



Personal Form and Impersonal Form

Personal Form and Impersonal Form

Speaking and
Listening



What does personal mean?

What does impersonal mean?



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What does personal mean?

It means something that belongs to someone.

What does impersonal mean?

It means something does not really have any belonging.



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I think that it is going to be a great week!

Is this someone's opinion (personal),
or is it generally true for everyone (impersonal)?



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I think that it is going to be a great week!

Is this someone's opinion (**personal**),
or is it generally true for everyone (**impersonal**)?

It is personal - just one person's thought/opinion.



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It is believed it is going to be a great week!

Is this someone's opinion (**personal**),
or is it generally true for everyone (**impersonal**)?



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It is believed it is going to be a great week!

Is this someone's opinion (**personal**),
or is it generally true for everyone (**impersonal**)?

This is impersonal - a general truth - it is not the thought/opinion of one person.



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Personal:

I think that it is going to be a great week!

Impersonal:

It is believed it is going to be a great week!

If you see pronouns such as **I, me, we, our, he, his** ...then in it **personal**.

Often (but not always), the **impersonal** begins with '**it is + verb(past participle)**' or '**there is**'.



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If you see pronouns such as **I, me, we, our, he, his** ...then in it **personal**. Often (but not always), the **impersonal** begins with '**it is + verb(past participle)**' or '**there is**'.

Personal (P) or Impersonal (I)?

- 1) It was decided the temperature was too cold.
- 2) Telephoning abroad costs me a lot of money!
- 3) We think that our school is the best.
- 4) It is said that Indian food is the hottest.
- 5) I think phoning abroad is expensive.



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The **impersonal** form is a good tool to use in formal writing, particularly in reports, news and discussions when you want to include general facts or opinions to support your writing.

These simple sentence starters can be learnt to help you use the **impersonal**:

It + to be + verb + that

It is said that...

It was believed that...

It is known that...

It was thought that...



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It + to be + verb + that

It is said that...

It was believed that...

It is known that...

It was thought that...

Try to turn these personal sentences to impersonal:

1) I think *it is a long way to London.*

It is said that *it is a long way to London.*

2) We decided that women live longer than men.

3) He thought that yellow bananas are riper than green ones.

4) Eating too much food will make me sick!



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Speaking and Listening 

I don't have enough time to go shopping.

Tick one box to show the correct **impersonal** version of the sentence above.

Tick **one**.

I don't have enough time to do that.

It isn't time to go shopping.

Going shopping takes up enough of my time.

There isn't enough time to go shopping.



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Speaking and Listening 

I don't have enough time to go shopping.

Tick one box to show the correct **impersonal** version of the sentence above.

Tick **one**.

I don't have enough time to do that.

It isn't time to go shopping.

Going shopping takes up enough of my time.

There isn't enough time to go shopping.

The last one is the correct impersonal version.



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This sentence is written in the personal form.

It costs me a lot of money to go on holiday.

Which sentence below is a correct **impersonal** form of the sentence?

Tick **one**.

My holidays are expensive.

Going on holiday costs a lot of money.

To go on holiday costs me a lot of money.

I find it expensive to go on holiday.



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This sentence is written in the personal form.

It costs me a lot of money to go on holiday.

Which sentence below is a correct **impersonal** form of the sentence?

Tick **one**.

My holidays are expensive.

Going on holiday costs a lot of money.

To go on holiday costs me a lot of money.

I find it expensive to go on holiday.

The second one
is the correct
impersonal
version.

