



Grammar Specialities of Academic English 1

Discussion Questions

- Does it often happen to you that you realize having made a mistake?
- What mistake did you make recently?
- Which grammar area do you find especially difficult?
- What grammar structures does your language lack compared to English?
- What is grammar good for?

Listening: Check the facts.

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/podcasts/educationpodcast001.htm>

1. King of France and England is an eight month old baby. T/ F
2. The English were in really serious trouble. T/ F
3. Things did not stay as they were for quite a long time. T/ F
4. Duke John of Brittany announces his allegiance to the Dauphin. T/ F
5. He crosses to the English side even if they're close to overrunning him. T/ F
6. The English hold at Orleans. T/ F
7. Christine was living in a closed abbey when Charles fled from Paris. T/ F
8. Christine is talking about Joan of Arc. T/ F
9. Dauphin got himself crowned. T/ F
10. Even if Joan is captured and executed swiftly, England is losing. T/ F
11. It is sure that England will now lose all its French lands. T/ F
12. Henry VI is the only English ruler ever to be crowned King of France. T/ F
13. The English must not get to Rheims. T/ F
14. Jo thinks that the French would never have accepted an English ruler. T/ F
15. If Henry had lived another 20 years, then things would never have worked. T/ F

Discussion: Can all the events described in Alexiad be taken for granted as historical facts? How can you express the possibility / probability of the facts?

Anna was an Emperor's child. **It is sure, that she received an excellent education.**

a) She could have received an excellent education.

b) She must have received an excellent education.

Exercise: Fill in the gaps below with the modal verb in the past (could have, may have, must have, might have + past participle) so that the sentences have the same meaning as the bold ones.

1. **Perhaps, she expected that at her father's death she would take his place.**
She _____ that at her father's death she would take his place.

2. **Possibly, her mother encouraged her to try and seize the imperial throne for him.**

Her mother _____ her to try and seize the imperial throne for him.

3. **We are sure it was where 55-year-old Anna began serious work on Alexiad.**

It _____ in the monastery, where 55-year-old Anna began serious work on Alexia.

4. **It is obvious that her father wanted to stop the Turkish attacks.**

Her father _____ to stop the Turkish attacks.

5. **It is probable that to Anna they appeared as uneducated barbarians.**

To Anna, they _____ as uneducated barbarians.

Speaking: Choose interesting facts about your life and describe them using at least 3 different tenses.

Reading: Insert punctuation marks:

Normally when reading a text people use a strategy that I call reading for content The goal of this strategy is to get the main idea of the text as quickly as possible and with as little effort as possible To accomplish this goal your brain will try to read as few words as possible and spend only a fraction of a second on each word

For example when reading the following passage you don't really see it like this

Once when I was six years old I saw a magnificent picture in a book called True Stories from Nature about the primeval forest. It was a picture of a boa constrictor in the act of swallowing an animal Here is a copy of the drawin. In the book it said Boa constrictors swallow their prey whole without chewing it After that they are not able to move and they sleep through the six months that they need for digestion

I pondered deeply then over the adventures of the jungle And after some work with a colored pencil I succeeded in making my first drawing

<http://www.antimoon.com/how/readhow.htm>

Writing: Write a short email to your teacher (martina.sindelarova@mail.muni.cz) and ask about the course / some grammar issue / your problem.

