow Indicates an ongoing action in the future C Perfect Progressive Aspects These combine the perfect and progressive aspects 2 highlighting the duration of a completed action eg I had been waiting for an hour before he arrived This indicates an ongoing action that was completed before another past action Mastering these requires careful consideration of context and time relationships II Modal Verbs Expressing Possibility Necessity and Permission Modal verbs can could may might must should will would are auxiliary verbs that express a speakers attitude towards the action or state of being Understanding their nuances is critical for conveying meaning accurately

PossibilityProbability May and might express possibility could indicates past possibility or present possibility considered less likely NecessityObligation Must expresses strong necessity should suggests a weaker obligation or recommendation PermissionRequest Can and could express permission or make requests may is a more formal way to ask for permission The subtle differences in meaning between these modals often hinge on context and the speakers intended emphasis III Passive Voice Shifting the Focus The passive voice formed using be past participle shifts the focus from the actor subject to the action itself This is particularly useful when the actor is unknown unimportant or deliberately omitted Active The dog chased the ball Passive The ball was chased by the dog While overuse can make writing sound weak the passive voice is a powerful tool for achieving specific stylistic effects and avoiding ambiguity Highintermediate learners should be comfortable both using and recognizing passive constructions IV Complex Sentence Structures Mastering Subordination and Coordination Highintermediate English demands proficiency in constructing complex and compound complex sentences This involves coordinating clauses with conjunctions and but or so yet and subordinating clauses using subordinating conjunctions because although since if while etc Understanding the difference between independent main and dependent subordinate 3 clauses is crucial for building grammatically sound and meaningful sentences Practice in identifying and using a wide range of subordinating conjunctions is essential For instance Simple Sentence The cat sat on the mat Complex Sentence The cat which was very fluffy sat on the mat Subordinate clause adds detail Compound Sentence The cat sat on the mat and the dog lay beside it Independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction CompoundComplex Sentence The cat which was very fluffy sat on the mat and the dog lay beside it because it was tired Combines complex and compound structures V Relative Clauses Adding Detail and Precision Relative clauses introduced by relative pronouns who whom whose which that add descriptive information to a sentence They allow for concise and elegant expression of complex ideas Mastering relative clauses is vital for both written and spoken fluency Restrictive Relative Clauses These clauses provide essential information and are not set off by commas eg The book that I borrowed is excellent Nonrestrictive Relative Clauses These clauses add nonessential information and are set off by commas eg The book which I borrowed from the library is excellent Key Takeaways Mastery of complex verb tenses and aspects is crucial for expressing nuanced time relationships Modal verbs provide essential tools for expressing shades of meaning related to possibility necessity and obligation The passive voice offers flexibility in sentence structure and focus

Proficiency in coordinating and subordinating clauses allows for the construction of sophisticated and varied sentences. Relative clauses provide efficient and elegant means of adding descriptive detail.

FAQs

1 Q How can I improve my accuracy with perfect tenses? **A** Practice using them in context. Write sentences and stories that require the use of various perfect tenses. Pay close attention to the time relationships between events. Use online quizzes and grammar exercises for targeted practice.

2 Q What is the best way to learn the differences between modal verbs? **A** Focus on the subtle shifts in meaning conveyed by each modal. Use a dictionary or grammar textbook to examine example sentences. Practice using them in your own writing and speech, paying attention to the effect they have on the overall meaning.

3 Q When should I use the passive voice and when should I avoid it? **A** Use the passive voice when the actor is unknown, unimportant, or when you wish to emphasize the action itself rather than the performer. Avoid overusing it as it can make your writing sound weak and indirect.

4 Q How can I improve my ability to construct complex sentences? **A** Start by practicing with simpler structures and gradually increase the complexity. Break down complex sentences into their constituent clauses to understand their structure. Analyze examples of complex sentences from well-written texts.

5 Q What are some common errors to watch out for with relative clauses? **A** Pay attention to the correct use of relative pronouns and ensure that the relative clause is grammatically linked to the noun it modifies. Avoid comma splices and ensure proper punctuation of restrictive and nonrestrictive relative clauses.

This comprehensive overview provides a solid foundation for understanding the key grammatical areas tackled in a high-intermediate ESL course like ESL 216 Fall 2014. Consistent practice and mindful application of these principles will pave the way towards enhanced English proficiency. Remember that continuous learning and engagement with the language are key to mastering these concepts fully.

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