

Checking Questions with Grammar

Checking questions can also be used with grammar. This is a little more complex because you need to think about what kind of questions will check understanding of a grammar point.

Here are some suggestions:

- Time lines to establish tenses and changes over time.
- Truth lines to establish probability e.g. must be / could be / might be / can't be.
- Reality lines to establish degree of reality or imagination e.g. conditional sentences
- Clines to show grades or scales e.g. yellow-amber-orange, frequency adverbs
- Pictures to distinguish between similar objects e.g. cup / mug, lane / road / highway
- Discrimination to check function and register e.g. Do I say 'hey!' to my boss?
- Negative checking e.g. Do I say 'I were'?
- Translation (where appropriate and possible).

Here are some examples:

“He went to the shop on Monday.”

“Is he at the shop now?”

“Is it in the past or the future?”

“He’s too small to press the button.”

“Is he tall?”

“What does he want to do?”

“Can he press the button? Why not?”

“If it rains, she will take an umbrella?”

“Do we know what the weather will be?”

“Does she need the umbrella in sunny weather?”

“Then when she takes the umbrella, how is the weather?”

“When he was 24, he had never been to China. He has now lived in China for 6 years.”

“Did he go to China before he was 24?”

“Is he living in China now?”

“How can we change this sentence with ‘since’?”

Teaching Meaning + Checking Qs + Form Practice Task

Now you have your grammar point, let's practice teaching meaning and checking Qs. Take 5 minutes to brainstorm your own grammar point and then 5 minutes to share with your partner.

What is your grammar point? What does it mean? How will you teach the meaning? (draw a picture if that helps!)

How will you check that students understand the meaning? Think of checking questions or checking activities.

What is the form of your grammar point? What makes it special or unique? Is there an opposite grammar point that can be used to distinguish?