



The Basics of English

Greetings

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Greeting	Phonetics	Formality	Situation
Hello!	hɛləʊ	Formal and Informal	With family and friends
Hi!	haɪ	Informal	With family and friends
Good morning!	gʊd <u>mɔː</u> nɪŋ	Formal	In the morning, before 12pm
Good afternoon!	gʊd ɑːftə <u>nuː</u> n	Formal	In the afternoon, between 12pm and 4pm
Good evening!	gʊd <u>iː</u> vɪnɪŋ	Formal	In the evening, after 6pm

PART 2: QUESTION

Greeting	Phonetics
How are you?	haʊ <u>ɑː</u> juː?

PART 3: ANSWER

Greeting	Phonetics
I'm good thank you	aɪm <u>ɡʊd</u> θ æŋk juː

PART 4: LEAVE

Greeting	Phonetics	Formality	Situation
Goodbye!	gʊd <u>bə</u> ɪ	Formal	With colleagues/at work
Bye!	bəɪ	Informal	With family and friends

The English Alphabet (Uppercase)

Letter of the Alphabet	Phonetic Transcription	Letter of the Alphabet	Phonetic Transcription
A	eɪ	N	en
B	bɪː	O	əʊ
C	sɪː	P	pɪː
D	dɪː	Q	kjuː
E	iː	R	ɑː
F	ɛf	S	ɛs
G	ɡɪː	T	tiː
H	hɪː	U	juː
I	aɪ	V	viː
J	ʤeɪ	W	<u>dʌb</u> ljuː
K	keɪ	X	ɛks
L	ɛl	Y	wɑɪ
M	ɛm	Z	zɛd

The English Alphabet (Lowercase)

Letter of the Alphabet	Phonetic Transcription	Letter of the Alphabet	Phonetic Transcription
a	æ	n	n
b	bʌ	o	ɒ
c	kʌ	p	pʌ
d	dʌ	q	kʷʌ
e	ɛ	r	r
f	fʌ	s	s
g	gʌ	t	tʌ
h	hʌ	u	ʌ
i	ɪ	v	vʌ
j	dʒʌ	w	wʌ
k	kʌ	x	ks
l	l	y	jʌ
m	m	z	z

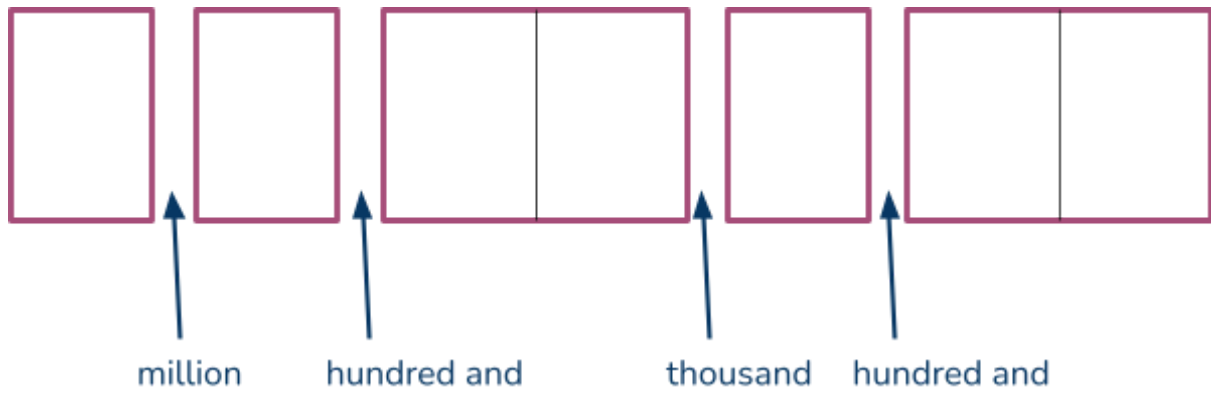
Number 0

Saying	Phonetic Transcription	Use	Example Sentence
zero	z ɪroʊ	Counting numbers Temperature	0,1,2,3 <i>It's 0°C today</i>
naught	nɔt	American English (not used often) Decimals smaller than 1	0.34
nought	nɔt	British English Decimals smaller than 1	0.25
oh	oʊ	Telephone numbers After decimal points Years Public transport numbers (hotel/route numbers) Addresses Time	01234567830 1.05 1905 <i>Bus number 305</i> <i>My address is 204 Happy Street</i> <i>Let's meet at 5:08</i>
love	lʌv	A score of 0 in tennis	<i>The score is 0-15</i>
nil	nɪl	A score of 0 in football	<i>The score is 3-0</i>
nada	n ɑdə	Slang for 0/nothing	<i>Do we have any chocolate?</i> <i>No, nada.</i>
zilch	zɪltʃ	Slang for 0/nothing	<i>I know zilch about physics</i>
zip	zɪp	Slang for 0/nothing	<i>I know zip!</i>

Numbers 0-11

0	Zero	35	Thirty-five	70	Seventy
1	One	36	Thirty-six	71	Seventy-one
2	Two	37	Thirty-seven	72	Seventy-two
3	Three	38	Thirty-eight	73	Seventy-three
4	Four	39	Thirty-nine	74	Seventy-four
5	Five	40	Forty	75	Seventy-five
6	Six	41	Forty-one	76	Seventy-six
7	Seven	42	Forty-two	77	Seventy-seven
8	Eight	43	Forty-three	78	Seventy-eight
9	Nine	44	Forty-four	79	Seventy-nine
10	Ten	45	Forty-five	80	Eighty
11	Eleven	46	Forty-six	81	Eighty-one
12	Twelve	47	Forty-seven	82	Eighty-two
13	Thirteen	48	Forty-eight	83	Eighty-three
14	Fourteen	49	Forty-nine	84	Eighty-four
15	Fifteen	50	Fifty	85	Eighty-five
16	Sixteen	51	Fifty-one	86	Eighty-six
17	Seventeen	52	Fifty-two	87	Eighty-seven
18	Eighteen	53	Fifty-three	88	Eighty-eight
19	Nineteen	54	Fifty-four	89	Eighty-nine
20	Twenty	55	Fifty-five	90	Ninety
21	Twenty-one	56	Fifty-six	91	Ninety-one
22	Twenty-two	57	Fifty-seven	92	Ninety-two
23	Twenty-three	58	Fifty-eight	93	Ninety-three
24	Twenty-four	59	Fifty-nine	94	Ninety-four
25	Twenty-five	60	Sixty	95	Ninety-five
26	Twenty-six	61	Sixty-one	96	Ninety-six
27	Twenty-seven	62	Sixty-two	97	Ninety-seven
28	Twenty-eight	63	Sixty-three	98	Ninety-eight
29	Twenty-nine	64	Sixty-four	99	Ninety-nine
30	Thirty	65	Sixty-five	100	One hundred
31	Thirty-one	66	Sixty-six		
32	Thirty-two	67	Sixty-seven		
33	Thirty-three	68	Sixty-eight		
34	Thirty-four	69	Sixty-nine		

Big Numbers



Examples;

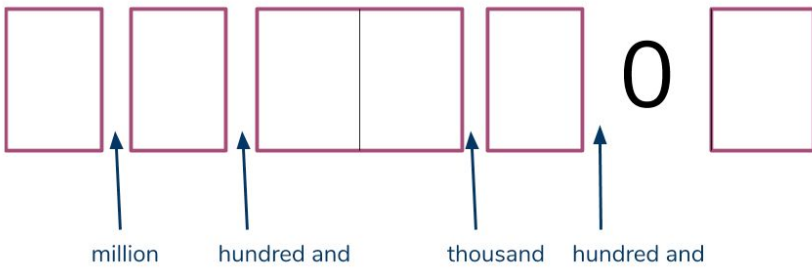
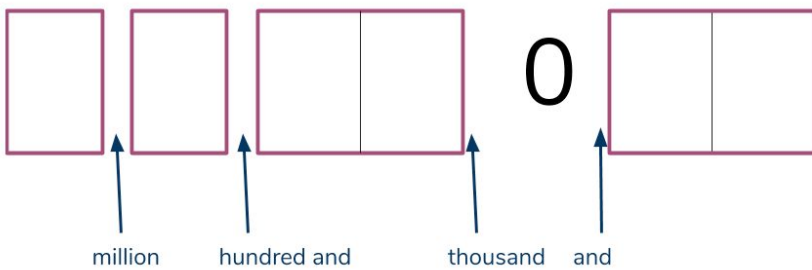
4,591 → four thousand, five hundred and ninety-one

36,821 → thirty-six thousand, eight hundred and twenty-one

729,489 → seven hundred and twenty-nine thousand, four-hundred and eighty-nine

1,456,763 → one million, four hundred and fifty-six thousand, seven hundred and sixty-three

Big Numbers with 0

Number	Word	Diagram
1,357,890	One million, three hundred and fifty-seven thousand, eight hundred and ninety	If the last number is 0, this doesn't change the number because we use the last two digits together as a double-number (e.g. ninety)
1,357,906	One million, three hundred and fifty-seven thousand, nine hundred and six	<p>If the second-last number is 0, we don't read the last two digits together, we only read the last digit as a single number.</p> 
1,357,067	One million, three hundred and fifty-seven thousand, and sixty-seven	<p>If the third-last number is 0, we delete the word "hundred", but we must keep the word and.</p> 
1,350,892	One million, three hundred and fifty, eight hundred and ninety-two	If the fourth-last number is 0, this doesn't change the number because this is part of a two-digit number (e.g. fifty).

Number	Word	Diagram
1,306,892	One million, three hundred and six thousand, eight hundred and ninety-two	<p>If the fifth-last number is 0, we don't read the two thousand digits together, we only read the last digit as a single number.</p>
1,076,234	One million, seventy-six thousand, two hundred and thirty-four	<p>If the sixth-last number is 0, we delete the words "hundred and", then continue reading the rest of the number as normal.</p>

Personal Information

NAME

- ? What is your name?
- ? What are you called?
- My name is ...
- I am called ...
- I am

AGE

- ? How old are you?
- I am ... years old

JOB

- ? What is your job?
- ? What do you do?
- I am a/an

COUNTRY

- ? Where do you come from?
- ? Where are you from?
- ? Which country are you from?
- I am from ...

LIVE

- ? Where do you live?
- ? What is your address?
- I live in
- My address is ...

TELEPHONE NUMBER

- ? What is your number?
- ? What is your phone number?
- ? What is your telephone number?
- My number is ...
- My phone number is ...
- My telephone number is ...

The Calendar

Days of the Week

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Months of the Year

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

Useful Phrases

Question	Answer
What day is it? What is the day today? Which day is it?	It is <u>Wednesday</u> Today is <u>Wednesday</u> Yesterday was <u>Tuesday</u> Tomorrow is <u>Thursday</u>
What is your favourite day?	My favourite day is <u>Saturday</u>
What month is it? What is the month? Which month is it?	This month is <u>July</u> It is <u>July</u> Next month is <u>August</u> Last month was <u>June</u>
What is your favourite month?	My favourite month is <u>December</u>
In which month is your birthday? Which month is your birthday?	My birthday is in <u>October</u>

Colours

Colours

Black
Blue
Brown
Green
Grey
Orange
Pink
Purple
Red
White
Yellow

We can use the adjectives “dark” and “light” to describe a colour. This adjective goes before the colour. *E.g. dark blue, light blue.*

Useful Phrases

Question	Answer
What colour is this? What is this colour? What's the colour?	The colour is <u>blue</u> It is <u>blue</u>
What is your favourite colour?	My favourite colour is <u>green</u>
What colours do you like? Which colours do you like?	I like <u>yellow</u>

Verb To Be

The verb to be is a very useful verb in English. These are the basic forms of the present simple tense.

Positive	Positive (contracted)	Negative	Negative (contracted)
I am you are he is she is it is we are they are	I'm you're he's she's it's we're they're	I am not you are not he is not she is not it is not we are not they are not	I'm not you aren't he isn't she isn't it isn't we aren't they aren't

There Is and There Are

The expressions “there is” and “there are” are used to say that something exists.

	Singular	Plural
Positive	There is There's	There are
Negative	There is not There isn't	There are not There aren't

The Phonetic Chart

There are 44 sounds in English and they are all shown in the phonetic chart.

Vowels	i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ	Phonemic Chart	
	sheep eagle field	ship busy started	good put should	moon grew through	ear here career	train say plane		
	e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ		
	bed dead said	about police the	bird hurt work	door walk saw	your sure tourist	boy point oil		
Consonants	æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	short
	apple cat mat	up money cut	car bath safari	not what because	hair careful there	by high fine	now our house	long
	p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	diphthongs
	pen hopping jump	ball hobby herb	table little watched	dog added played	chips itch picture	jam danger fudge	key car luck	voiced
Consonants	f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	unvoiced
	fire laugh phone	video move of	thick healthy teeth	mother this with	see city notice	zebra cosy has	shop nation special	
	m	n	ŋ	j	l	r	w	
	man tummy lamb	no funny knife	sing uncle angry	yes onion view	light smelly feel	right berry wrong	win where one	
							h	
							house hungry who	

The 44 phonemes of Standard British English with examples of common spellings.

adapted by **AlbaEnglish.co.uk**

Resource: Alba English. (2017). *Improve English Pronunciation with the Phonemic Chart*. Available: <https://albaenglish.co.uk/blog/improve-english-pronunciation-phonemic-chart>. Last accessed 26th July 2020.

There are two types of sounds;

- Consonant Sounds

These are the sounds at the bottom of the chart (blue and green)

- Voiced Sounds: the vocal cords vibrate when you say these sounds
- Unvoiced Sounds: the vocal cords do not vibrate when you say these sounds

- Vowel Sounds

These are the sounds at the top of the chart (orange). All vowel sounds are voiced.

- Monophthong Sounds: one individual vowel sound (we have long and short sounds)
- Diphthong Sounds: two individual sounds pushed together

Question Words

Question words go at the beginning of a question. We can ask for specific information in our questions.

Question Word	Situation	Phonetic Transcription	Example Question
Who?	Person	hu:?	Who is that? She is Mary, my sister
What?	Object/ Information	wɒt?	What is that? It is an apple
Where?	Place	weə?	Where do you live? I live in London
When?	Time/ date	wɛn?	When is our class? It is at 4pm
Why?	Reason	waɪ?	Why are you sad? Because I lost my phone
Which?	Choice	wɪʃ?	Which is your favourite colour- blue or pink? My favourite colour is blue
How often?	Frequency	haʊ <u>ɒ</u> fən?	How often do you play tennis? Every day
How?	Manner	haʊ?	How are you? I'm good thank you
How much? How many?	Quantity	haʊ mʌʃ?	How many cakes do you want? I want 4 cakes, please

Telling the Time

Time-Telling Devices

Clock
Hour hand
Minute hand
Second hand
Clock face
Watch
Watch strap
Sundial
Hourglass
Pocket watch
Stopwatch

Times of the Day

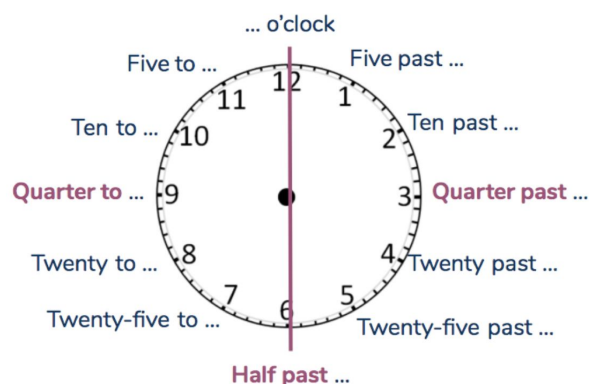
Day
Night
Dawn
Sunrise
Morning
Early
Late
Midday
Afternoon
Evening
Dusk
Sunset
Midnight
Middle of the night

We can tell the time using the 12-hour or the 24-hour method.

12-hour time

E.g. 4.20am → four twenty am

1. Number before the "." (four)
2. Number after the "." (twenty)
3. AM for morning or PM for night



24-hour time

- **When the minute hand is between 12 and 6**
 1. Convert 12 to 0
 2. Count the number of minutes between 0 and the minute hand
 3. Say "past"
 4. Say the number immediately before the hour hand
- **When the minute hand is between 6 and 12**
 1. Convert 12 to 0
 2. Count the number of minutes between 0 and the minute hand
 3. Say "to"
 4. Say the number immediately after the hour hand

Basic Phrases

Phrase	Explanation	Phonetics
Please	This is a polite expression when you ask for something.	pliːz
Of course	This is the same as yes when the answer "yes" is obvious.	ɒv kɔːs
Thank you	This shows appreciation for something.	θ æŋk juː
Thank you very much	This increases the basic expression "thank you".	θ æŋk juː vɛri mʌʃ
Thanks	This is an alternative to "thank you".	θ æŋks
You're welcome!	This is the response when somebody says "thank you" to show that you accept their thanks.	jʊə wɛlkəm!
Could you repeat that?	If you want to listen a second time, you can ask this question. The person will say their phrase again.	kʊd juː rɪpiːt ðæt?
Nice to meet you	Polite phrases to say when somebody tells you their name. This is only used the first time somebody tells you their name.	naɪs tuː miːt juː
Lovely to meet you		lʌvli tuː miːt juː
It's a pleasure to meet you		ɪts ə plɛʒə tuː miːt juː
Excuse me	A polite expression to get the attention of somebody.	ɪkskjʊːs miː
I'm sorry	A phrase to apologise for something.	aɪm sɒri
I'm so sorry	This increases the expression "I'm sorry".	aɪm səʊ sɒri
I don't understand	This phrase explains that you have no comprehension. Maybe the language is too difficult or it's a strange accent.	aɪ dəʊnt ʌndəstænd

Phrase	Explanation	Phonetics
Never mind	These expressions mean that it is not important and you can forget something.	nɛvə maɪnd
It doesn't matter		ɪt dʌznt mətə
Let's	This expression is always followed by a verb (let's + infinitive verb). This is used to make a suggestion.	lets
What do you think?	This means "what is your opinion".	wɒt duː juː θɪŋk?
That sounds great!	This means it is a good idea and the person is interested.	ðæt saʊndz greɪt!
How can I help you?	This is a question that offers help to somebody.	haʊ kæn aɪ hɛlp juː?
I really appreciate it	This is a polite expression after "thank you". This means you are very happy and grateful for somebody's help.	aɪ rɪəli əpriːʃɪeɪt ɪt
Could you speak slower?	If you don't understand because somebody is talking very fast, you can use this expression. This is a polite question to ask somebody to speak slowly.	kʊd juː spiːk sləʊə?
Here you go!	You can use this expression at the same time as giving something to somebody.	hɪə juː gəʊ!
That helps a lot	This is an expression to say something was useful and helpful.	ðæt hɛlpz ə lɒt
No problem	This is an expression to say you are happy to help with something and it was not a problem for you.	nəʊ prɒbləm
What does it mean?	If you don't understand something, you can ask this question. This asks somebody to help you understand something. You can replace the word "it" too. E.g. "what does this message mean?"	wɒt dʌz ɪt miːn?
I don't know	This means you do not understand something.	aɪ dəʊnt nəʊ

Countries

Europe

Austria (Austrian)	Belgium (Belgian)	Denmark (Danish)
Finland (Finnish)	France (French)	Germany (German)
Greece (Greek)	Hungary (Hungarian)	Ireland (Irish)
Italy (Italian)	The Netherlands (Dutch)	Norway (Norwegian)
Poland (Polish)	Portugal (Portuguese)	Russia (Russian)
Spain (Spanish)	Sweden (Swedish)	Switzerland (Swiss)
Ukraine (Ukrainian)	The United Kingdom (British)	

The Americas

Argentina (Argentinian)	Bolivia (Bolivian)	Brazil (Brazilian)
Canada (Canadian)	Chile (Chilean)	Colombia (Colombian)
Costa Rica (Costa Rican)	Cuba (Cuban)	Ecuador (Ecuadorian)
Guatemala (Guatemalan)	Honduras (Honduran)	Mexico (Mexican)
Nicaragua (Nicaraguan)	Panama (Panamanian)	Paraguay (Paraguayan)
Peru (Peruvian)	Uruguay (Uruguayan)	Venezuela (Venezuelan)
Puerto Rico (Puerto Rican)	The Dominican Republic (Dominican)	
The United States of America (American)		

Asia

Bangladesh (Bangladeshi)	China (Chinese)	India (Indian)
Japan (Japanese)	Malaysia (Malaysian)	The Philippines (Filipino)
Singapore (Singaporean)	Turkey (Turkish)	
Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabian)	The United Arab Emirates (Emirati)	

Africa

Botswana (Botswana)	Egypt (Egyptian)	Ghana (Ghanaian)
Kenya (Kenyan)	Morocco (Moroccan)	Nigeria (Nigerian)
Tunisia (Tunisian)	Zambia (Zambian)	Zimbabwe (Zimbabwean)
South Africa (South African)		

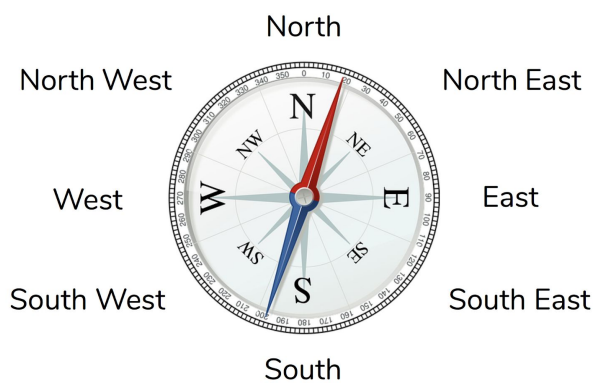
Oceania

Australia (Australian)	Fiji (Fijian)	New Zealand (New Zealander)
Samoa (Samoan)	Tonga (Tongan)	Papua New Guinea (Papuan)

Seas and Oceans

North Pacific
 South Pacific
 North Atlantic
 South Atlantic
 Arctic
 Southern
 Indian

The Compass



Useful Phrases

? Which continent do you come from?

- I am from + noun
- I come from + noun
- I am + adjective

? Where do you come from?

? Which country are you from?

- I am from + noun
- I come from + noun

? What is your nationality?

- I am + adjective

In the Classroom

Classroom Objects

Book
Calculator
Chair
Clock
Computer
Desk
Door
Folder
Highlighter
Laptop
Magnet
Paper
Pen
Pencil
Photos
Rubber
Ruler
Scissors
Whiteboard
Whiteboard pen
Whiteboard rubber
Window

Classroom Commands

Classroom Commands

Stand up
 Sit down
 Close
 Open
 Turn something on
 Turn something off
 Go to the toilet
 Ask a question
 Answer a question
 Take something out
 Put something away
 Clean the board
 Point at something
 Raise your hand
 Come here
 Come in

Classroom Phrases

How do you pronounce ...?
 How do you say ... in English?
 Can you explain that again?
 Is this OK?
 Can you speak louder?
 What page are we on?
 When is the exam?
 When is the homework due?
 Can I borrow a/an ...?

Classroom Rules

Don't be late
 Don't cheat
 Do your homework
 Be quiet
 Help each other
 Don't sleep
 Don't talk
 Respect each other

Classroom Activities

Match
 Fill in the gaps
 Work in pairs
 Work in groups
 Work together
 Listen to the audio
 Listen to the teacher
 Write in your books
 Write on the board
 Read
 Say
 Complete the activity
 I'm ready!

Demonstrative Adjectives

Demonstrative adjectives are used to draw attention to something.

	Singular	Plural
Close	This	These
Long Distance	That	Those

Sports

Sports

Badminton
 Baseball
 Basketball
 Dancing
 Fishing
 Football (Am: soccer)
 Hockey
 Ice skating
 Ride a bike
 Roller skating
 Running
 Sailing
 center)
 Skateboarding
 Swimming
 Table tennis
 Tennis
 Walking

Sports Equipment

Ball
 Bat
 Bike
 Boat
 Goal
 Ice skates
 Net
 Player
 Roller skates
 Score
 Skateboard
 Sports centre (Am: sports
 center)
 Stick
 Swimming pool
 Tennis racket
 Towel

Sports Verbs

Bounce
 Catch
 Hit
 Hop
 Jump
 Kick
 Run
 Throw

Play, Do and Go

The verbs play, do and go are used to say that an action happens. These are normally used with sports and free time activities.

Play	Sports with a ball and competitive	Tennis, basketball, baseball, football, hockey
Go	Sports that end in ING	Running, ice skating, roller skating, skateboarding, fishing, sailing, swimming, dancing
Do	Individual sports with no equipment	Karate, yoga, exercise

Free Time Activities

Free Time Activities

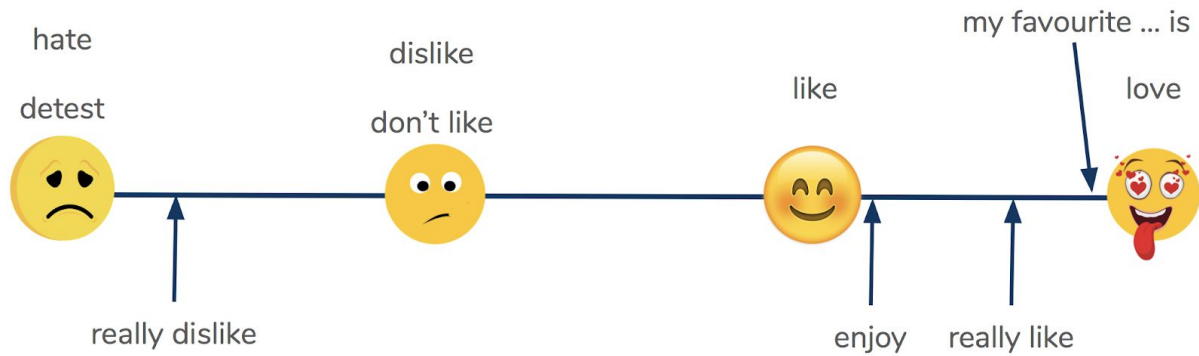
Drawing
Driving
Fly a kite
Go shopping
Go to a party
Go to the cinema
Listen to music
Listen to the radio
Play a board game
Play the guitar
Play the piano
Play with toys
Read a book
Read comic books
Read my emails
Read my texts
Sing a song
Spend time with my pets
Take a photo
Take a picture
Watch a DVD
Watch a film (Am: watch a movie)
Watch a video
Watch television

Toys/Equipment

Camera
Doll
Helicopter
Lorry (Am: truck)
Robot
Teddy bear
Train

Opinion Verbs

There are numerous opinion verbs in English.



OPINION VERB + NOUN

When an opinion verb is followed by a noun, the structure is: **subject + opinion verb + noun**. For example, *I hate chocolate, I like apples*.

OPINION VERB + VERB

When an opinion verb is followed by another verb, the structure is: **subject + opinion verb + verb+ING**. For example, *I like reading a book, I hate playing tennis*.

TYPICAL OPINION QUESTIONS

- What is your favourite ... ?
- Do you like ... ?
- What do you think of ... ?
- What is your opinion of ... ?

Course List

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Course 3	Cardinal Numbers
Link:	https://virtually-fluent.com/courses/cardinal-numbers/
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Link:	https://virtually-fluent.com/courses/opinion-verbs/