**Grammar Log**

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| 1. **Direct object = transitive verb** – there are many sources on the internet in which you can find information that transitive verbs requires a direct object. The information is also in our study materials, so my question is:   Why is only the direct object mentioned? It could be confusing for many students.  I would prefer another definition in our materials – e.g. Transitive verbs require an object (direct, indirect, prepositional object….) |

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| 1. **What is the difference between "whether" and "if?" And when do you use which one?**   According to the New York Public Library's *Writer's Guide to Style and Usage,* "if" and "whether" are "interchangeable as long as the meaning is clear and the construction is sensible." I don't find that particularly helpful, myself, but that guide then goes on to say that either "if" or "whether" can be used after such verbs as *ask, doubt, hear,* and *know*: "Did you ask if/whether we had to be present to win?" and that "whether" is considered the more formal of the two. "Whether" is preferred at the beginning of a sentence to introduce a noun clause: "Whether he had a chance to win the election was a subject of considerable debate." |

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| 1. **What is the difference between the words „ *largest“* vs.“ *Biggest“*. i.e. in the context "these are some of the largest and most successful investment scams" should "largest" be "biggest"?**   The dictionary doesn't help us much here; it gives "large" as a definition of "big," and vice versa. The word "big" seems to have all kind of idiomatic baggage attached to it: "a really big man," "the big moment," "a big talker," "capri pants are really big this summer," "he was big about it," etc. It also seems more casual than *large*, although there are circumstances in which *large* would be just plain wrong. If you were describing an American football player, for instance, you would describe him as big; large would not be inaccurate, but it would be portentous, implying amplitude and abundance where size is all you're looking for. Because of that casual air about *big,* I would recommend using *large* in the context you're suggesting and in most formal, academic contexts. |

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| 1. **Is someone at the door? Is John here already?** |
| *I’ve found out an article on the internet where these two sentences are considered to be Assertive – is that true?* If he expects or anticipates a positive answer, he will use the assertive forms: Here the speaker has some reason to believe that there is in fact someone at the door, and that John is already here. |
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| 1. **Incorrect: *Everybody must bring their own lunch.*** |
| **Correct: *Everybody must bring his or her own lunch.*** |

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| 1. **Can we use this sentence?** *“He died on a Sunday”* |
| **I’ve come across the sentence on the internet and was confused about the determiner “a”.** If you say "He died on a Sunday" that could be any Sunday some time ago, weeks or even months. |

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| 1. **What part of speech is the word "fishing" as used in the following sentence?** *„We are going fishing tomorrow.“*I am going to say that "fishing" is a gerund acting as the direct object (in the form of a gerund) of this sentence ("tomorrow" being an adverb modifying the verb "are going"). We know that a gerund can act as a direct object in a sentence such as "He likes fishing," but the trick here is whether or not the verb "are going" (or any form of the verb "go," for that matter) can take an object. I am not terribly sure of this response, and I would welcome someone else writing in to offer an opinion. |

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| 1. **Which is right between the two following sentences?** |
| *Was it she you were talking about?* |
| *Was it her you were talking about?* |
| In that sentence you want to establish the predicate first, "Was it she. . . " The "she" and the "it" are linked by the verb "was" (inverted in order here because it's a question). Then the predicate is modified by another clause. You could pretend, in fact, that there is a missing "whom," as in "Was it she whom you were talking about?" |

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| **9.) “Every tale, and this one is no exception, must have a turn in the plot.”** |
| This is a trick sentence. The subject and verb of the initial independent clause ("tale" and "must have") are interrupted by a second independent clause. Note, however, that the pattern still uses the comma and "FANBOYS" team. |

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| 1. **Is there a plural form for the indefinite pronoun "one" like "ones"? Is it possible to say "Large cars have some advantages over the small ones"? If not, what is the right way?** |
| Yes, the word *one* has a plural form, *ones.* In the context in which it is used, the plural ones is called the replacive one; it can be used as a substitute for a plural count noun. "Do you like these cookies?" "Well, I like the chocolate ones." Avoid, however, putting a determiner before *ones:* "Do you like these ~~ones~~?" |

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| 1. **"It belongs to him."**  I was absolutely sure that it's SVO sentence pattern but mainly according to Oxford advanced dictionary "belong" is **only** intransitive verb. I can't help myself, if I say "It belongs." - it doesn't make a sense, does it?  If I say "It belongs to him." - it makes a sense and in this example it should be SVO (thus transitive verb) because there is a object (him) in the sentence. |
| " Belong" is intransitive in  I don't feel I belong here. ; Where do these cups belong; These two belong together. "Belong to sb" is in dictionaries listed as a phrasal verb, and phrasal verbs like any other, are either tranistive or intransitive. So, it is transitive. |

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| 1. **Which sentence is correct?** *Did you remember to turn off the light?* |
| *Did you remember turning off the light?* |
| They are both correct, but there is a slight difference in meaning. With the infinitive, "to turn," I'm reminding you that you were supposed to remember to turn off the lights and, if you didn't remember, they're still on and you're wasting electricity. With the gerund, "turning," I'm asking if you recall the act of throwing the switch that turns off the light. There are several verbs that will take either a gerund or infinitive, with slightly different meanings like this (such as "Grandma forgot to visit Aunt Glad this morning." and "Grandma forgot visiting Aunt Glad last summer."). |

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| 1. **Is there any difference between “although” and “though”?** |
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| The only difference between the two is that "although" carries a bit more weight; it is a tad more formal and ought to be used, certainly, where you're looking for an argumentative edge. Save "though" for more conversational, casual situations. |

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| 1. **Ability versus Capacity. What's the difference?** |
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| The words are used interchangeably in casual circumstances, but there is an important, worthwhile distinction. You can learn or cultivate an ability, but you are born with a capacity. We say that a child has a capacity for wonder, but, in time, he will develope an abilty to distinguish the real from the fantastic. |

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| 1. **Should we use "I am not sure of..." or "I am not sure about ..."?** |
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| Most of the time you're probably going to use "I am not sure about," but there's nothing wrong with "I am not sure of. . . ." |

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| 1. **What are the rules for using By and Until with time?** |
| Example: *I will be home by nine. I won't be home until nine.* |
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| There's not a lot of difference here, but the difference is worth noting. The first sentence means that you could arrive home at, say, eight o'clock, or eight-thirty; if you're not home by nine o'clock, you could be considered late. The second sentence, with "until," means that the earliest you should be expected is nine o'clock (and you might be home later than that). |

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| 1. **I made a mistake in my short story (“The police is coming”) and then I found out that many people made the same mistake:** |
| **In the sentence “The police are coming” we should use the word “are”.** |
| According to Oxford advanced dictionary the noun (the police) is plural. |

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| Amount/number |
| These two work in the same way as “less” and “fewer”, referring respectively to |
| commodities and individual items. |
| **The rules:** |
| * “Amount” refers to a commodity, which can’t be counted (for instance water). |
| * “Number” refers to individual things that can be counted (for example birds). |

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| 1. **Who/whom** |
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| * “Who” refers to the subject of a sentence; “whom” refers to the object. |
| * “Who” and “whom” work in the same way as “he” or “him”. You can work out which you should use by asking yourself the following: |
| * “Who did this? He did” – so “who” is correct. “Whom should I invite? Invite him” – so “whom” is correct. |
| * “That” is often used incorrectly in place of “who” or “whom”. When referring to a person, you should not use the word “that”. |
| **How not to do it!!!** |
| Who shall I invite? |
| Whom is responsible? |
| He was the only person that wanted to come |
| **How to do it properly:** |
| * Whom shall I invite? |
| * Who is responsible? |
| * He was the only person who wanted to come |

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| 1. **I had problems with using *“much”* and *“a lot of”* in sentences, e.g.** |
| “I have a lot of money” – “I don’t have much money” |
| It’s obvious that we use “a lot of money” in positive sentences and “much money” in negative sentences or questions. |

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| 1. **When I was reading my book I noticed that sometimes there is a comma before using the word “because” and sometimes not!!??** |
| We have to determine whether the clause that begins with *because* is essential to the meaning of the sentence or not. If it's essential, then we will not use a comma in front of it; if the information it adds to the sentence is "added information," parenthetical, not essential, then we'll want to use a comma in front of it. It's nearly always going to be essential -- no comma. |
| * I love this opera because it was written by my uncle. |
| * We ran out of gas half way to Phoenix and had to walk the rest of the way, because I forgot to fill the tank. |

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| 1. **I am a little bit confused about how to use “I” or “Me” in sentences:** |
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| If we're using these words as a subject, we'd use "George and I": |
| George and I are good friends. |
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| If we're using the words as objects, we'd use "George and me": |
| She gave the tickets to George and me. or She gave George and me the tickets. |

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| 1. **This is the last grammar problem in the first semester and I would like to choose the funny one :-).** |
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| **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePVZvMjSMvE** |