

Want

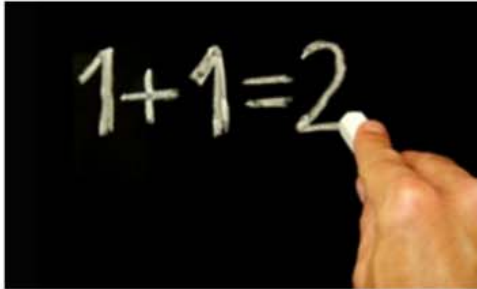
Hello and welcome back, in this lesson we are going to look at the word 'want'.

We will explore its uses and when to use the correct form of the word.



When do we use want?

We use the verb *want* to talk about wishes and needs, and to give advice:



Most uses of *want* involve the simple forms of the verb (*want, wants, wanted*).

However, when we are talking about wishes or desires we can also use the continuous form

(*is wanting, was wanting, will be wanting*).



Want meaning 'wish' or 'desire'

We always follow *want* with a complement of some kind.
The complement completes the meaning of the clause.
The complement can be a noun or pronoun as an object.



Do you **want** a drink? I've just made some coffee. (noun object)



She said I could have her old bike, but I don't **want** it. (pronoun object)



*This is a new kind of fruit juice I got.
D'you **want** to try it? (to-infinitive)*



*The teacher **wants** her to do the exams
again next year. (object + to-infinitive)*



In reduced clauses (e.g. short answers), we can use the 'to' without its verb:

*He wanted to leave school at sixteen, but his parents didn't **want** him to.*



***Want* meaning 'need'**

We can use *want* with the *-ing* form of a verb to say that something is necessary or should be done. This usage is quite informal:

*Your hair **wants cutting**.* (needs to be cut)



*That cupboard **wants clearing out**.*



In informal situations, we can also use *want + -ing* in a similar way to the construction *have something done*:

*Have you got any shirts you **want washing**?* (which you want to have washed)



***Want* for advice and warnings**

In informal situations, we can use *want* plus the *to*-infinitive to advise, recommend or warn. It is almost always in the present simple, but we can also use it with *'ll* (the short form of *will*):

*You **want** to be careful riding your bike in town. There've been some bad accidents lately. (you should be careful)*



Shall, would or want?

Shall is used when we want to make a suggestion and/ or an offer.

Will/would is used to make a request.

We can use want for all of these situations, however want is only used when there is a need, a wish or a desire involved.



Examples:

Making offers- Do you want ...?

Making suggestions – Do you want to ...?

Offering to do something – Do you want me to ...?