

The Return of the Moon Man

Word Work

Language in Use

'Would have...'

That was funny about Gran. She was progressive, and left to herself she would have filled the house with refrigerators and atomic cookers and washers. But Grandfather called these things devil's inventions, and would have none of them.

1. Look at the two uses of 'would have' (underlined) in the text. One of them is talking about a typical habit and one is talking about an unreal situation, something that did not happen. Which is which?

The grammatical difference is that the typical habit is *would* plus a verb – which in this case is *have*; the unreal situation requires *would* plus *have* plus past participle. The difference is easier to see if we change the verb for the typical habit:

Grandfather would reject any attempt to introduce machines.

In the case of *she would have filled the house*, the fact that the tense of the verb is the conditional perfect means that *have* will always be present.

Another way to look at the difference is to ask if the event happened or not.

Left to herself she would have filled the house with refrigerators. – she didn't 'fill the house with refrigerators' so the event never happened.
Grandfather would have none of them – there were no refrigerators etc, so Grandfather's event – or non-event – happened.



2. Decide which, in the following pairs of sentences, are unreal events and which typical habits.

1. Bronwen would have stayed with her Gran all night.
Dai would leave the house at dawn to work in the fields.
2. Electric Plumber Williams would sometimes work for free.
Auntie Space Ship Jones would have helped her husband.
3. Llewellyn would have stayed in Llandudno.
Gran would have an answer for Grandfather.

3. Complete the following sentences with *would have + past participle* or *would + verb*. Use the verb in brackets. More than one answer may be possible.

- a) Gwyneth me whenever I was in trouble. (*help*)
- b) They had they known he was ill. (*not leave*)
- c) It's a good thing Meg arrived when she did. The house (*burn down*)
- d) We used to live by the sea and my brothers and I swimming nearly every day. (*go*)
- e) Bryn you one thing one moment and another thing the next. He was so unreliable. (*tell*)
- f) Gran the whole night on the mountain. (*spend*)
- g) You..... the same thing if you'd been there. (*do*)
- h) Gareth should have stayed a little longer. He it. (*enjoy*)
- i) Daffyd by himself for hours. (*play*)
- j) Trevor alone on the mountain in fog. He was far too clever. (*catch*)



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Language in Context

Adjective or adverb?

One of the devices the writer uses in 'The Return of the Moon Man' to give colour to the way Welsh people apparently speak English is to use an adjective with the verb instead of the more correct adverb:

'Bit my tongue when we landed sudden' said one of the Moon Men after he'd landed in Ten Acre field.

"No mention of Space Ships in the Lives of the Great Saints," he says, smiling nasty, smug as you please.

"No mention of indoor sanitation either,?" I say, real angry now.'

To be accurate, they should have said 'we landed suddenly', 'smiling nastily' and 'really angry now'. The last one - 'real angry' instead of 'really angry' - is quite common to hear in modern speech, especially in American English. However, it is no more accurate than the other two examples, although the use is different.

A: CONFUSING WORDS

Although the examples above are used deliberately to convey an effect, there is every reason for confusion to arise between the use of some adverbs and adjectives. Mostly we think of adverbs as ending in -ly (often adjectives with -ly added: *Her pretty smile/ she smiled prettily*). But consider the following:

She was a lively child and always so friendly with everyone.

Both *lively* and *friendly* are adjectives, not adverbs as they might at first appear. In fact, neither lively nor friendly are adverbs under any circumstances so you cannot say 'She smiled friendly' or 'He played lively' - an object would have to be added thus: 'She smiled in a friendly way'; 'He played in a lively manner'.

Other adjectives that look like adverbs are:

**cowardly, deadly, likely, lovely,
lonely, silly, ugly, unlikely.**

Including *lively* and *friendly* in the list above, complete the following sentences with adjectives that looks like an adverb:

1. Every evening Gran climbed the _____ hill with the _____ idea of seeing Grandfather on the moon.
2. Grandfather Griffiths was probably the most _____ candidate for a spaceman.
3. The Moon Man who bit his tongue took the _____ decision to return to Golders Green rather than continue to the moon.
4. Gran had thought it a would be _____ to have a space ship of her own.
5. Gran thought that the likely result of the moon apparently getting smaller was that Grandfather would fall off into space, with _____ result.

Note: Yearly, monthly, weekly, daily are both adjectives and adverbs, as are early and leisurely:

I jog daily	He has a daily jog
She had a leisurely lunch	She lunched leisurely

B: MORE CONFUSING WORDS

1. *Another source of confusion* is the fact that some adjectives and adverbs can have the same form. For example:

The plane went fast.	He went on a fast plane.
He was well enough to go to the party	She performed well in the first race.
It was hard to study.	She had to study hard.
The train arrived late.	I caught a late train
He went straight home after the meeting	It was a straight road home.

2. *And just to make it even more confusing*, some adverbs have two forms - one looking like an adjective, the other like an adverb (especially in informal language)!

The plane goes direct from Heathrow to Lisbon
The plane goes directly to Lisbon.

Why don't you take it easy?
You should take it more easily.

You did that fine.
He finely sliced the tomatoes for the salad.

If I had known that I could have entered the concert free I would have gone.
She was allowed to travel freely throughout the country.

They had to climb high before they could see their destination.
She came highly recommended from her previous employers.

Don't talk so loud - the neighbours will hear!
She talked loudly to cover up her nervousness.

Hold tight - we're going to hit!
She held tightly to avoid falling over.

No wonder it's cold - the window has been left wide open.
She read widely about the country before starting her journey.

3. *Some others even reverse the normal spelling of adverbs and adjectives!*

She was **dead** sure that he wouldn't have guessed her secret. (*very sure*) (**dead** - adverb)

Alcohol and driving are a **deadly** combination (*lethal*) (**deadly** - adjective)

C: NOT SO CONFUSING

Easier to remember, perhaps, is the fact that if you want to qualify an adjective then you do this by using an adverb. Compare the following:

It was a long, difficult and dusty road.

It was an extremely difficult route to take.

I didn't think I would have to work such long hours.

I didn't think I would have to work such incredibly long hours.

D: EXERCISES

1. Look again at Section B1 and answer the following questions.

Which plane might normally have been expected to travel fast?

Which 'well' refers to ability?

Which action was difficult to carry out?

Which train always left late?

Which 'straight' relates to distance?

2. Complete the following sentences by choosing ONE of the words in bold.

1. Once you reach Cardiff you should proceed **DIRECT/DIRECTLY** by train to Merthyr Tydfil.
2. He didn't feel very **EASY/EASILY** in her presence.
3. The space ship engine was so **FINE/FINELY** tuned that its performance could not have been improved.
4. Her thoughts ran **FREE/FREELY** as she contemplated her imminent release.
5. The dogs were allowed to run **FREE/FREELY** during the day.
6. He rose **HIGH/HIGHLY** in the organisation, eventually becoming Vice-President.
7. She completed the test **EASY/EASILY**
8. He spoke to him **DIRECT/DIRECTLY** so that there would be no confusion about his intentions.
9. They closed their eyes **TIGHT/TIGHTLY** to avoid dust being blown into them.
10. Their affair was discussed **WIDE/WIDELY** by the other members of staff.

3. Intensify the following sentences by adding an appropriate adverb (do not repeat the same adverb).

1. I had to work hard to get to where I am now.
2. She was beautiful, and he found it hard to concentrate.
3. The portions they served were small.
4. Sections of the road were in poor repair.
5. The journey to the moon was boring.
6. Technology is overrated in the West.
7. Life at Pen-y-Craig was dull before the arrival of the Moon Men.
8. Grandfather was a despotic tyrant.
9. Gran had a strong desire to own a space ship
10. Bronwen, the narrator, was a frightened, little girl.



<http://www.learnenglish.org.uk/CET/flashactivities/learnenglish-central-grammar-adjective-order.html>

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Language in Context

Emphasis - Welsh style

Wonderful it was, when Grandfather Griffiths pressed down the switch, and the great farm kitchen was flooded with light.

1. Emphasising the important quality or action in a sentence by changing the word order is a curious feature of the way that some Welsh people speak English. In more standard English, people would, of course, say "*It was wonderful when Grandfather Griffiths pressed down the switch.*"

This curiosity is used by the author to imitate the sound of Welsh people speaking; to maintain the effect of being in a Welsh environment. Consider these other examples:

'Flying to the moon, they are,' he cried.

Then she said, 'Shrinking it is,' and came home again.

'Hanging on by his fingernails now he will be,' and she took my hand and led me home.

'Falling through the sky he will be now,' she said slowly.

'Never would he buy me anything'

First rewrite the above by making the sentences non-emphatic (e.g. *'They are flying to the moon, he cried*)

Second, decide how the following might be said by the same Welsh people:

I asked him for a space ship.	
It will teach her to go hankering after space ships.	
I will run up Snowdon barefoot.	
He caught the train back to London.	
It is back to Golders Green by the first train for me.	
The leader took of his helmet.	

2. Some fairly common expressions, though not exclusively Welsh, also help to give a certain 'colour' or character to the story. Choose which of the definitions you think the underlined parts mean?

1. .. and Electric Plumber Williams, smug as you please, looking as though he had invented the Electric himself....

looking pleased with himself/looking lost and sad

2. .. we were sitting by the fire, enjoying the Electric. Grandfather was listening in...

being attentive to what we were saying/ paying attention to the radio

3.. And that is why I say they can have their old Moon.

I don't want it/ they deserve to have it

4. 'Gone,' he said, 'clean as a whistle'.

completely washed/ completely disappeared

5. 'Well, there is sly for you,' said my father. 'Going out for five minutes and ending up on the Moon.'

that is an example of being: unfair/ stupid

6. But I awoke in the small hours and there was the Moon.

before midnight/ after midnight

3. One way that Grandfather created authority was in the way he spoke. He frequently misses out the subject of the sentence, such as when using imperatives.

'Finished the harvest?' he asked

instead of 'Have you finished the harvest?'

He uses the same device when telling what happened to Llewellyn Time Machine and Gran.

'Hired a Time Machine in Llandudno,' he said beaming. 'Chased them right back to the Middle Ages.....'
'And Gran? asked my father?
'Stranded in the Middle Ages, with no money, and no means of getting back,' said Grandfather with immense satisfaction. 'She was taking the veil when I last saw her. Damp, the nunnery looked. Damp and cold.
'Teach her to go hankering after space-ships,'

Questions: Who hired a Time Machine? Who chased who? Who was stranded with no money? Who or what will teach who?

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Glossary

In this brief glossary, please note that the meanings given are correct for the context but these meanings may not be accurate in other contexts.

blinking and grinning	rapidly opening and closing eyes (in the light) and smiling
smug	looking very pleased with himself
scullery	room in older kitchens for washing up etc
purge	(medically) clean by evacuation (bowels etc)
milk churns	metal containers for keeping milk for collection to dairy
glinting	reflecting light
waistcoat	sleeveless coat (worn under jacket)
clutching	holding tightly
spanner	tool for nuts and bolts
Golders Green	District of (north) London
gallivanting	running around and having fun
flushed angrily	face went red with anger
holloaing	shouting
right as ninepence	nonsense expression meaning everything is fine
clean as a whistle	perfectly, completely
dusk	twilight, period after sunset but before the sky is dark
sly	secretive, hypocritical
pegs	device for hanging coats etc on
tiptoe	standing on your toes - as tall as possible
Primus	paraffin powered portable cooker
shivered and sighed	shake through cold or tiredness and take sad audible breath
muttered	speak quietly, to oneself
shrinking	getting smaller, thinner
small hours	the hours after midnight
sickle	farm tool for cutting grass etc; final phase of moon
Eisteddfod	musical festival
Snowdon	highest mountain in Wales
Lives of the Great Saints	popular publication amongst non-Conformist Christians
nasty	unpleasant
stranded	trapped with no way of escaping
taking the veil	becoming a nun
hankering	wanting, desiring