



# English

Level 5

## Small Talk

- How's life? What've you been up to?
- What did you have for breakfast this morning?
- Have you been watching anything good on TV?

## Conversation

- If you ran a TV station, what would you schedule?
- How would you get revenge on a person who gave you the nickname 'butthead'?
- Do you prefer to work alone, or cooperate with others? Why?

## Grammar: The Past Perfect Tense

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The easiest way to think of the past perfect tense is 'a past before a past'. It is used to explain the events before a particular moment.

- To make the past perfect you need two events in the past
- The **earlier event** uses the **past perfect** (the other event can be the past tense, or past continuous)

*By the time she got home, her ice cream **had melted**.*

*She **hadn't studied** English before she went to live in Australia.*

- It is easier to see how using the past perfect helps when used in the context of conversations and stories where it gives information about what happened before a moment:

*A: Did you take Julia to that restaurant last week?*

*B: Yes, although she **had already eaten**.*

*Peter arrived at the school a little after the bell **had rung**. All the students **had already gone** inside, and Peter had to walk into the building by himself. As he entered the classroom he saw the teacher **had started** the lesson. He sat at the back of the room, hoping she didn't see him, or **had decided** not to notice.*

### The Weather

overcast

thunder storms

typhoon

hurricane

tornado

heat wave

sleet

foggy

misty

smoggy

hail

### Western Culture: Jonas Salk's Polio Vaccine

Polio is an infectious disease, caused by a virus, that attacks the muscles, most commonly in the legs. Unlike most diseases, rates of polio increased as sanitation got better in the 19th & 20th centuries because less children became naturally immune.

By 1952 just the US had 58000 cases, resulting in over 3000 deaths a year and over 21000 people with some sort of paralysis. Other developed countries were also affected.

In 1952 Jonas Salk, working at the University of Pittsburgh, developed a vaccine. Dr. Thomas Francis then began the largest medical experiment in history, testing the vaccine on 1.8 million children. The number of polio cases fell to just 161 in 1961.

Salk made a famous quote in an interview about his vaccine: when asked why he had not patented it to earn money, he replied 'Would you patent the sun?'

In 1957 Albert Sabin began trials of an oral vaccine. The oral vaccine was usually given on a sugar cube, and the WHO began a widespread Polio vaccine programme after it was introduced. It was a huge success: by 1988 there were only 350 000 cases reported worldwide, and by 2012 the number was 223. In 1993 China immunized 80 million children in just two days, and the following year only 5 cases of polio were reported.

The Polio vaccination remains on the WHO's most important vaccinations list. President Ronald Reagan announced May 6th 1985 to be 'Jonas Salk Day'.

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### Dialogue: At the Bank (part 1)

Teller: Next, please.

Philip: Hi. I'm wondering if I could wire some money to a friend of mine.

Teller: Do you have an account with us?

Philip: Yes. Here's my card. Oh, and here's the recipient's details. He's in Nigeria.

Teller: OK. Can I get you to fill out this form first, please? And how much is it for?

Philip: (filling out form) It's for €2000.

Teller: Do you want to send €2000, or for the recipient to receive €2000, because the bank charges a £15 transaction fee, and you'll need to convert your pounds into euros.

Philip: He needs to receive €2000. What is the exchange rate at the moment?

Teller: It's €1.3 to the pound. So €2000 equates to £1538.46. Plus the fee, equals £1553.46.

Philip: That's fine. When will he be able to get the money?

Teller: It should be with him in 3 working days.



#### Notes:

- AB51 website (includes all study areas and further notes): [www.ab51.org](http://www.ab51.org)
- To practice this class with a native speaker, please contact [djamiewills@gmail.com](mailto:djamiewills@gmail.com)
- To request a different level of class, also contact [djamiewills@gmail.com](mailto:djamiewills@gmail.com)
- Delicious Wednesday is an English Corner based on food and discussion. For more details join the wechat group: 美味周三英语角