

ENGLISH LANGUAGE GRAMMAR COMPETENCE? CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

Rokhman Anastasia

Scientific Advisor – Cand. Ped.Sc. Semenchenko T. O.

Kharkiv Educational and Scientific Institute of the Banking University

Once the Nobel Prize Winner in Literature, Derek Walcott said, “The English language is nobody's special property. It is the property of the imagination: it is the property of the language itself”.

One of the constituent parts of the foreign language competence is grammar competence, i.e. ability to comprehend and compose a wide range of grammar structures. A good command of English grammar facilitates international communication, hence is, inter alia, essential for students, as they are about to enter international communication to promote world's well-being.

Accordingly, it is a question how to make students acquire this command. We suggested employing games and fun grammar activities. The focus is on the following grammar points: Conditionals and I wish (I did/ had done). The tasks are designed especially for students of economic specialties. It should be mentioned that the exercises are to follow the grammar point explanation, that is they are to be used as a drill.

TASK 1. GAME. CONDITIONAL 3

RULES:

1. Copy one MISSED OPPORTUNITIES and one set of OUTCOME CARDS for each group of 3-4 students.
2. Divide students into groups of 3-4.
3. Give one copy of MISSED OPPORTUNITIES and one set of OUTCOME CARDS for each group of 3-4 students.
4. Ask the students to place the MISSED OPPORTUNITIES and OUTCOME CARDS face down in a pile in the center.
5. The first player draws one card from MISSED OPPORTUNITIES pile and one from OUTCOME CARDS pile. S/he has to make an If had done... would have done sentence about the situation describe on the MISSED OPPORTUNITIES CARD. The OUTCOME card will tell him if to make a happy ending or a sad one. The group watches accuracy of composition.

OUTCOME CARDS



Once the Nobel Prize Winner in Literature, Derek Walcott said, “The English language is nobody's special property. It is the property of the imagination: it is the property of the language itself”.

One of the constituent parts of the foreign language competence is grammar competence, i.e. ability to comprehend and compose a wide range of grammar structures. A good command of English grammar facilitates international communication, hence is, inter alia, essential for students, as they are about to enter international communication to promote world’s well-being.

Accordingly, it is a question how to make students acquire this command. We suggested employing games and fun grammar activities. The focus is on the following grammar points: Conditionals and I wish (I did/ had done). The tasks are designed especially for students of economic specialties. It should be mentioned that the exercises are to follow the grammar point explanation, that is they are to be used as a drill.

TASK 1. GAME. CONDITIONAL 3

RULES:

1. Copy one MISSED OPPORTUNITIES and one set of OUTCOME CARDS for each group of 3-4 students.
2. Divide students into groups of 3-4.
3. Give one copy of MISSED OPPORTUNITIES and one set of OUTCOME CARDS for each group of 3-4 students.
4. Ask the students to place the MISSED OPPORTUNITIES and OUTCOME CARDS face down in a pile in the center.
5. The first player draws one card from MISSED OPPORTUNITIES pile and one from OUTCOME CARDS pile. S/he has to make an If had done... would have done sentence about the situation describe on the MISSED OPPORTUNITIES CARD. The OUTCOME card will tell him if to make a happy ending or a sad one. The group watches accuracy of composition.

OUTCOME CARDS

				
---	---	---	--	---

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

I BOUGHT THE MAJORITY STAKE OF THE COMPANY	I COMPLIED WITH RULES	WE PREPARED PROPERLY FOR NEGOTIATIONS	I BOUGHT IN BULK
MY FRIEND HELPED ME TO SET UP HIS BUSINESS	I REPLACED FAULTY GOODS	HE TERMINATED AN AGREEMENT	I MADE A CONCESSION

I DID NOT FULFILL MY OBLIGATIONS WHEN THE DEBENTURE WAS MATURE	WE WITHDREW THE PRODUCTS	HE REFUSED TO PAY DAMAGES	I AGREED TO TAKE A CUT IN MY SALARY
HE DID NOT INSURE HIS BUSINESS	I DID NOT RECONSIDER HIS DECISION	I WAS OFFERED A JOB IN BRAZIL BUT I TURNED IT DOWN	THEY PAID ME PEANUTS

TASK 2. Open the brackets. WISHES.

Complete the jokes by putting these words or phrases in the gaps provided:

1) tickets 2) that much money 3) the name 4) your own coffee

- 1 I wish I had enough money to buy twenty elephants
> But what do you want 20 elephants for?
I don't. I just wish I had
- 2 Mr and Mrs Smith have just arrived at the airport to catch a plane to London.
> I wish I had brought the piano with me, said Mr Smith.
What on earth for? said his wife.
> Because I've left our on it!
- 3 Mary was meeting her friend, Sheila, who was an incredibly mean person.
> How are things with you?
I'm short of cash at the moment. If only I had ten pence for every man who asked me to marry him.
> Yes, then you just might be able to pay for
- 4 I'd like 100 grams of acetylsalicylic acid in tablet form, please.
> You mean, said the chemist, you'd like some aspirins, sir?
That's right. I can never remember



REFERENCES:

1. Hadfield J. Intermediate Grammar Games / J. Hadfield. – Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 2003. – 124 p.
2. Woolard G. Grammar with Laughter/ G. Woolard. – England: Language teaching Publications, 1999. – 105 p.