

Road Podcast
“ 5 ESSENTIAL ”
GRAMMAR RULES



5 ESSENTIAL GRAMMAR RULES

5 English grammar rules you must learn before you die or after by Let Them Talk TV brilliant Now this is a very common mistake I hear among learners of English and that is the difference between prepositions of movements and prepositions of position for example I often hear something like "I went in Italy last weekend" not correct "I was to London yesterday" not correct. Here is why TO is a preposition of movement so you'll often use it with verbs that indicate movements such as GO or COME "I went to Italy last week," "I came back to France yesterday" IN is usually a preposition of position so you use it with the verb TO BE "I was in Italy last month "I've been studying in France for the last six weeks."

Now two points bear in mind IN can mean inside or INTO so in this case it represents movement when it's INTO look at this sentence "She walked in the room." It's ambiguous isn't it did she come from another place and enter the room? or was she already in the room and walking around it? as I said in is usually used for position but sometimes we use IN when what we really mean is INSIDE or IN TO "She walked inside the room" that's clear she was in the room walking around it. "She walked into the room." she came from elsewhere. So sometimes in English we shorten INSIDE and into IN this is perfectly ok and correct just don't do it if it can lead to some misunderstanding so sometimes if you want to be completely clear say she came into the room or she entered the room

while she walked inside the room. A question for you what's the difference between these two sentences "He's at the station", "he's in the station" Let me explain that means in the vicinity of but not necessarily inside." Let's meet at the station in front of the entrance outside." IN means geographically inside. "Let's meet in the station at the ticket office." So you can use AT to mean inside or outside but IN only means INSIDE. "I'll be at home this afternoon in the garden" which is outside of course. "I left my suitcases in my house," This is very much linked to the last point but I thought I should explain it separately because it's such a common mistake so look at these two sentences "I've been to Chicago". "I've been in Chicago" what's the difference? now as I said earlier to is

about movement so being to Chicago means that you have made a visit or a trip to Chicago at least once in your life that's why the correct question to this answer would be "Have you ever been TO Chicago?" (not IN Chicago) IN is about position as I said earlier so if you're staying or living somewhere or studying somewhere you would use been IN. "I've been in Chicago for six months." You've been in to talk about where you are currently at now let's look at the question "How long have you been in Chicago?" So with how long questions use the preposition IN. So when you use GONE TO? Been to means that you have traveled to a place but then traveled away "I've been to Moscow twice this year." GONE TO means that you have traveled to a place and you are still there.

"Where is Hillary?" "She's gone to Dublin. She's coming back next week" In the affirmative. what's the difference between MUST and HAVE TO and HAVE GOT TO? All of them are forms of obligation. Do they have a similar meaning? yes they do is there a difference well there is a nuance of difference between must and the other two HAVE TO and HAVE GOT TO. MUST is about an internal obligation and have to have got to refer to an external obligation let me give you an example and it'll become clearer "I must go to the dentist this week" so the speaker believes it's necessary for him. "I have to finish this report by 5pm" There is an external obligation on the speaker they're looking another example: "I must eat more vegetables" good for my health. An

internal obligation "I've got to clean the dishes or my girlfriend be very angry with me" that's an external obligation now in questions - you might see this distinction. "Must you make that noise?" "Must you leave now can't you stay a little longer?" I've got to go because I have an appointment. HAVE GOT TO and MUST are just used in the present tense in the past tense and future tense use WILL HAVE TO or HAD TO in the past tense "I had to go to the dentist yesterday" you can't use MUST then now this is a nuance if you say "Do you have to make that noise?" or "I must clean the dishes". it's perfectly ok you will be understood. However looking the negatives between mustn't and don't have to there is a big difference MUSTN'T is a negative obligation "You mustn't talk in the

library." "You mustn't smoke in here."
DON'T HAVE TO means no obligation it's
okay if you do it (not obligatory) I don't
have to work tomorrow I said no
obligation you can if you want I don't
have to read this book but I like it. now a
common question I get as an English
teacher is what is the difference between
WHO and WHOM and my answer is that
while I'm happy to explain it most of the
time it's not important you can carry on
with your daily life without knowing the
difference walk down the street, buy
bananas, play tennis order a pizza and
live your life happily without WHOM.
However there is one case where WHOM
is still frequently used in spoken English
and I'll come back to that in a moment.
Before I do that let me briefly explain the
difference for those who really want to

know. So WHO is used to talk about the subject of a sentence "who are you calling?" is that right? No, it should be "Whom are you calling?" because if you answer the question who are you calling the answer is I'm calling him or I'm calling her or I'm calling them which are object pronouns so it must be WHOM but do we say that in conversation" whom are you calling?" no absolutely not. If you insist on saying it then okay it's grammatically correct and I'm not going to stop you but almost everybody will say "who are you calling?" Sometimes you'll hear speakers using WHOM after preposition. "You gave the book to whom?" "From whom did you receive that gift?" but again do we say that it's possible but rare. "Who did you give that book to?" much more common to remove the WHOM and just

put a TO at the end of the sentence. So let me get the point. Yes we still do use WHOM in everyday conversation in one situation and that is after quantifiers such as many, several, some of, both of, a number of, for example "I met three girls two of whom were wearing hats." "Many people came to the party some of whom got really drunk." "We had hundreds of candidates a small number of whom had the right profile." of course in these sentences you could use THEM instead of whom but if you did that you would have to make a new sentence "We had hundreds of candidates. Some of them had the right profile" it's correct but sometimes you want to keep it in one sentence for the flow it's just sounds more conversational and flowing so it's just a question of style but as you can see

WHOM is used in conversation look at these sentences and tell me if they are correct or incorrect. "I don't know who is that man" "Are you sure you know what does he want?" No of course not they are not correct but I've heard these type of sentences so often I'm sure I give him every day as an English teacher so the correct sentences are I "I don't know who that man is"" Are you sure you know what he wants? " now the confusion lies in the words WHO, WHAT, HOW, WHICH, WHY WHEN, WHERE. These are the words we use to form questions but these words have two functions now when we form questions in English we use what we call inversion all this means is that we swap the position of the subject and the verb so that the auxiliary or modal verb goes before the subject

"you did that" To make the question the subject goes before the verb and of course you start the question with the question marker DID "Did you do that?" and we can add a HOW before that to get more information "How did you do that?" "You are here" that's a statement to make a question we use inversion so you put the verb before the subject "Are you here?" we had a question word for more information "Why are you here?" now these question words have a second function as relative pronouns but when you use them as relative pronouns you do not use inversion and this is where the confusion lies "I do not know why you are here." No inversion never say "I do not know why are you here" That's not correct so here's an exercise correct these sentences. "Please explain where

did you put the coconuts" not correct no inversion and you don't need the question marker did. "Please explain where you put the coconuts. "that's correct. "I need to know what should I do" your turn . "I need to know what I should do." do so that's correct "I need to know what I should do." Easy huh?

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