Grammar hints for language learners

The way that sounds, words and sentences are put together in English can be very different from your own language, e.g.

- articles (a, an, the)
- verb forms and tenses (I will go; I went)
- word order (can I come?)
- pronouns (he, she)

How does English grammar differ from your grammar?

Very similar ...................................................... very different

Do you think grammar is

- fun?
- a challenge?
- a nuisance?
- boring?

English grammar can be divided into three groups

(a) **facts**, e.g. the plural of child is children. ‘I went’ is the past simple of ‘I go’
(b) **patterns**, e.g. the pattern of the sentence ‘I like chocolate’ is S-V-O
(c) **choices**, e.g. we can choose language forms. ‘He’s been playing rugby since he was a child’ and ‘He’s played rugby since he was a child’ are both grammatically correct.

**You have to learn the facts and patterns** so you can write many different sentences

To help you decide what to study, you need to find out what grammar structures you should know for your class level or exam. Ask your teacher or check in your course book.

http://www.collegehumor.com/post/5803503/this-is-so-funny
What can you do when you don't know the answer to a particular grammar question?

- Ask a Kiwi friend or homestay family member
- Choose just one point a week and look for it in newspapers, news, class, reading, etc.
- Look up the grammar point and rule in a grammar book and do the exercises, e.g. *English Grammar in Use, How English Works*
- Talk about it with classmates
- Look at examples of language using the grammar point and try to work out the rule
- Regularly review the grammar covered in class or in your course book
- Keep a notebook of interesting examples of grammar
- Listen to how native speakers use the grammar in real life
- Try to use the new grammar point in conversation or writing
- Practise the grammar you learn in class by finding more examples in grammar books in the LLC

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