

# Grammar for the Real World

Jon Hird, Italy TESOL 2018

## Real contexts

Without context, meaning can never be complete. Noel Goodey

3 Che cosa ti aspetti che succeda in ciascuna situazione? Usa *should* e i verbi nel riquadro.

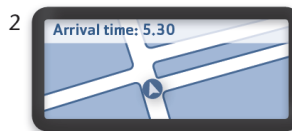
arrive arrive be win

▶ It *should be hot tomorrow* .

1 Juventus \_\_\_\_\_ .

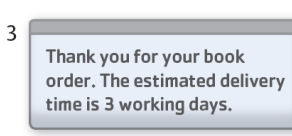
2 We \_\_\_\_\_ .

3 The book \_\_\_\_\_ .



1

19.00	News
19.30	The Big Match: Juventus v Chievo
21.00	Football highlights



1 Completa le frasi in modo che siano vere. Usa la forma affermativa e quella negativa di *be*.

▶ Milan *isn't* \_\_\_\_\_ the capital city of Italy. Rome *is* \_\_\_\_\_ the capital.

1 Monaco \_\_\_\_\_ in Italy. It \_\_\_\_\_ in France.

2 Milan and Genoa \_\_\_\_\_ in the south of Italy. They \_\_\_\_\_ in the north.

3 The Apennines \_\_\_\_\_ lakes. They \_\_\_\_\_ mountains.

4 The Italian flag \_\_\_\_\_ red, white and blue. It \_\_\_\_\_ red, white and green.

## Real language

Authentic language shows how language operates in the 'real world' rather than in the mind of the writer ... A diet of artificial text can make language learning more difficult for learners. David Nunan

We didn't succeed in starting the car.

The car won't start.

Are you tall?

Are you ready?

Are these people having a holiday in Italy?

Are they here on holiday?

**TIP** Quando ci si accorge che qualcosa non funziona bene, di solito si usa **won't start, won't work** ecc.  
My scooter **won't start**. *Lo scooter non parte.*  
The TV **won't turn on**. *Il televisore non si accende.*  
The window **won't open**. *La finestra non si apre.*

## Real use

**Any** in frasi affermative significa *qualsiasi, qualunque*, che è il suo significato più comune.  
You can catch **any** of these buses. *Puoi prendere uno qualunque di questi autobus.*  
I love **any** film with Johnny Depp in it. *Qualsiasi film con Johnny Depp mi piace moltissimo.*

A Is snowboarding difficult?

B No, \_\_\_\_\_ can do it if they try.

A Do you prefer a window or an aisle seat?

B I don't mind. I'm happy to sit \_\_\_\_\_

I hope this finds you well. I'm actually just enquiring on behalf of a teacher friend and colleague of mine. She's Russian and **is wanting to** get some teaching work in the UK.

It is not verbs which are stative or dynamic, but situations.

Jack Richards

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## Real usefulness

**TIP** Di solito in cartelli e avvisi si usa **must** (e non **have to**) anche se in questi casi si tratta di normative o leggi. Visitors **must** report to reception. *Si pregano i visitatori di presentarsi alla ricezione.*

**TIP** **When did you last ... ?** (Quando è stata l'ultima volta che ... ?) è un'espressione utile. **When did you last** see James? *Quando è stata l'ultima volta che hai visto James?*

**TIP** **How did ... go?** è una domanda frequente. **How did** your exam **go?** ~ It **went OK**, I think. *Com'è andato l'esame? ~ È andato bene, credo.*

► Your friend had an eye test. It was OK.

A How did your eye test go?

B It went OK.

1 Your friend had an exam. It was fine.

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

2 Your friend had a job interview. It was really bad.

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

3 Your friend had a date. It was really good.

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

## Real context, language, use, usefulness, engagement

3 Completa le domande con *what, who, which countries* e i verbi nel riquadro.

be become discover invent live share star start be



How much do you know about the USA and American culture? Do this quiz to find out.

► Who discovered America in 1492?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ in the White House?

2 \_\_\_\_\_ jeans in 1850?

3 \_\_\_\_\_ in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films?

4 \_\_\_\_\_ a border with the USA?

5 \_\_\_\_\_ a well-known symbol of the USA?

6 \_\_\_\_\_ the USA's first black president in 2009?

7 \_\_\_\_\_ Google in 1998?

8 \_\_\_\_\_ the first man on the moon?

*Language learning is most effective when students engage in meaningful activities rather than just 'going through the motions'.*

Kay & Jones

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