

English in everyday situations

Module 8: A bad day

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

A bad day

English

Read & listen online ↗



my head hurts, I feel ill

Form	Example	Meaning
hurts	My head hurts.	Describe pain in one body part.
hurt	My legs hurt.	Describe pain in more than one body part.
ill	I feel ill.	Describe how you feel with an adjective.
a	I've got a sore throat.	Use the usual phrase for this symptom.
For	How long? For two days.	Give an elapsed duration.
Saturday	Since Saturday.	Give a starting point rather than a duration.

The body part is the subject in **My head hurts**. Use **hurts** for one part and **hurt** for a plural: **My legs hurt**. Another everyday phrase is **I've got a sore throat**.

With **feel** use an adjective: **I feel ill, I feel hot, I feel cold**. The continuous **I'm feeling better** is also natural for a changing condition. **Sore** describes pain in a body part.

For a duration use **for: for two days**. Use **since** for a starting point: **since Saturday**. In this early health scene they can occur as short answers to **How long?**; a full continuing-tense pattern is practised later.

must, don't have to, mustn't

Form	Example	Meaning
call	I must call the surgery.	Express a strong need to call.
has	She has to work.	Express her obligation.
to	Do you have to work?	Ask about an obligation.
don't have to	You don't have to come today.	Say coming is not necessary.
mustn't	You mustn't park here.	Say parking here is forbidden.
have	I have to rest.	Express your need to rest.

Must plus base verb expresses a strong obligation: **I must call the surgery**. It has the same form for all subjects and has no **to** before the next verb.

Have to is another common obligation pattern: **I have to work, she has to work**. Its questions and negatives use **do/does**: **Do you have to work?, I don't have to work**.

Distinguish **don't have to** (there is no need) from **mustn't** (it is forbidden). **You don't have to come** leaves a choice; **You mustn't park here** forbids parking.

today at four, an earlier appointment

Form	Example	Meaning
on	The appointment is on the twenty-seventh of April.	Give a particular appointment date.
at	I can come at four.	Give a clock time.
come	Can I come today?	Ask about an available arrangement.
suit	Does that suit you?	Ask whether the time works for the listener.
earlier	Have you got an earlier appointment?	Ask for an appointment sooner than the offered one.
tomorrow	Have you got anything tomorrow?	Ask about the next day without a preposition.

Combine a day/date and time: **on the twenty-seventh of April at ten, today at four.** **Today** and **tomorrow** take no **on** before them.

Can I come today? asks about a possible arrangement. **Does that suit you?** and **Is that all right?** check whether the time works for the listener.

Use the comparative **earlier** for a sooner time: **an earlier appointment.** A useful direct question is **Have you got anything today or tomorrow?** Keep the request brief and clear.

should, shouldn't, how long

Form	Example	Meaning
rest	You should rest.	Give advice to rest.
shouldn't	You shouldn't work today.	Advise against working today.
enough	Drink enough water.	Give advice about a sufficient amount of water.
How long	How long?	Ask about the duration.
when	Since when?	Ask for the starting point.
read	You should read the instructions.	Advise reading the medicine instructions.

Use **should** plus base verb for advice: **You should rest.** Negative advice uses **shouldn't**: **You shouldn't work today.** It is the same form for every subject.

For a direct instruction use an imperative: **Drink enough water.** **Enough** goes before a noun, unlike its position after an adjective: **enough water, warm enough.**

How long? asks a duration; **since when?** asks the starting point. A short reply such as **since Saturday** is useful in a conversation about symptoms.

know, understand, know how to

Form	Example	Meaning
know	I know Jack.	Say Jack is familiar to you.
understand	I understand the question.	Say you grasp the question's meaning.
to	I know how to swim.	Complete the learned-skill pattern.
that	I know that Milo is here.	Link a known fact with an optional content word.
swim	I can swim.	Express a swimming skill.
don't	I don't understand.	Say the meaning is unclear.

Know expresses a fact or familiarity: **I know the answer, I know Jack. Understand** expresses grasping the meaning: **I understand the question.** These usually use simple present in this sense, not a continuous form.

A skill can use **can**: **I can swim.** Another pattern is **know how to** plus base verb: **I know how to swim.** Keep the whole expression rather than treating English know as one pattern for every situation.

A short fact clause can use **that**: **I know that Milo is here.** In ordinary speech **that** is often omitted: **I know Milo is here.**

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE PATTERNS**

Underline the form described in this unit.

- 1 My head hurts.

Meaning: Describe pain in one body part.

- 2 I must call the surgery.

Meaning: Express a strong need to call.

- 3 The appointment is on the twenty-seventh of April.

Meaning: Give a particular appointment date.

- 4 You should rest.

Meaning: Give advice to rest.

5 I know Jack.

Meaning: Say Jack is familiar to you.

6 Lukas is my neighbour. He's from Hamburg.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

7 Lena is my neighbour. She's from Hamburg.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

8 Lukas is here. He lives in Millbrook.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

9 Lena is here. She lives in Millbrook.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

10 I feel ill.

Meaning: Describe how you feel with an adjective.

- 11 Do you have to work?

Meaning: Ask about an obligation.

- 12 Can I come today?

Meaning: Ask about an available arrangement.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 My head _____.

- ☐ A hurt
- ☐ B hurting
- ☐ C hurts

Meaning: Describe pain in one body part.

- 2 I must _____ the surgery.

- ☐ A call
- ☐ B to call
- ☐ C calls

Meaning: Express a strong need to call.

3 The appointment is _____ the twenty-seventh of April.

- ☐ A at
- ☐ B on
- ☐ C in

Meaning: Give a particular appointment date.

4 You should _____.

- ☐ A to rest
- ☐ B rests
- ☐ C rest

Meaning: Give advice to rest.

5 I _____ Jack.

- ☐ A know
- ☐ B knowing
- ☐ C am knowing

Meaning: Say Jack is familiar to you.

6 Lukas: Lukas _____ my neighbour. He's from Hamburg.

- ☐ A is
- ☐ B are
- ☐ C am

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

7 Lena: Lena _____ my neighbour. She's from Hamburg.

- ☐ A am
- ☐ B are
- ☐ C is

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

8 Lukas: Lukas is here. _____ lives in Millbrook.

- ☐ A They
- ☐ B He
- ☐ C We

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

9 Lena: Lena is here. _____ lives in Millbrook.

- ☐ A We
- ☐ B She
- ☐ C They

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

10 I feel _____.

- ☐ A ill
- ☐ B illness
- ☐ C illy

Meaning: Describe how you feel with an adjective.

11 Do you have _____ work?

- ☐ A at
- ☐ B to
- ☐ C for

Meaning: Ask about an obligation.

12 Can I _____ today?

- ☐ (A) comes
- ☐ (B) come
- ☐ (C) to come

Meaning: Ask about an available arrangement.

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

hurts hurt

My head _____.

Meaning: Describe pain in one body part.

call to call

I must _____ the surgery.

Meaning: Express a strong need to call.

on in

The appointment is _____ the twenty-seventh of April.

Meaning: Give a particular appointment date.

rest to rest

You should _____.

Meaning: Give advice to rest.

know am knowing

I _____ Jack.

Meaning: Say Jack is familiar to you.

is are

Lukas: Lukas _____ my neighbour. He's from Hamburg.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

is are

Lena: Lena _____ my neighbour. She's from Hamburg.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

He They

Lukas: Lukas is here. _____ lives in Millbrook.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

She They

Lena: Lena is here. _____ lives in Millbrook.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

ill illness

I feel _____.

Meaning: Describe how you feel with an adjective.

to for

Do you have _____ work?

Meaning: Ask about an obligation.

come to come

Can I _____ today?

Meaning: Ask about an available arrangement.

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

1 head hurts. My

Meaning: Describe pain in one body part.

2 call surgery. the must I

Meaning: Express a strong need to call.

3 April. the appointment The is on of twenty-seventh

Meaning: Give a particular appointment date.

4 You should rest.

Meaning: Give advice to rest.

5 Jack. I know

Meaning: Say Jack is familiar to you.

6 is He's Hamburg. Lukas my from neighbour.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

7 my Lena She's neighbour. is Hamburg. from

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

8 Millbrook. lives Lukas in here. He is

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

9 Lena is in She Millbrook. lives here.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

10 ill. I feel

Meaning: Describe how you feel with an adjective.

- 11 Do work? have you to

Meaning: Ask about an obligation.

- 12 Can come today? I

Meaning: Ask about an available arrangement.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Describe pain in one body part. You say:

- ☐ A My head hurt.
- ☐ B My head hurts.

2 Express a strong need to call. You say:

- ☐ A I must call the surgery.
- ☐ B I must to call the surgery.

3 Give a particular appointment date. You say:

- ☐ A The appointment is in the twenty-seventh of April.
- ☐ B The appointment is on the twenty-seventh of April.

4 Give advice to rest. You say:

- ☐ A You should rest.
- ☐ B You should to rest.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ① I must call the surgery. | Ⓐ Refer to the learner as your neighbour. |
| ② I feel ill. | Ⓑ Describe pain in one body part. |
| ③ My head hurts. | Ⓒ Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun. |
| ④ I know Jack. | Ⓓ Say Jack is familiar to you. |
| ⑤ You should rest. | Ⓔ Give a particular appointment date. |
| ⑥ The appointment is on the twenty-seventh of April. | Ⓕ Give advice to rest. |
| ⑦ Lena is my neighbour. She's from Hamburg. | Ⓖ Describe how you feel with an adjective. |

- ⑧ Lena is here. She lives in Millbrook.
- ⑨ Express a strong need to call.