

# Outcomes

# Better Grammar Outcomes

## Learner Training 3    Suggested Answers

**1** We use much less grammar than you might think! You may still make mistakes with these forms, but just doing controlled practice activities on them won't stop this from happening. 100% accuracy takes a long time to develop. It's good to be corrected when you make mistakes, and you do need to get better at correcting your own repeated errors, but you've already studied the vast majority of grammar you'll ever need. Sadly, the same can't be said for vocabulary. There are still thousands and thousands of frequent words you need to spend time on.

**2** Students (and teachers!) often worry a lot about things like the difference between the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous. In reality, neither structure is particularly common – with the continuous form being quite rare. The future perfect continuous and past perfect continuous are even less frequently used! This doesn't mean you don't need to learn them; it just means you might not want to obsess about them.

**3** Maybe thinking about vocabulary and grammar as two separate things isn't always helpful. A lot of the most common uses of grammar can be learned as expressions or phrases, just as when you learn *Where were you born?* you're learning a common use of the past simple passive. Try to notice sentences with less common grammar structures and keep a page for these in your vocabulary book. For example:

**The present perfect continuous:**

*How long have you been doing that?*

*I've been looking for that for years!*

**4** Just as words have collocations – words that they often go with – so they also have grammatical patterns they are often used with. They may have prepositions connected to them, they may be most often used in the present perfect simple or past continuous, and so on – and these patterns may be different from the patterns used with the equivalent of these words in your language. When you meet a new word, don't just write down the individual word. Write the whole sentence / chunk you found the word in – and try to add new full examples from a good learners' dictionary.