

Grammar in Cambridge Exams

Throughout all the Cambridge exams, grammar plays an important role. In this file, you will find the ten most important points that are tested most often in paper 3 (Use of English) in FCE. There are examples for each grammar point and at the end of the file you will find a list of useful books that can help you to revise some aspects.

1. Comparisons, Adjectives and Adverbs

Sue is a **better tennis player than** me.

She drives **more carefully than** me.

I don't play tennis **as well as** Sue does.

2. So and such

I wish I wasn't **so tired** all the time.

That is **such a good book**, you should read it.

It was **such bad weather** that we decided to stay at home.

Such few people came that the meeting was cancelled.

3. The -ing form versus the Infinitive

He apologised **for being** so late.

They persuaded her **to sing** another song.

I'm not **used to writing** texts by hand.

I'm **looking forward to hearing** from you again.

He isn't **old enough to see** the film.

4. Word Formation: Nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs

There was an unexpected staff **shortage**.

I have **shortened** the legs of my trousers.

5. The Present Perfect and the Past Simple

He **has been working** here for three weeks.

I **haven't seen** him since I was ten.

It's the first time we've **eaten** paella.

I **bought** a new car yesterday.

6. Reported Speech, Reporting Verbs

Mary said she **was leaving** for Amsterdam the following day.

He asked me **where we were meeting**.

I **told her not to** make a fuss.

7. Conditionals

I'll give you some chocolate **if** you ask me nicely.

If I knew her address I would tell you.

If she hadn't helped me I wouldn't have managed.

8. The Passive

The burglars **were caught** by the police.

These pills **must be taken** twice a day.

9. Relative Clauses, Relative Pronouns

People **who** never drink alcohol are called teetotaler.

A match is **something you** use to light a fire.

Peter, **whose** car was stolen last month, always makes sure to keep his garage door locked.

10. Phrasals and the Use of Prepositions

She often **looks after** her baby brother.

She is very **fond of** her puppy dog.

(adapted from FCE organiser and Ready for FCE)

If the grammar structures in the examples above do not look familiar to you, we strongly recommend revising these basic FCE grammar rules. For this purpose, you might find one of the following books useful:

English Grammar in Use with Answers and CD-ROM, by Raymond Murphy
ISBN 978-0521189392

First Certificate organiser, by John Flower
ISBN 978-1424051328

Oxford Grammar Practice, intermediate, by John Eastwood
ISBN 978-0194579803