

『ALL IN ONE Basic』 教授資料 (2015.11.30 作成)

本書の例文に関して、英語の先生が疑問に感じると予想される点を、ネイティブ・スピーカーに質問してみました。

Lesson 004-1 は Lesson 4 の例文①を表します。 **Question** はネイティブに宛てた質問です。

Answer はそれに対するネイティブの回答で、最後の [Br] はイギリス人、[Am] はアメリカ人、[Au] はオーストラリア人をそれぞれ表します。

Lesson 004-1

- (a) I think he is right.
- (b) I believe he is right.
- (c) I suppose he is right.
- (d) I guess he is right.

Question

Is there any difference in meaning (especially in light of 'confidence')?

Answer

There is very little difference in meaning. As far as how confident the speaker is, 'I believe' is probably the strongest of the four, but only just. [Br]

Lesson 007-2

- (a) Fred not only cooks but does the dishes as well.
- (b) Fred does not only cook but does the dishes as well.
- (c) Fred doesn't only cook but does the dishes as well.

Question

Are (b) and (c) (meaning (a)) commonly used?

Answer

Yes, both are commonly used and all three are natural English. [Br]

Lesson 016-3

I'm relying on you, so don't let me down, will you?

Question

Does the tag question "will you?" sound natural? Is it better to use "OK?" instead?

Answer

The question WILL YOU in this context is definitely odd sounding. OKAY would be much more appropriate in this imperative sentence, because it helps to express the request more naturally. [Am]

(注) tag question 付加疑問 imperative sentence 命令文

Lesson 016-4

"Let's take a look inside, shall we?" "Yes, let's."

Question

I've been told that the expression "Let's ..., shall we?" is old-fashioned in American English. Is this correct? If so, how would you express it instead?

Answer

It is a bit archaic to use SHALL WE, so we would express this a bit differently (e.g., "Do you want to [wanna] take a look inside? Sure." or "I think we should take a look inside, don't you? Definitely!"). [Am]

Lesson 021-4

"What are you doing, Steve?" "I'm feeding (ants, the ants)."

Question

Without further context, which would you say, "ants" or "the ants", and why?

Answer

Without further context I would say 'ants', as I don't know whether the other person knows about my ants, or that I keep ants. But 'the ants' would also be perfectly natural if the person was looking at the ants or if they were aware that I had ants as pets. [Br]

Lesson 021-5

- (a) Are you free on Friday?
- (b) Are you free this Friday?
- (c) Are you free next Friday?

Question

Which is most commonly used and which is next? Also, can (a) mean "Are you free on Fridays/every Friday?"?

Answer

Firstly, no, (a) cannot mean Fridays/every Friday. 'on Friday' means the subsequent Friday only. 'this' and 'next' are both used, but have different meanings. Strictly speaking... 'next Friday' is the Friday of the following week and 'this Friday' is the Friday of the current week. 'on Friday' would always be the closest Friday to the current day regardless of which week. So, since they can often mean different things, it is hard to rank them. [Br]

(注) subsequent 次の

Lesson 043-2

Will you get me a couple of plates from the cupboard?

Question 1

Does "a couple of" mean "two" or "a small number of"?

Answer

"A couple of" generally means two. A person would either immediately grab two plates from the cupboard, or more specifically ask the person if they meant two plates. The context of that question would determine the person's reaction. *[Am]*

Question 2

Does "a couple of" mean "two" or "a small number of"? Does the meaning depend on whether you're an American or British speaker?

Answer

I don't know about the meaning in American English exactly, but I presume it is the same as British English. In UK English, 'a couple' literally means two, and should always mean 'two'. But sometimes people use it lazily in conversation to mean a few.

e.g.

I saw a couple of fish in the pond.

(This may mean a few)

I have been to Spain a couple of times.

(This is more likely to mean exactly two, as the thing being counted is more precise)

[Br]

Lesson 050-1

(A) His doctor advised Bill to cut down on his drinking.

(B) Bill's doctor advised him to cut down on his drinking.

Question

Which is better, (A) or (B)? If both are equally natural, what is the difference (of focus)?

Answer

(B) is better. We shouldn't really start a sentence with 'His' or 'Her' unless the identity of the person has already been made clear. In this case it obviously hasn't previously been made clear, as his name is used.

[Br]

Lesson 051-1

- (A) I consider myself to be a hard worker.
- (B) I consider myself a hard worker.

Question

Is (A) more formal than (B)? When would you choose one or the other?

Answer

Yes, (A) is slightly more formal than (B) but they are effectively interchangeable in modern usage. I wouldn't consciously choose one or the other in any given situation. [Br]

(注) interchangeable 相互に置き換え可能

Lesson 051-2

- (A) We hope you will find our services to be of use.
- (B) We hope you will find our services of use.

Question

Is there any difference between the two sentences? Is (A) more formal than (B)?

Answer

(A) is slightly more formal. There is no difference in the meanings. And again, they are basically interchangeable. I cannot imagine a situation where to use one rather than the other would be considered wrong or rude. [Br]

Lesson 052-2

"I think Pat is in love." "What makes you say that?"

Question

What do you think is the reason for the speaker saying "What makes you say that?" rather than "Why do you say that?"

Answer 1

Perhaps the person is more specifically referring to an incident that occurred. WHY would be used for any reason that caused the person to think that way, but WHAT would be used to speak of a specific action or incident that may have occurred. However, both questions would likely receive the same answer. [Am]

Answer 2

There is no reason to use this different expression. Both 'why do you' and 'what makes you' mean the same thing. It is the same as saying 'call' rather than 'phone'. Both are correct and mean the same thing but we often have more than one correct expression. There is no difference in nuance either. [Br]

Lesson 055-3

Pat was raised overseas until she was 15.

Question

Does this sentence mean that when Pat was 15 she was still abroad?

Answer

Almost certainly, unless she returned home at the exact hour of her 15th birthday. More likely, yes, she was still abroad after she turned fifteen but returned at some point while she was still fifteen and not yet sixteen. [Br]

Lesson 055-5

Her novel became a bestseller and was made into a film.

Question

Is it acceptable to change "was made into a film" to "was made a film"?

Answer

I have seen it written before, but I don't count it as acceptable myself. I don't think it is a natural expression. [Br]

Lesson 058-5

The sidewalk was covered (with, in, by) fallen leaves.

Question

Choose the right option(s) in this sentence. Tell me if there is any difference in meaning.

Answer

All three options are correct and in this case mean exactly the same thing. In other examples, 'by' and 'with' could be conceived to mean 'completely covered', whereas 'in' might mean only 'partially covered', but really there is very little difference in nuance. [Br]

Lesson 058-6

(a) He was known (to, by) the police for his anti-social behavior.

(b) His name is known (to, by) only a small number of Americans.

Question

Choose the correct option in each bracket. Tell me if both are equally correct and there is any difference in meaning.

Answer

(a) In most cases 'by' is correct, but in the particular case of the police, 'to' is often used.

(b) As at (a), 'by' is better here, as it is the most commonly used. 'to' isn't wrong though.

[Br]

Lesson 058-6

- (A) We're known to many people for the quality of our products.
(B) We're known by many people for the quality of our products.

Question

Which is more common, "to" or "by" in this sentence? Tell me the difference between "be known to" and "be known by"?

Answer

There is practically no difference between the two phrases. Certainly they function in the same way. For all intents and purposes they mean the same thing. [Br]

Lesson 063-4

Hank was known to have a short temper.

Question

Is it possible to change this sentence to "Hank was known for a short temper."?

Answer

Yes, it is possible, but the first version is better. 'known for having' would also be OK. [Br]

Lesson 065-5

- (a) Mike got hit by a bike and had his arm broken.
(b) Mike was hit by a bike and had his arm broken.
(c) Mike was hit by a bike and got his arm broken.
(d) Mike was hit by a bike and his arm was broken.

Question

Which sentence would you most likely use and least likely to (or never) use?

Answer 1

Actually, we would not use any of those options. We would be more likely to say "Mike was hit by a bike, which left him with a broken arm" or "Mike was hit by a bike and broke his arm." [Am]

Answer 2

I would always use (B). Some people do say 'got hit', but to me it sounds as though he wanted it to happen, which would be strange. [Br]

Question

Does "got his arm broken" in (C) sound as though the speaker wanted it to happen?

Answer

Yes, a little bit. 'got' is more usually used for good things, not bad things that we didn't want. But people do say it casually like this when talking. I would never write it with 'got' though. [Br]

Lesson 068-4

- (a) What are you planning to major in?
- (b) What do you plan to major in?

Question

Tell me if there is any difference in meaning.

Answer

(a) would be used if you were asking this to someone who has been putting some thought into their future. If you are unsure of whether or not the person has been thinking about their future, then you might use question (b). The response to question (a) would probably be in great detail, but the response to question (b) could be very vague (e.g., "I don't know."). Both questions are acceptable though. [Am]

Lesson 069-4

Tell me when and where to (meet you, meet), and I'll be there.

Question

Which is better, "meet you" or "meet"? And why?

Answer

If you are talking directly to someone then sometimes it isn't necessary to say 'you', as it is clear that nobody else is involved. Both ways are acceptable. [Br]

Lesson 71-1

What's an inexpensive place to go for (winter break, a winter break) ?

Question 1

Which option is (more) appropriate? If both are fine, what is the difference in meaning?

Answer

In this case the two options have different meanings or at least nuances. 'winter break' means the period over the winter when people have time off from work. 'a winter break' would be an actual trip, traveling somewhere for a holiday. So although both are correct but mean slightly different things, in general conversation, they are used interchangeably. [Br]

Question 2

Is it OK to change "What" to "Where"?

Answer

Yes, it is. Both are acceptable. [Br]

Lesson 071-4

- (a) Ron is saving money to buy a used car.
- (b) Ron is saving money with which to buy a used car.
- (c) Ron is saving money in order to buy a used car.

Question

Does (a) mean (b) or (c)?

Answer

(a) means both (b) and (c), though perhaps (c) is more commonly used than (b). All three are correct.

[Br]

Lesson 76-2

He's easy to forget.

Question

You never say "He's easy to be forgotten", do you?

Answer

No. But you might say he is 'easily forgotten'. *[Br]*

Lesson 084-5

I (can't, cannot) imagine Andy cleaning the bathroom.

Question

Do both options sound natural in this sentence?

Answer

Both options sound natural, but we may use CAN'T more often than CANNOT in this kind of informal situation. *[Am]*

Lesson 085-5

- (a) This needs doing as soon as possible.
- (b) This needs to be done as soon as possible.
- (c) I think your pants need ironing.
- (d) I think your pants need to be ironed.

Question 1

Which is more natural sounding, (a) or (b), and (c) or (d), respectively?

Answer

While it is fairly common to see the format NEED DOING, it is both informal and awkward sounding. This does not mean that it is grammatically incorrect, it just sounds odd. Most people would agree that NEEDS TO BE DONE is much better sounding. I would use the other format if you were speaking a bit more formally or if you wanted to just sound better (e.g., "This needs to be [fixed, done, changed, repaired, etc.]"). Using something like NEEDS FIXING is more commonly used in the southern areas of America, but not in the northern areas. *[Am]*

Question 2

Which is more commonly said in daily conversation, (a) or (b), and (c) or (d), respectively? Do you feel (a) and (c) are awkward sounding?

Answer

I would actually say that (although all four sentences are natural English) (a) and (c) are more commonly used in daily conversation. They are slightly more casual and perhaps wouldn't be used in written English, unless in a very casual communication with a friend. *[Br]*

Lesson 80-6

Excuse me. I seem to have lost my way. Where (am I, are we) on this map?

Question

Which option is used more commonly?

Answer

If you are talking to someone then it should be more natural to use 'we', but in fact both are used commonly. *[Br]*

Lesson 81-3

My philosophy is never to compare myself with others.

Question

If you say "to never compare" instead of "never to compare", does it emphasize the word "never"?

Answer

Yes it does. But it is a very small emphasis, and most people probably wouldn't notice it. *[Br]*

Lesson 091-3

- (a) We will miss your smiling face. May you rest in peace.
- (b) We miss your smiling face. May you rest in peace.

Question

Which is more natural sounding? If both are, when do you use (a) and (b) respectively?

Answer

Option (a) is certainly more common, because the future tense implies that we will always miss your smiling face. Option (b) implies that we miss it right now, but prolonging the feeling is more sentimental. [Am]

Lesson 109-2

(The rumors, Rumors) that Evans is going bankrupt are false.

Question

Which option is better?

Answer

'the rumors'. 'rumors' would be ok as a newspaper headline or for a newsreader to say, but other than that it isn't a very natural thing for someone to say. [Br]

Lesson 110-3

Mike, can you go see if Joe is up yet?

Question

Is it OK to change "Joe is up yet" to "Joe is already up"?

Answer

Yes, that would be fine. [Br]

Lesson 112-6

They argued over who should take out the trash.

Question

Is it OK to use "which" instead of "who"?

Answer

No. In this case 'which of them' or 'which one' would be OK, but 'who' is better. [Am]

Lesson 115-3

(a) Who do you think you are? Some kind of expert?

(b) Who do you think you are? Some expert?

Question

Do you think (b) sounds strange? If so, why?

Answer

Yes, (b) sounds strange. I'm not really sure why. There isn't really any rule against it, I have just never heard it used before, so it strikes me as strange/unnatural. [Br]

Lesson 117-3

I have a friend whose name is the same as yours.

Question

Can you also say, "I have a friend with the same name as yours."?

Answer

Yes, that would also be acceptable. [Br]

Lesson 120-2

Nick was a business consultant whose (opinion, opinions) Bill trusted.

Question

Which is better?

Answer

Neither is better. The singular 'opinion' could be used to mean his general opinion of many things and so not really be singular. They both mean the same thing really, and are both used commonly. [Br]

(注) singular 单数 (形)

Lesson 125-1

"Your total is \$19.52." "Oh, that's the year I was born."

Question

I think "\$19.52" reads as follows:

"nineteen dollars and fifty-two"

"nineteen and fifty-two"

"nineteen fifty-two".

Do you also read it as "nineteen point fifty-two dollars"?

Answer

No. We never read it as 'point' when talking about money, unless it is millions (e.g. ¥4.5 million) then it would be four point five million. [Br]

Lesson 125-2

The reason I called is (that, because) I've got some good news for you.

Question

Which option would you choose? Does it depend on whether it is written or spoken?

Answer

No, it doesn't change for whichever situation. I think 'that' is better because, 'reason' and 'because' have similar meanings. I would say 'The reason I called is that...' or 'I called because...' [Br]

Lesson 132-4

- (a) Please feel free to sit anywhere you want.
- (b) Please feel free to sit anywhere you like.

Question

Which is more commonly said?

Answer

Option (b) is more common. [Am]

Lesson 135-5-1

- (a) Mr Lee behaves as if she were superior to Joe.
- (b) Mr Lee behaves as if she was superior to Joe.
- (c) Mr Lee behaves as if she is superior to Joe.

Question

With regard to counterfactuality, please answer the following three questions:

- (1) If I know Mr Lee is NOT superior to Joe, which would you choose?
- (2) If I know Mr Lee is superior (e.g. because he's Joe's boss), which would you choose?
- (3) If we don't know whether Mr Lee is superior or not (because we don't have enough information to judge this), which would you choose?

Answer

(1) - I would choose option (a). The subjunctive mood (were) is generally used for present or future tense statements, and BEHAVES is certainly present tense. I would only use WAS if BEHAVES was written in the past tense (i.e., "... behaved as if he was...").

The answers to the other questions would require different formats altogether.

(2) - "Mr. Lee is Joe's superior." It is better to use the verb IS in this response, because it shows the known status or being of a noun. Using AS IF in this context conveys that he is posing as something he's not, so it would not fit this response.

(3) - "It seems as if Mr. Lee is superior to Joe." This format shows that you think Mr. Lee is demonstrating superiority, but you are not really sure who is actually superior.

[Am]

(注) counterfactuality 反事実

Lesson 139

mustn't, mayn't, mightn't, shan't, oughtn't

Question 1

Which word(s) above (contracted forms of auxiliary verbs) are rarely used in American English?

Answer

To be honest, we don't use any of those frequently. However, out of all those you listed, you would be more likely to find MUSN'T or OUGHTN'T being used. [Am]

Question 2

Which word(s) above (contracted forms of auxiliary verbs) are rarely used? Tell me in terms of both British and American usage.

Answer

In Britain, 'mayn't' is never used. 'mightn't', 'shan't' and 'oughtn't' are rarely used, but 'mustn't' is quite common. In America, I'm afraid I couldn't say, without asking some American people. I am sure that they don't use 'shan't' as it sounds very British though. [Br]

(注) contracted 短縮された auxiliary verb 助動詞

Lesson 141-4

(a) Won't you have some coffee?

(b) Will you have some coffee?

Question

Is (a) more common than (b) to express invitation? Any comment on usage?

Answer

I think (b) is probably more common, but it really just depends on the person. There is no difference in usage, both can be used in any situation. [Br]

Lesson 142-1

We will be landing shortly. Please remain seated.

Question

If "We will be landing shortly" can be said more briefly as "We will land shortly", why do you use the future progressive? What's the merit/purpose of it?

Answer

I don't think it has a merit or purpose. There may be some reason that airline companies instruct their pilots/staff to speak in that tense, but I think more likely, someone said it first for whatever reason and after that their people said it the same way and now it has become the standard way to say it. It is also perhaps, softer and friendlier sounding than the short version. [Br]

(注) future progressive 未来進行形 tense 時制

Lesson 142-1

- (a) We will be landing shortly. Please remain seated.
- (b) We are going to land shortly. Please remain seated.

Question

I think the two sentences mean the same and that (a) is more formal than (b), which is why (a) is said as a captain's announcement. What do you think?

Answer

The two sentences basically mean the same thing, but they have slightly different implications in this situation. However, it would be correct to say that (a) is more formal than (b). [Am]

(注) implication 含意

Lesson 143-4

You'll be (a fan of him, a fan of his, his fan) when you have read his biography.

Question

Are all the three options OK? If so, put them in the order of usage frequency.

Answer

Yes, they are all used. The frequency is probably 1) a fan of his 2) his fan 3) a fan of him. [Br]

(注) order 順番 usage frequency 使用頻度

Lesson 144-5

You can't sit there -- (that table, the table) is reserved.

Question

Which option is more natural?

Answer

'that' is more natural. It is a specific table which is being pointed out among many tables. 'the' would suggest only one table. [Br]

Lesson 145-1

Never mind Anyone can make (a mistake, mistakes).

Question

Which option is better and why?

Answer

Although both are used interchangeably, it should depend on how many mistakes have been made. 1 = a mistake. More than 1 = mistakes. [Br]

Lesson 147-4

You must drop by the next time you are in town.

Question

Some people say "must" sounds formal, especially when used as an "obligation." Does this sentence sound formal or not? In a more casual situation, would you say, "You have to drop by ..." or "You've got to drop by ...?"

Answer

I think there is very little difference in strength between 'have to' and 'must'. When used as an obligation though, it does sound a little bit formal and direct. 'should' would be more casual. [Br]

(注) obligation 義務、責務

Lesson 148-1

You can't be her son--you must be her grandson.

Question

Does "must" sound formal? Do you also say "you have to be her grandson" or "you've got to be her grandson" instead?

Answer

No, it is fine in this case. It doesn't sound formal and the other two sentences are very rarely used. [Br]

Lesson 149-1

"Shall I help you with the luggage?" "Thanks."

Question 1

Does "Shall I" sound very formal? If so, what do you usually say instead?

Answer 1

Using SHALL does sound like something a bellboy at a fancy hotel would say. If I were talking to my friend, then I would use something like "Do you need/want help with your luggage?" (Using NEED or WANT is determined by whether or not you really want to help them. If you really want to be of assistance, then use WANT. If you are merely being polite, but would rather not help, then it would be better to use NEED.) [Am]

Answer 2

Yes, 'shall' is a little old fashioned and is rarely used these days especially in US English. 'Can I' or 'May I' are used instead. [Br]

Question 2

Is "Shall I" a little old-fashioned and rarely used in British English too?

Answer

It is still used commonly in British English. [Br]

(注) fancy 高級な

Lesson 149-2

"When shall we meet?" "What about the day after tomorrow?"

Question 1

How can you express the first sentence without using "shall we"?

Answer

'When would you like to meet?'' [Br]

Question 2

Is "Shall we" a little old-fashioned and rarely used in British English too?

Answer

Not really, in British English this wouldn't sound very old fashioned. Americans however would never say that. [Br]

Lesson 150

- (A) You would better go to sleep.
- (B) You had better go to sleep.
- (C) You better go to sleep.

Question

Which sentence above is incorrect?

Answer

(A) is incorrect. (B) and (C) are acceptable in informal usage. They use "had better" or "better" as an auxiliary verb to indicate "obligation" or "advice". [Br]

Lesson 151-5

- (a) On Sundays we would often go for a family drive.
- (b) On Sundays we often went for a family drive.

Question

Both (a) and (b) mean the same thing. When would you use (a) rather than (b)?

Answer

Personally I would use (a), but I think usage is probably about 50/50. There may be some regional discrepancies (US/UK), but not that I know of. [Br]

(注) discrepancy 差異

Lesson 151-5

On Sundays we would often go for a family drive.

Question

Why did the speaker use "would"? He could have just said, "On Sundays we often went for a family drive." What's the function of "would"?

Answer

It is a style used when reminiscing about the past. I don't think it has a function. It is only used when talking about things you often did in the past.

e.g.

When I was young, I would walk to the station every morning.

[Br]

Question

You said "It is a style used when reminiscing about the past". Does it mean you use "would" when you talk about "enjoyable" experiences and never about "unpleasant" experiences?

Answer

Yes, I think that is true, though it isn't a grammar rule as such. Usually it is used to talk about pleasant things. [Br]

(注) reminisce 回想する

Lesson 154-1

(A) If you eat now, you won't be able to eat dinner.

(B) If you eat now, you can't eat dinner.

Question

(B) is shorter and simpler. Why do you use (A), which is more complicated?

Answer

Because (B) is denying permission rather than saying that the person won't be capable of eating. It means 'I will not allow you to eat dinner.' [Br]

Lesson 156-5

"How much do you weigh?" "(), I'd rather not say."

Question

Please show me as many options as possible to fill in the blank--the briefer, the better.

Answer

1 - Actually

2 - Honestly

3 - Sorry

[Am]

Lesson 158-2

- (A) Now that I think about it, I may have been wrong.
- (B) Now that I think about it, I might have been wrong.

Question

Is there any difference between "may" and "might"?

Answer

'may' is slightly more formal. [Br]

Lesson 160-2

You could've told me this in advance. I wouldn't have said anything to anyone.

Question

Does this imply that the speaker actually "said" something to someone?

Answer

No it doesn't. The person is just saying what they would have done if they had been told. [Br]

Lesson 161-5

- (A) If you won millions in the lottery, would you still work?
- (B) If you were to win millions in the lottery, would you still work?
- (C) If you should win millions in the lottery, would you still work?

Question 1

I understand that (A) (B) (C) mean the same and (C) is least used. Is this correct?

Answer

Your statement is correct, though in Britain we would say 'on' the lottery. [Br]

Question 2

I understand (c) is mainly used in British English and rarely used in both British and American English. Is this correct?

Answer

We do not commonly use SHOULD like this, so I think what you heard is correct. As for the sentences, you placed them in the proper order of most common (a) to least common (c). Option (b) is slightly more formal than (a). [Am]

Lesson 161-5-2

- (a) If you should get worse, be sure to see a doctor.
- (b) If you get worse, be sure to see a doctor.

Question

About the function of "should". The English-speaking people I asked replied that (a) sounds more formal than (b), and the possibility of you getting worse is neutral, whereas a number of (mainly British) grammar books say "should" implies lower possibility of that happening, that is, it is unlikely that "you get worse" but ... Which is true?

Answer

I agree that (a) sounds more formal. Using SHOULD, grammatically speaking, indicates the possibility of something happening. However, it does not indicate whether that possibility is high or low. I have to agree with their assessment of this sentence. [Am]

Lesson 161-5-2

- (A) If you should have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.
- (B) Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Question

In business writing we often see this "if ... should" form as in (a). Do you feel that "should" indicates low possibility? Or is the speaker just saying "If you have any questions" in a more polite or formal way? Also, when/why do you use the inverted sentence (b) rather than (a)?

Answer 1

In my opinion, there is no relevance to lower possibility. It is just a more polite form. As you guessed, the inverted form is just a part of formal/business speak. That being said (B) is also quite formal. More so than 'If you have any questions'. I guess it is just up to the individual, which way they prefer to write/say it. Both (A) and (B) are acceptable in business communications. [Br]

Answer 2

I feel that (A) is merely a formal way to express "If you have any questions". Option (B) is merely an even more formal way to express (A). The meaning does not change, but (B) is commonly seen in more formal business matters. Some people consider (B) to be more idiomatic. It is much easier to simply say SHOULD YOU than IF YOU SHOULD. [Am]

Answer 3

In business English, this is nearly always an expression of formality/politeness. It does also carry a nuance of low possibility, but only because this makes it seem more polite/deferential--it is not actually a comment on real-world likelihood. [Au]

(注) inverted 倒置の relevance 関係 formality 表現の正式さ [堅さ] deferential 敬意を示す

Lesson 162-4

Had it not been on sale, I would have bought it.

Question

Is it OK to change "Had it not been" to "Haven't it been"? If so, is the former more formal than the latter?

Answer

In modern English we wouldn't use this contraction. It was used in the past (About the time of the Sherlock Holmes books) It sounds strange. [Br]

(注) contraction 短縮

Lesson 165-1

- (a) Is it all right if I take tomorrow off?
- (b) Will it be all right if I take tomorrow off?

Question

Which sentence is used more commonly?

Answer

Both are used commonly, but perhaps 'Is it' is more common. 'Will it' is more formal though. [Br]

Lesson 165-2

Would you mind if I turned the radio on?

Question

Is this sentence too formal for a casual conversation between friends or family members? If so, what would you say instead?

Answer

Yes, it is a little too formal. 'Can I turn on the radio?', or 'Is it OK if I turn on the radio?' would be better.

[Br]

Lesson 165-5

I wonder if I could copy your notes.

Question

Does the verb "copy" mean "photocopy"?

Answer

No. It would normally mean copying them out by hand. 'copy' means 'to do the same as', in this case.

[Br]

(注) photocopy (コピー機で) 複写する

Lesson 166-1

- (a) If you mix red, blue, and yellow, you get brown.
- (b) If you mix red, blue, and yellow, you will get brown.

Question

In what situation do you use each sentence?

Answer

I guess (a) is stating or explaining a fact. (b) could be more in way of instructions to people who are actually mixing colors. But, to be honest, sometimes people add 'will' in this situation quite randomly and without any intention to change the nuance or meaning. [Br]

Lesson 168-3

- (a) It's time we got a new washing machine.
- (b) It's time (for us) to get a new washing machine.

Question 1

I think (a) carries a nuance of regret, i.e. "We should have gotten a new washing machine some time ago", while (b) simply means "The time has come to get a new washing machine." What do you think?

Answer

- (a) certainly has a little regret, and (b) simply means 'it is time'. [Br]

Question 2

Which sentence is more commonly used, (a) or (b)?

Answer

Both (a) and (b) are used a lot, but people may tend to use (a) more when they are speaking to people they know really well. [Am]

Lesson 168-5

- (A) How long is it since we last met?
- (B) How long has it been since we last met?

Question

When do you use (A) and (B), respectively? Is there any difference in formality?

Answer

- (B) is more formal, so I would use it in more formal circumstance, but not with close friends or family.
[Br]

(注) formality 正式な [堅い] 言い方かどうかということ

Lesson 169-2

- (A) It's fun being here. We all like it here.
(B) It's fun to be here. We all like it here.

Question

Do you think (A) is more casual than (B)?

Answer

I would say (A) is slightly more casual than (B). But really there is little or no difference. [Br]

Lesson 169-5

- (A) I often find it hard to get out of bed in the morning.
(B) I often find it hard getting out of bed in the morning.

Question

Does (B) sound natural? If so, is it more casual than (A)?

Answer

Yes (B) sounds natural. I don't think it is more or less casual than (A), it is just using the infinitive rather than the gerund. [Br]

(注) infinitive 不定詞 gerund 動名詞

Lesson 174-7

- (A) Which route will get me there the fastest?
(B) Which route will get me there fastest?

Question

Which is more often used, "the fastest" or "fastest"?

Answer

Since 'fastest' is a superlative, it should always use 'the'. But, many native speakers drop 'the' when speaking and writing casually. In actuality (B) is incorrect, but they are both used often. [Br]

(注) superlative 最上級

Lesson 180-5

- (A) Your summary should be one-third to one-fourth as long as the original text.
(B) Your summary should be one-third to one-quarter as long as the original text.

Question

Is (B) OK? If so, which is more often said?

Answer

Yes (B) is OK, and in my experience it is more commonly used. [Br]