

Lesson 1

How Long Have You Been Here?

ARE YOU READY FOR THE LESSON?

Lesson 1, *How Long Have You Been Here?*, will take you somewhere you may know very well: the INS office. You'll listen in on a conversation between two people waiting in line, which is something people unfortunately do very often, and which is also a situation in which Americans like to make "small talk." Then, you'll learn some vocabulary that will come in handy at the INS or anywhere you have to fill out forms. But that's not all. Lesson 1 also includes:

- The Present Perfect Tense vs. The Simple Past Tense
- Using *or* and *since* with the Present Perfect and Simple Past Tenses
- Phrasal Verbs with *pick*
- Idiomatic Expressions for Saying Goodbye

Finally, at the end of the lesson you'll read a culture note about casual greetings and acquaintances. But let's start with a pronunciation warm-up. Ready?

1A SAY IT CLEARLY!

 Turn on your CD to review the pronunciation of *-ed*, a very important ending in English.

1B ENGLISH AT WORK

Dialogue: Making Small Talk

Sergei, a Russian immigrant, is waiting in line at the INS. The line is very long, and it's moving very slowly. Peter, an American standing in front of Sergei, turns around and strikes up a conversation. Sergei is surprised by his friendliness.

-  **Peter** I guess we didn't have anything else to do today, did we?
Sergei What?
- Peter** I said I guess they think that we didn't have anything else to do today. It's just that we've been in this line for a very long time. It seems like we aren't going anywhere very fast.
- Sergei** Yeah. I know. I've been here since about 9:30. What about you?
- Peter** I think I got here just a few minutes before you did. I decided to pick up a green-card application for my wife. I should've gotten it off the Internet. That way I could have just stayed home. Say, where are you from?
- Sergei** Me? I'm from Russia.
- Peter** Oh, whereabouts?
- Sergei** I lived in Moscow for most of my life, but I moved around a little. I was in the military.

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- Peter** Interesting. I've never been to Russia, but I've always wanted to visit. It seems like such an interesting country. How long have you lived here?
- Sergei** I've lived in San Diego for only a few weeks, but I've been in the U.S. since August.
- Peter** Well, welcome to San Diego. I guess the weather must be a bit warmer than where you're from, huh?
- Sergei** Yes, that's true. I've gotten used to it.
- Peter** Have you visited the zoo or Balboa Park yet?
- Sergei** No, but I really want to go to Balboa Park. I've heard about all the flowers and museums that are there.
- Clerk** next!
- Peter** Hey. That's me. Gotta go. See you around.
- Sergei** Oh. OK. See you.

1C BUILD YOUR VOCABULARY



Perhaps you need to go to the I. N. S. to fill out some forms. Here are some terms you would see if you were to fill out an application to register for permanent residence. Many of these words have other meanings, but these are the usages you will see on I. N. S. forms and other legal documents.

To be cited. To be summoned to appear in court. *The police could cite you for littering if you throw trash out of your car.*

To be indicted. To be charged with a crime. *Richard Hayward was indicted for espionage when he was caught selling U.S. documents to a foreign government.*

Ordinance. A law or regulation, usually passed by a local government. *The city council passed an ordinance permitting the use of marijuana by cancer patients.*

Beneficiary. A person who is or will be the recipient of something of value from someone who has died. *Harold and Gerry were the sole beneficiaries of their mother's modest estate.*

Rehabilitation. Treatment to help someone return to regular, acceptable, or normal behavior or abilities. Recovery from drug abuse or physical injuries. *It was difficult to convince the governor that Sam had been successfully rehabilitated and was ready to leave jail and return to society.*

Clemency. A lesser penalty than what a court originally suggested. *Thinking that Ralph Smith had suffered enough for the crime he committed, the judge granted him clemency and gave him a shorter prison sentence.*

Amnesty. A pardon given to a large group of individuals. *The government granted amnesty to all illegal immigrants who had come to work in the fields.*

Procure. To obtain, to buy, to take possession of something of value. *Professor Hodges wanted to procure some ancient artifacts before returning from his sabbatical in Africa.*

To engage in. To become involved in something, to do something. *Teresa would never engage in illegal activities, even if she disagreed with a law.*

To induce. To influence someone to do something. *Robbie's older brother induced him to steal money from their parents.*

To conspire. To plan together in secret to do harm. *Kathy and Jane conspired to make Mary look foolish.*

To solicit. To ask for something of value, usually money. *Raymond got a job soliciting money for his political party.*

To sabotage. To destroy or cause to fail. *The lab technician sabotaged the experiment by deliberately mixing up the samples.*

Espionage. Spying. *Espionage was a common practice during the Cold War, and it still is today.*

Affiliated. To be in close connection. *The local television stations are all affiliated with major networks.*

To persecute. To harass, to cause someone to suffer because of a belief. *Many people have come to the United States because they were persecuted in their countries.*

To incite. To move to action, to cause. *The Prime Minister's latest announcement incited the protesting crowd to become violent.*

Fraud. A false claim, trick; a liar or imposter. *Sam Jameson created a false medical license and began practicing medicine until he was exposed as a fraud.*

Waiver. A document that gives up a right or grants unusual permission to someone else. *Juan signed a waiver giving his doctor the right to send his medical records to his insurance company.*

Custody. Having legal guardianship of a child or children, often part of a divorce settlement. *When the Camerons divorced, Mrs. Cameron received custody of both children, and her husband won weekend visitation rights.*

1D ENGLISH UNDER THE HOOD

TOPIC 1: The Present Perfect Tense vs. the Simple Past Tense

Let's take a look at the two most common past tenses in English: the present perfect tense and the simple past tense.

Present Perfect	Simple Past
<i>I have spoken</i>	<i>I spoke</i>
<i>you have spoken</i>	<i>you spoke</i>
<i>he, she, it has spoken</i>	<i>he, she, it spoke</i>
<i>we have spoken</i>	<i>we spoke</i>
<i>they have spoken</i>	<i>they spoke</i>

As you can see, the present perfect tense is formed with the verb to *have* and the past participle of the main verb, in this case, *spoken*. The simple past tense is just the past form of the verb, which in this case is *spoke*. These tenses are used a bit differently. The present perfect tense expresses an event that happened in the past when the exact time is not known, or when there's a result or a connection being made to the present, or when the time reference is still unfinished, as in *so far this week*, or *up to now*, or *during my entire life*. The simple past tense, on the other hand, expresses an action that happened when a specific finished time is given, such as *yesterday* or *last*.

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week or in 1995. Sometimes these tenses are interchangeable, depending on what the speaker wishes to emphasize. Here are a few examples.

Julia has returned from her trip. (No specific time is given or is important, and the speaker is emphasizing that Julia is now home.)

Julia returned from her trip. (Perhaps this is part of a longer narration of events in the past.)

I finished reading the novel last night. ("Last night" indicates a specific time in the past.)

Has Pam ever been to New York? ("Ever" means "during her entire life.")

I worked five days last week. ("Last week" is finished time.)

So far this week I've worked three days. ("This week" is unfinished time.)

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1: Complete each of the following sentences with either the present perfect or simple past tense.

1. _____ (drive) Mary her new car to Santa Barbara yesterday.
2. _____ (not try) Sam on his new pants yet.
3. _____ (buy) We a new house last week.
4. _____ (eat) _____ you ever fried bananas?
5. _____ (not go) Mr. and Mrs. Denton out of town last weekend.
6. _____ (see) I _____ never *The Birds*.
7. _____ (not speak) He _____ much English during his trip last April.
8. _____ (miss) _____ you _____ me while I was gone?
9. _____ (dance) you ever the salsa?
10. _____ (get) Richard a new car last week.

TOPIC 2: Verbs with Irregular Forms in the Past and Present Perfect Tenses

A lot of common verbs have irregular simple past and past participial forms. Here are some of the more common ones. You'll also find a list of all of the most important irregular verbs in the appendix on page 211.

Present	Past	Past Participle
<i>be</i>	<i>was/were</i>	<i>been</i>
<i>begin</i>	<i>began</i>	<i>begun</i>
<i>bring</i>	<i>brought</i>	<i>brought</i>
<i>do</i>	<i>did</i>	<i>done</i>
<i>eat</i>	<i>ate</i>	<i>eaten</i>
<i>go</i>	<i>went</i>	<i>gone</i>
<i>have</i>	<i>had</i>	<i>had</i>
<i>know</i>	<i>knew</i>	<i>known</i>
<i>see</i>	<i>saw</i>	<i>seen</i>
<i>sing</i>	<i>sang</i>	<i>sung</i>
<i>speak</i>	<i>spoke</i>	<i>spoken</i>

<i>take</i>	<i>took</i>	<i>taken</i>
<i>write</i>	<i>wrote</i>	<i>written</i>

PRACTICE EXERCISE 2: Complete each of the following sentences.

1. (sing) Who _____ that last song?
2. (do) Sarah _____ her homework last night.
3. (be) Where _____ you at breakfast?
4. (begin) Madeline _____ already _____ her new job.
5. (know) Henry _____ all of the answers.
6. (write) _____ you _____ that letter yet?
7. (begin) Angel _____ his university education last spring.
8. (sing) She _____ in Las Vegas many times.
9. (see) _____ anyone really ever _____ Big Foot?
10. (take) I had a headache, so I _____ some aspirin.

TOPIC 3: Using *for* and *since* with the Present Perfect and Simple Past Tenses

Use *since* when a specific point in time is given. Use *for* when a period of time, rather than a specific point in time, is given.

Since...	For...
<i>yesterday</i>	<i>one day</i>
<i>last week</i>	<i>a week</i>
<i>last month</i>	<i>three months</i>

Richard has lived in Chicago since 1985.

Richard has lived in Chicago for twenty years.

Notice that you can use *for* and *since* with either the simple past tense or the present perfect tense, depending on whether or not the action is still happening.

I've worked for Green Enterprises for three years. (I still work there.)

I worked for Green Enterprises for three years. (Now I work somewhere else.)

PRACTICE EXERCISE 3: Complete each sentence with either *since* or *for*.

1. We've lived in Los Angeles _____ before Barry was born.
2. We've lived in Los Angeles _____ ten years.
3. There's been a roadblock on the freeway _____ three days.
4. I haven't seen you _____ I was in high school.
5. Why haven't you called _____ two weeks?
6. Susan hasn't gone to work _____ last Tuesday.
7. They stayed at this hotel _____ three nights.
8. Roger and Martin have been gone _____ hours!
9. Have you been waiting for me _____ 7:30?
10. She hasn't spoken to me _____ the night we got into an argument.

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1E PHRASAL VERBS WITH PICK

Pick up.

- a) To take something up off of a surface. *Pick your coat up off the floor.*
- b) To meet and collect a person from a specific location. *Who's going to pick Henry up at the airport?*
- c) To buy something *Jordan picked up some milk on the way home.*

*Note that *to pick up a person* can also mean to meet someone, usually at a public place such as a bar or night club, and to become sexually involved with him or her after spending only a short time together.

Pick out.

- a) To select, to choose. *Melissa picked out a shirt and brought it to the dressing room.*
- b) To separate from. *If you break a wine glass, make sure you pick all of the glass out of the carpet.*

Pick over.

To take the best of something and leave what is not so good. *The shirts have been on sale so long that they've really been picked over.*

Pick on.

To tease. *My sisters and brothers always picked on me because I was the youngest.*

Pick from.

To choose from a group of something. *Mrs. Stefanson picked a new assistant from the group of applicants for the job.*

Pick at.

- a) To take only very small amounts of food. *Jessica ate almost everything on her plate, but she only picked at her peas.*
- b) To scratch or irritate something, such as a cut or scrape. *Don't pick at that cut! Let it heal.*

Pick up on.

To understand something, especially something that isn't intended to be understood. *They spoke in Spanish in front of Dorothy, so she didn't pick up on what they were talking about.*

*Note that *pick up*, *pick out*, *pick from*, and *pick over* are separable. This means the two words can be separated and a pronoun or noun can be inserted between them. *Billy picked out the raisins* or *Billy picked them/the raisins out*, but not *Billy picked out them*. *Pick on*, *pick at*, and *pick up on* are not separable. You cannot separate the verbs from the prepositions.

1F REAL ENGLISH

SEE YOU LATER!

Saying "good-bye!" is only one way to end a conversation. There are a lot of idiomatic expressions that people use when a conversation is over or when they have to leave. Here are some important ones, listed from most to least formal: *Have a good day. Take care. Take it easy. (I'll) See you later. (I'll) See you around. See ya! Catch you later. Gotta go.* Note that these expressions are often preceded with *Well. Well, have a nice day!*

1G BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's review everything we've covered in this lesson.

REVIEW EXERCISE 1: Vocabulary

Place the correct vocabulary word in each space. Use each of the following words once: *solicit, beneficiary, indicted, procured, waiver, persecuted, incited, affiliation, espionage, amnesty, conspired, rehabilitation, clemency, sabotage, cited, induce, fraud, custody, ordinance, engaging*.

1. When we found out that Dr. Wells hadn't gone to medical school, we knew he was a _____.
2. Learning new skills is essential to the successful _____ from a life of crime.
3. For some people, working is much harder than _____ in crime.
4. The well-known _____ International is an organization dedicated to encouraging governments to free their political prisoners.
5. Bill Jackson felt because he had received a dishonorable discharge from the army and few employers would hire him.
6. The soldiers sneaked in behind enemy lines to _____ the next shipment of weapons.
7. _____ by jealousy, Roberto accused his wife of having an affair.
8. If you let your dog walk around without a leash, you are violating a city _____.
9. I want to show you some new gems we've recently _____.
10. The senator was forced to resign when his _____ with a racist organization was uncovered.
11. A sixteen-year-old cannot attend adult school without a _____ from high school.
12. Tammy went to several companies to _____ money so that she could afford to travel to the swimming competition.
13. Ralph was _____ for breaking and entering.
14. Mary was _____ for driving with her lights off.
15. The Rangelos filed for _____ of their daughter's son.
16. A governor has the power to give _____ to a condemned criminal, commuting a death sentence to life in prison.
17. The boys _____ to scare all the girls in class on Halloween.
18. Wiretaps were placed on the ambassador's phone line in an act of _____.
19. Tony named his wife, Susan, as the _____ on his life insurance policy.
20. The labels of many poisonous products warn not to _____ vomiting in case of accidental ingestion.

REVIEW EXERCISE 2: The Present Perfect Tense vs. the Simple Past Tense

Complete each of the following sentences with the correct form of the verb given in parentheses.

1. (arrive) The plane _____ on time yesterday, but traffic was awful.

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2. (be) It _____ a long hot summer, and it's only August 3!
3. (not call) No one can believe he _____ you yet.
4. (put) Who _____ my keys under the couch last night?
5. (eat) We _____ dinner at six.
6. (go) Christian _____ to school already this morning.
7. (visit) We _____ the Metropolitan Museum when we were in New York.
8. (see) I _____ the Eiffel Tower several times, but never in the spring.

REVIEW EXERCISE 3: Irregular Verb Forms

Fill in the spaces with the missing verb forms.

	Present	Past	Past Participle
1.	_____	was/were	_____
2.	Do	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	gone
4.	_____	gave	_____
5.	_____	ate	_____
6.	Write	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	begun
8.	_____	_____	seen

REVIEW EXERCISE 4: *For* and *Since*

Fill in each sentence with *since* or *for*.

1. I don't think I've seen you _____ high school.
2. They didn't speak to each other _____ several weeks.
3. How long has it been _____ you left?
4. We haven't spoken _____ three years!
5. Why did you keep silent _____ so many months?
6. I can't believe you've been in Boston _____ September!
7. I'm not sure why he hasn't called _____ last week.
8. It hasn't rained _____ six months.

REVIEW EXERCISE 5: Phrasal Verbs

Place the correct phrasal verb with *pick* in the blank space in each sentence.

1. What time do you want me to _____ you _____ from the airport?
2. Alex's mother and sister helped her _____ her wedding dress.
3. Look how you _____ your food. You eat like a bird.
4. Johnny, _____ all your toys and put them away.

5. Evelyn _____ the label on her sweater because it irritates her.
6. Mrs. Russell told the class bully not to _____ the younger children.
7. Barry's a pretty smart little boy; he seems to _____ whatever anyone says.
8. I've a beautiful crystal vase for Bill and Cindy's wedding gift.

LISTEN UP!

-  Now let's work on your listening comprehension. Turn on your CD and listen to Section 1H. In this exercise, you will hear someone describing a situation. As you listen, choose the phrasal verb that could be used in the situation.

pick out, on, up pick
over, up, at pick at, on,
upon pick up, from, at
pick on, up, over pick
up on, at, over

WHY DO THEY DO THAT?

Greetings and Small Talk

Have you ever heard a complete stranger say hello to you as you pass him or her on the street? Don't worry. That's not unusual. Americans often greet people they don't even know. They may talk to strangers while waiting in line, or comment on the weather when standing in an elevator, or even strike up a conversation while sitting next to someone at a public event. It's true that this kind of behavior may seem too casual—or even just plain strange—to others, but many Americans consider it friendly. Of course, these little pieces of "small talk" aren't meant to discuss anything very serious or personal or make new friendships. When they end, the participants go their separate ways and rarely commit to any kind of social involvement. This is normal for Americans, who often have a lot of acquaintances—at work, in their neighborhoods, at stores and restaurants, at the gym. But Americans also make an important distinction between casual acquaintances and close friends.

Lesson 1: Answer Key

Practice Exercise 1	1. drove. 2. hasn't tried, 3. bought, 4. Have/eaten, 5. didn't go. 6. have/seen, 7. didn't speak. 8. Did/miss, 9. Have/danced, 10. got
Practice Exercise 2	1. sang. 2. did, 3. were, 4. has/begun, 5. knew, 6. Have/written, 7. began, 8. has sung, 9. Has/ seen, 10. took
Practice Exercise 3	1. since, 2. for, 3. for, 4. since, 5. for, 6. since, 7. for, 8. for, 9. since, 10. since
Review Exercise 1	1. fraud, 2. rehabilitation, 3. engaging, 4. Amnesty, 5. persecuted, 6. sabotage, 7. Incited, 8. ordinance, 9. procured, 10. affiliation, 11. waiver, 12. solicit, 13. indicted, 14. cited, 15. custody, 16. clemency, 17. conspired, 18. espionage, 19. beneficiary, 20. induce
Review Exercise 2	1. arrived, 2. has been, 3. hasn't called, 4. put, 5. ate, 6. has gone, 7. visited, 8. have seen

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Review Exercise 3

1. be /been, 2. did/done, 3. go/went, 4. give/given, 5. eat/eaten, 6. wrote/written,
7. begin/began, 8. see/saw

Review Exercise 4

1. since, 2. for, 3. since, 4. for, 5. for, 6. since, 7. since, 8. for

Review Exercise 5

1. pick/up, 2. pick out, 3. pick at, 4. pick up, 5. picks at, 6. pick on, 7. pick up on, 8. picked out

Listen Up!

1. out, 2. up, 3. up on, 4. at, 5. on, 6. over