

Confused words

Prepositions often confused

379 To and At.

(a) To.

Don't say: We come at school every morning,

/ *Say:* We come to school every morning.

(b) At.

Don't say: Someone is standing to the door. /

Say: Someone is standing at the door.

Use to to express motion from one place to another, use at to indicate a point.

(See Exercise 77 on page 170.)

380 To and Till.

(a) To.

Don't say: We walked till the river and back.

/ *Say:* We walked to the river and back.

(b) Till.

Don't say: I'll stay here to next month.

/ *Say:* I'll stay here till next month.

Use to with distance, and till (until) with time.

381 In and At.

(a) In.

Don't say: Liam has a flat at Paris. S

Say: Liam has a flat in Paris.

We use in to describe the physical location
of something or place.

something as part of a larger

(b) At.

Don't say: My mother is staying in 66 Argyle Street. /

Say: My mother is staying at 66 Argyle Street.

We use **at** when we're talking about an address, a public place or building (a bus stop, the Post Office, the library etc.) and cases in which the location is irrelevant but what we do there is what matters (school, the dentist, dance class etc.)

(See Exercise 78 on page 170.)

382 **In and Into.**

(a) In.

Don't say: Gemma spent all the day into her room. /

Say: Gemma spent all the day **in** her room.

(b) Into.

Don't say: Richard came in the room and sat down. /

Say: Richard came **into** the room and sat down.

In denotes position inside something, while **into** denotes motion or direction towards the inside of something

Note Always write the preposition **into** as one word

(See Exercise 79 on page 171.)

383 **On, At, In.** (Time.)

(a) On.

Don't say: My uncle will arrive at Saturday.

/ *Say:* My uncle will arrive **on Saturday**.

(b) At.

Don't say: I usually get up on seven o'clock. /

Say: I usually get up **at seven o'clock**.

(c) In.

Don't say: She goes for a walk at the afternoon. /

Say: She goes for a walk **in the afternoon**.

Confused words

(1) Use **on** with the days of the week or month: on Friday, on March 25, on New Year's Day. (2) Use **at** with the exact time, at four o'clock, at dawn, at noon, at sunset, at midnight. (3) Use **in** with a period of time: in April, in winter, in 1945, in the morning. Also at night and by day.

(See Exercise 80 on page 171.)

384 **For** and **At**. (Price.)

(a) **For**.

Don't say: I bought a book at fifty pence.

/ *Say:* I bought a book **for fifty pence**.

(b) **At**.

Don't say: I can't buy it for such a high price.

/ *Say:* I can't buy it **at such a high price**.

Use **for** if the actual sum is mentioned. Use **at** if the actual sum isn't given.

Note: If the weight or measure follows the price, use **at** with the actual sum.
That velvet is available at £5 a metre.

385 **Between** and **Among**.

(a) **Between**.

Don't say: There was a fight among two boys. /

Say: There was a fight **between two boys**.

(b) **Among**.

Don't say: Divide the apple between you three. /

Say: Divide the apple **among you three**.

Use **between** for two only. Use **among** for more than two.

(See Exercise 81 on page 172.)

386 **Beside**.

Don't say: Charlie was standing just besides me. /

Say: Charlie was standing just **beside** me.

Part 5

387 *Except* for Besides/As well as

Don't say: I have other books except these.

/ *Say:* I have other books besides/as well as these
(= in addition to these).

hnie Except me-ms 'n leavp out £ v*«yo'; e wj^s present except John

388 *By* for *With*.

Don't say: The man shot the bird by a gun.

/ *Say:* The man shot the bird with a gun.

'vren you ^r'i .,no\ Me .it-^r',ei i) I'^tfimer.t .,-ih which 'he action
.iorj,e with By denote* the uer n; the action The bird i-va^; hor by t
/ie man

"jivu r,-i-oi,-v.r.iq ul.- by and not with by nan'i by post, by phone,
by cip^wann, by the four. by the Jo:piv by the metre

30-1 *From* for *By*.

Don't say: Mary was punished from her father. /

Say: Mary was punished by her father.

I't- by "...)! from, {ituvhf- pdSy.v* form to show the doer of the -Ktion

390 *From* for *Of* or *In*.

Don't say: He's the tallest from all the boys. /

Say: He's the tallest of all the boys.

Or. He's the tallest boy in the class

Preu -de .idi ^i tives (or adverbs) IN the superlative degree by the jnc! follow
mem bi of or in

391 *FAT FOR* About.

Don't say: The teacher spoke for bad habits.

</ *Say:* The teacher spoke about bad habits.

Don.t usr- for in th=scr.se of about fhe chief u-e of for r; (a convey the idea
of fj'jm.y m fj'vo,jr of " we sa>'thai the tt-arhei yoke for bad habits it's like
saying :hdt he /',he spoke in favour nl bad habits.

392 *Since* for **For**.

Don't say: She's lived here since two years

•/ *Say:* She's lived here **for two years**.

Place the preposition **for** before words or phrases denoting a period of time: for three days, for six weeks, for two years, for a few minutes, for a long time. Use it with any tense except the present.

Note **For** is often omitted. We can say, I've been here for two years or I've been here two years.

393 *From* for **Since**.

Don't say: Ian's been ill from last Friday. •

Say: Ian's been ill **since last Friday**.

Place the preposition **since** before words or phrases denoting a point in time: since Monday, since yesterday, since eight o'clock, since Christmas. When we use **since**, the verb is usually in the present perfect tense, but it may be in the past perfect. I was glad to see Tom. I hadn't seen him since last Christmas.

Note: **From** can also denote a point in time, but it must be followed by **to** or **till**: He works from eight o'clock till one o'clock without a break.

394 *After* for **In**.

Don't say: I may be able to go after a week.

/ *Say:* I may be able to go **in a week**.

Or: I may be able to go **in a week's time**.

When speaking of a period of time in the future, use **in**, and not **after**. Here **in** means after the end of.

395 *In* for **Within**.

Don't say: I'll come back in an hour - **if you mean before the end of an hour**.

/ *Say:* I'll come back **within an hour**.

In means after the end of, **within** means before the end of.

(See Exercises 82 and 83 on pages 172 - 173.)

Have another look ...

Use of certain prepositions

Prepositions of Place

TO and AT

Use **to** for movement from one place to another .

Example: I *walk to* school every day.

Use **at** to denote position or rest.

Example: He's *waiting at* the door.

IN and INTO

IN denotes position or rest inside something.

Example: The pencil ("5 *in* the box.

INTO denotes movement towards the inside of.

Example: They *walk into* the room.

Prepositions of Time

AT, IN, O'S

Use **AT** with the exact time.

Example: She arrived *at 8 o'clock* in the morning.

Use **ON** with days and dates.

Examples: *On Sunday* we go to church. My birthday is *on the third of December*.

Use **IN** with a period of time.

Example: *In summer* the weather is warm.

Verbs often confused

396 **Shall and Will.**

(a) **To express simple futurity:**

In the first person:

Don't say: I will go tomorrow if it's fine.

S Say: I **shall** go tomorrow if it's fine.

In the second person:

Don't say: She tells me you shall go tomorrow. /

Say: She tells me you **will/'ll** go tomorrow.

In the third person:

Don't say: He shall go if he has permission.

S Say: He **will/'ll** go if he has permission.

(b) **To express something more than simple futurity:** In the first person:

Don't say: I have determined that I shall go. /

Say: I have determined that I **will/'ll** go.

In the second person:

Don't say: You will/'ll go out if you are good.

Say: You **shall** go out if you are good.

In the third person:

Don't say: My mind is made up : he will/'ll go. /

Say: My mind is made up : he **shall** go.

To form the simple future, use shall with the first person and will with the second and third persons. Will in the first person denotes resolution or personal determination, and shall in the second and third persons denotes either a command or a promise.

Note: Should, the past tense of shall, and would, the past tense of will, have the same differences of meaning and use as the present forms shall and will / was afraid that I should fail, I promised that I would help him.

(See Exercise 41 on page 156.)

Part 5

397 Shall and May.

Distinguish between:

(a) May I shut the door? *and*

(b) Shall I shut the door ?

May 'ihui 'he door'. Me-di'thail wi-.l. "he rjror closed and I ask , 'ntji permission to -/nut it. *Shail* -J-.ui >=> doer-' Means that I ./. /ant io knov-- whether you wish the door oo'.ed

398 Say and Tell.

Don't say: He told. 'I wili/'ll go home .'

He told that he'd go home .

/ *Say:* He said, 'I will/'ll go home.'

He said that he'd go home .

Use to Say :1) when referring to a person's actual words, and (2) in indirect speech if the sentence doesn't contain an indirect object..

Note Common idioms with say una teff

Say a prayer Who says-' I must say! You can say that age''' If von say so Tell the- truth Tell a lie. Tell a story Tell the Time Tell your fortune Tell someone your name

(See Exercise 42 on pages. 156 - 157.)

399 Make and Do .

(a) Make,

Don't say: The carpenter did a large table.

/ *Say* The carpenter made a large table.

(hi Do.

Don't say: You must make your work carefully. *J*

Say: You must do your work carefully.

To make primarily means to construct or manufacture something, while to do mean: to accomplish a thing

JJoie Common exceptions with make and do [a] To make a mistake, to make a promise, to make a spot-'n to make an excuse, to make ha^te, to make fun of, to make progress, to make a noise, to make a bed i- to prepare the bed for sleeping on) lb) To do good, to do evil, to do-/our best to do

Confused words

your duty, to do someone a favour, to do wrong, to do a puzzle, to do business, to do away with, to do gymnastics, to do exercises

(See Exercise 43 on page 157.)

400 Lie and Lay.

(a) Lie.

Don't say: Em going to lay down for an hour. *S*

Say: Em going **to lie down** for an hour.

(b) Lay.

Don't say: Please lie the exam papers on the desk.

S Say: Please **lay out** the exam papers on the desk.

Lie (= to rest) is an intransitive verb and never has an object. Lay (= to put) is a transitive verb and always requires an object. Their principal parts are lie, lay, lain, and lay, laid, laid.

Note: Lie, lied, lied is to tell an untruth: He has lied to me. Lay, laid, laid also means to produce eggs: The hen has laid an egg (Idiom: Lay the table is to prepare the table for a meal.)

(See Exercise 44 on page 157.)

401 Sit and Seat.

(a) Sit.

Don't say: We seat at a desk to write a letter.

</ *Say:* We **sit** at a desk to write a letter.

(b) Seat.

Don't say: He sat the passengers one by one. /

Say: He **seated** the passengers one by one.

Use sit as an intransitive verb. Seat is a transitive verb and requires an object. Very often the object of seat is a reflexive pronoun: He seated himself near the fire. The principal parts of the two verbs are: sit, sat, sat, and seat, seated, seated.

Note: Don't confuse sit with set, which usually means to place. Common idioms with set: to set the table, to set on fire, to set off (or out), to set a trap, to set a clock, to set a price, to set your heart on, to set free, to set an example, to set a broken bone, to set to work (= to start work).

(See Exercise 45 on page 158.)

402 Rise and Raise.

(a) Rise.

Don't say: Val raises very early in the morning.

/ Say: Val rises very early in the morning.

(b) Raise.

Don't say: She rose their salaries too **often**. /

Say: She **raised** their salaries too often.

Rise is an intransitive verb and means to go up, stand up, or get out of bed. It does not require an object. Raise is a transitive verb and means to lift up something. Their principal parts are: rise, rose, risen, and raise, raised, raised.

Note: Arise is often used for rise, but it is better to use arise only in the sense of begin. A quarrel (a discussion, an argument, a difficulty, etc) may arise. This is formal but is still used.

(See Exercise 46 on page 158.)

403 Like and Love.

Don't say: I like you! Will you marry me? /

Say: I **love** you! Will you marry me?

Both verbs can be used for people and things. The only difference is one of degree. Love is much stronger than like.

404 Stay and Remain.

(a) Stay.

Don't say: We remained in a very good hotel.

/ Say: We **stayed** in a very good hotel.

(b) Remain.

Don't say: Not many figs have stayed on the tree. /

Say: Not many figs have **remained** on the tree.

Here, to stay means to live for a short time as a guest or a visitor, and to remain means to be left after part has been taken or destroyed.

Note: Use either verb when the meaning is to continue in the same place or condition. '/// stay [or remain] at home till tomorrow. Remain is more formal.

Confused words

405 Hanged and Hung.

(a) Hanged.

Don't say: No -one has been hung in Britain since 1964.

/ *Say:* No -one has been **hanged** in Britain since 1964.

(b) Hung.

Don't say: We hanged the picture on the wall. /

Say: We **hung** the picture on the wall.

When the reference is to killing a person or animal by hanging, we use the form **hanged**. In other cases, the form is **hung**. The principal parts of the two verbs are: hang, hanged, hanged; hang, hung, hung.

(See Exercise 50 on page 160.)

406 Wear and Put on.

(a) Wear.

Don't say: Kathy always puts on black shoes. «/

Say: Kathy always wears black shoes.

(b) Put on.

Don't say: I wear my clothes in the morning.

</ *Say:* I **put on** my clothes in the morning.

Wear means to have upon the body as a garment or as an ornament. To **put on** denotes a simple act.

Note. To **dress** has nearly the same meaning as to **put on**, but the object of **dress** is a person and not a thing. He **dressed** himself and went out. The mother **dressed** her baby.

(See Exercise 47 on pages 158 - 159.)

407 Tear and Tear up.

(a) Tear.

Don't say: John tore up his coat on a nail.

/ *Say:* John **tore** his coat on a nail.

(b) Tear up.

Don't say: Philip was angry and tore the letter.

/ *Say:* Philip was angry and tore up the letter.

To tear means to divide along a straight or wavy line, sometimes by accident: To tear up means to destroy by tearing to pieces.

Hurtful: The word up is often used with verbs to express the idea of completeness: burn up, drink up, dry up, cut up, eat up, shut up, use up

408 Grow and Grow up.

['?] Grow.

Don't say: These flowers grow up very quickly.

/ *Say:* These flowers grow very quickly.

(b) Grow up.

Don't say: When I grow I'll be a doctor.

/ *Say:* When I grow up I'll be a doctor.

To grow means to become bigger, to grow up means to become an adult

Other meanings of grow {1} to occur naturally in the ground Rice grows in Egypt. {2} to cause to grow We grow flowers in our garden, {3} to allow to grow He grew a beard: (4) to become The nights grow cold in winter

409 Pick and Pick up.

(u) Pick.

Don't say: We picked up flowers in the garden.

✓ *Say:* We picked flowers in the garden.

(b) Pick up.

Don't say: The naughty boy picked a stone.

/ *Say:* The naughty boy picked up a stone.

To pick fruit or flowers means to pull them away with the fingers, to pick up means to lift up from the ground. The important element is that what is picked up isn't attached

410 Deal with and Deal in.

(a) Deal with.

Don't say: This book deals in common errors. /

Say: This book deals with common errors.

Confused words

(b) Deal in.

Don't say: A bookseller deals with books .

/ *Say:* A bookseller deals in books .

To deal with means to have to do with, to deal in means to buy and sell

Note. To deal with also means to take action on a matter The headmaster will deal with that question

411 Interfere in and Interfere with.

(a) Interfere in.

Don't say: Don't interfere with my private business! /

Say: Don't interfere in my private business!

(b) Interfere with.

Don't say: Paul is always interfering in the equipment . /

Say: Paul is always interfering with the equipment .

Interfere in means to concern yourself with something which you shouldn't
Interfere with means to do some damage or be a nuisance to someone or something.

412 Borrow and Lend.

(a) Borrow.

Don't say: I want to lend a book from you. /

Say: I want to borrow a book from you.

(b) Lend.

Don't say: Will you please borrow me a book? /

Say: Will you please lend me a book?

To borrow is to get something from someone, and to lend is to give something to someone

(See Exercise 51 on page 160.)

413 Steal and Rob.

(a) Steal.

Don't say: Someone has robbed all her money. /

Say: Someone has stolen all her money.

(b) Rob.

Don't say: Some men stole a bank last night. /

Say: Some men **robbed a bank** last night.

The object of steal is the thing taken by the thief, such as money, a watch, a bicycle, etc, while the object of rob is the person or place from whom (or which) the thing is taken, such as a man, a house, or a bank.

(See Exercise 52 on page 160.)

414 Take revenge and Avenge.

Don't say: I must avenge myself for what he did to me!

/ *Say:* I must **take revenge** for what he did to me !

Note: Avenge and revenge oneself are now only found in literary English: We usually use take revenge (on). We might also say He must have his revenge

415 Convince and Persuade.

Don't say: I am persuaded of Robin's innocence.

/ *Say:* **I am convinced** of Robin's innocence.

Persuade and convince have very similar meanings and are mostly interchangeable in modern English. Delia persuaded me to take the exam = Delia convinced me to take the exam. Except in the case of to be convinced of something meaning to believe something.

Note. Care must be taken not to confuse persuade with pursued, the past tense of pursue (= to follow)

416 Refuse and Deny.

(a) Refuse.

Don't say': Sarah denied to take the money.

/ *Say:* Sarah **refused** to take the money.

(b) Deny.

Don't say: John refused that he'd done it. /

Say: John **denied** that he'd done it.

To refuse means not to take what is offered or not to do what one is asked to do... To deny means to answer in the negative or to say that a statement isn't true.

(See Exercise 53 on page 160.)

417 Discover and Invent.

(a) Discover.

Don't say: America was invented by Columbus.

/ **Say:** America was discovered by Columbus.

(B) Invent.

Don't say: Edison discovered the gramophone. /

Say: Edison invented the gramophone.

TO DISCOVER is to find that which existed before but was unknown, and TO INVENT is to create that which didn't exist before

418 Take place and Take part.

(a) Take place.

Don't say: The meeting will take part soon. /

Say: The meeting will take place soon.

(b) Take part.

Don't say: I'll take place in the meeting. /

Say: I'll take part in the meeting.

TO TAKE PLACE means to happen or to be held, while TO TAKE PART means 'to be involved in'

419 Made from and Made of.

(a) Made from.

Don't say: The bowl is made of glass. /

Say: The bowl is made from glass.

(b) Made of.

Don't say: The statue is made from marble. /

Say: The statue is made of marble.

We usually use OF when you can still recognise the original material. We use FROM when the original materials are unrecognisable. In most cases either is possible.

420 *Let* for **Rent** and *Hired out* for Hire .

(a) Rent.

Don't say: I let the house from Mr Jones. /

Say: **I rent** the house from Mr Jones.

Note To rent something is to pay to use it, usually for a long period of time a house, a car, a piano etc To let something is to allow someone to pay you for the use of something that belongs to you

(b) Hire.

Don't say: I hired out a surf board when I was in America.

•/ *Say:* **I hired** a surf board when I was in America.

Note To hire something is, to pay to use it, usually for a short time, with one single payment a suit, a bicycle, a rowing boat etc To hire out is to offer something for someone else to hire

421 *Win* for **Earn**.

Don't say: She wins her living by hard work. /

Say: She **earns** her living by hard work.

To earn means to receive in return for work, to win is to obtain as a result of fighting, competition, gambling, etc

Note: The verb to gain may be used with either meaning to gain one's living or to gain a victory, a prize, etc.

422 *Substitute* for **Replace** with.

Don't say: They substituted gold with paper money. /

Say: They **replaced** gold with paper money.

We replace one thing with another, but we substitute one thing for another the two phrases mean the reverse of each other You replace gold with paper money You substitute paper money for gold-

423 *Correct* for **Repair** or **Mend**.

Don't say: Some men are correcting the road. /

Say: Some men are **repairing** the road.

To correct is to make something right to correct mistakes, a composition a translation, one's pronunciation, etc To repair or to mend is to put something in a better condition to repair or mend a road, clothes, shoes, etc

Confused words

Note: To repair a watch is to put it in good condition again, but to correct a watch is to set it to the right time

424 *Dust* for **Cover with dust.**

Don't say: A sandstorm dusted our clothes.

/ *Say:* A sandstorm **covered** our clothes **with dust**.

To dust doesn't mean to cover with dust, but to remove dust from After sweeping, she dusted the furniture

425 *Please* for **Ask** or **Thank**.

Don't say: I pleased him to do me a favour;

or: I pleased him for his lovely present.

</ *Say:* **I asked** him to do me **a** favour;

and: **J thanked** him for his lovely present.

To please means to give pleasure to / worked hard to please my teacher

426 *Could* for **Was able to**.

Don't say: Because Laura worked hard she could finish the job in time.

/ *Say:* Because Laura worked hard she **was able to** finish the job in time.

If the meaning is managed to or succeeded in doing, use was able to, and not could.

427 *Learn* for **Teach**.

Don't say: Graham learned us how to play hockey.

/ *Say:* Graham **taught** us how to play hockey,

Teach means to give instruction, learn means to receive instruction He taught me English, and I learned it quickly

{See Exercise 54 on page 161.)

428 *Win* or **Beat**.

Don't say: We've always won your team.

Parts

/ **Say: We've always beaten your team.**

To win is to get something you wanted, to beat is to overcome an opponent: The girls beat the boys, and won the prize.

Remember; the principal parts of each verb: beat, beat, beaten, and win, won, won.

(See Exercise 55 on page 161.)

429 **Accept for Agree.**

Don't say: The teacher accepted to go with us.

/ **Say: The teacher agreed to go with us.**

Accept means to take something that is offered to you. Maria accepted the bunch of flowers. It also means to believe something you're told: Ken accepted his explanation. Agree to means to do what one is asked to do: David agreed to come to London on Monday, but agree with means to have the same opinion as someone else. The Long family never agree with each other.

Note: We agree with a person, but to a thing. / agree with Luke, but I can't agree to this plan.

430 **Leave for Let.**

Don't say: Penny didn't leave me to get my book. /

Say: Penny didn't let me get my book.

Let means to allow. Leave means to abandon or to go away from. Do you leave your books at school?

(See also Sections 436 and 447.)

431 **Bring for Take.**

Don't say: The astronauts are bringing plants to the moon.

/ **Say: The astronauts are taking plants to the moon.**

Using bring or take depends on where the speaker or doer is. We use bring for things coming to where we are and take for things going somewhere else: Take these cakes to your grandmother and bring (back) some flowers from her garden.

Note: To fetch means to go somewhere else and come back with something: Please fetch me a glass of water (= go and come back with a glass of water).

432 *Drown* for *Sink*.

Don't say: The ship drowned in the ocean. /

Say: The ship **sank** in the ocean.

To be drowned refers to living things, and means to die in water, to sink refers to people or things, and means to go down to the bottom of water

1-33 *See* for *Look*.

Don't say: Neil was seeing out of the window. /

Say: Neil was **looking** out of the window.

To see is to notice with the eyes, but to look is to direct the eyes in order to see - / looked up and saw the plane

(See Exercise 56 on page 161.)

434 *Hear* for *Listen*.

Don't say: I was hearing her CDs.

/ Say: I was **listening** to her CDs.

To listen to may also mean to think carefully about what someone says
Oeniy always listens to his mother.

(See Exercise 57 on pages 161 - 162.)

435 *Remember* for *Remind*.

Don't say: Please remember me to give it back.

/ Say: Please remind me to give it back.

To remember is to have in mind. I remember what you told me To remind is to make a person remember something

435 *Leave* for *Let go*.

Don't say: Leave the other end of the string. /

Say: **Let go of** the other end of the string.

Leave isn't usually used in the sense of let go but you will hear the idiom leave go over / informal English to mean let go

(See also sections 430 and 447.)

437 *Sleep* for **Go to Bed**.

Don't say: I'M sleep early tonight.

</ Say: I'll **go to bed** early tonight.

To go to bed denotes the act of lying down on a bed in preparation for going to sleep, we can say that a person went to bed at nine o'clock, out that he didn't sleep until eleven o'clock when he slept soundly Go to sleep means to fall asleep He went to sleep while he was in the cinema.

438 *Be found* for **Be**.

Don't say: The man was found in his office. /

Say: The man **was** in his office.

In English, the verb be found generally means 'be discovered'. Diamonds are found in Africa and in India. Therefore, He was found in his office would suggest that the man had hidden himself in his office and was later discovered.

439 *Be with* for **Have**.

Don't say: My English book is **with** my brother. /

Say: **My brother has my English book.**

Avoid 'ismg be with in the sense of have. Be with means to be together or in company of He is with his parents

440 *Take* for **Get**.

Don't say: Clare took a good mark in chemistry. /

Say: Clare **got** a good mark in chemistry.

To take means to obtain something intentionally or by force: / took a book from the library, The army took the city. To get or to receive means to obtain something which is given such as a gift, a letter, money, or a mark in an exam

441 *Like* for **Want**, etc.

Don't say: Do you like to see my collection? /

Say: Do you want to see my collection?

Do you like to do something? means do you enjoy doing it as a habitual action Do you want to do something? means do you wish to do it now

Confused words

Note I would/'d like means I want / would/'d like <= I want to play tennis today. Would you like (= do you want) to go for a walk with me? Would/'d like is more polite than want.

(See Exercise 58 on page 162.)

442 Know for Learn, etc.

Don't say: Dan went to school to know English. /

Say: Dan went to school to **learn** English.

Use know when learning is finished: She knows how to swim. Similarly, avoid using know to mean find out or realise.

443 Read for Study.

Don't say: Lucy is reading algebra in her room. /

Say: Lucy is **studying** algebra in her room.

To study means to try to learn, to read doesn't imply any effort. A student studies English, maths, history and other subjects, he/she reads a story, a letter, or a newspaper. She is reading for a degree is also correct.

(See Exercise 59 on page 162.)

444 Learn for Study.

Don't say: Kevin is learning at Gordon College.

S Say: Kevin **is studying** at Gordon College.

The expression I learn at (Gordon College, etc.) is incorrect. Say I study at (Gordon College, etc.) or I am a student at (Gordon College, etc.).

445 Take for Buy.

Don't say: I went to the baker's to take bread. /

Say: I went to the baker's to **buy** bread.

Never use take in the sense of buy

446 Take out for Take off.

Don't say: Chris took out his hat and coat. /

Say: Chris **took off** his hat and coat.

The opposite of put on is take off, and not take out.

Part 5

447 *Leave* for **Give up**, etc

Don't say: I've now left football.

/ Say: I've now **given up** football.

Or: I've now **stopped** playing football.

Never use *leave* in the meaning of give up, or stop something

(For sections 430, 436 and 447 see Exercise 48 on page 159.)

448 *Sympathise* for **Like**.

Don't say: I don't sympathise him very much. */*

Say: I don't like him very much.

Sympathise isn't synonymous with *like*. To *sympathise with* means to share some feeling (usually of sorrow) with another person: */ sympathise with you in your sorrow*

449 *Put* for **Keep**.

Don't say: Do you put your money in the bank ? */*

Say: Do you **keep** your money in the bank ?

It's better to use *keep* for a more or less permanent resting place, and *put* for a temporary one

450 *Care about*, *Care for* for **Take care of**.

Don't say: Oliver cares about (cares for) his brother's investments.

/ Say: Oliver **takes care of** his brother's investments.

Care about means to like and be concerned about something or someone.

Take care of means to look after someone or something: You should take

care of our children, or do something to remedy a problem I think / should

take care of that broken pane of glass *Care for* means to look after: I cared

for you when you were ill. *Care for* can also mean to be fond of someone or

something. William really cares for geraniums, though this use is rather

old-fashioned.

Note: Avoid also such expressions as: (1) He doesn't care for my advice, (2) He doesn't care for his work, (3) He took no care of him, (4) No one cared for him

during his illness Say: (1) He pays no attention to my advice, (2) He takes

no care over his work, (3) He took no notice of him, (4) No one took care of him during his illness.

451 *Let* for **Make** (= to force).

Don't say: The examiner let me sit quietly until everyone had finished.

/ *Say:* The examiner **made** me sit quietly until everyone had finished.

Don't use let, in the sense of make, meaning to force.

452 *Flown* for **Flowed**.

Don't say: The river has flown over its banks. /

Say: The river has **flowed** over its banks.

Flown is the past participle of fly, the past participle of flow (= to move as water) is flowed. The principal parts of the two verbs are: fly, flew, flown - flow, flowed, flowed.

Note: Flee, fled, fled is formal but we still use it to mean to run away. We flee from danger. Float, floated, floated means to stay on the surface of water or other liquid. Ships float on the water.

(See Exercise 49 on page 159.)

453 *Fall* for **Fell**.

Don't say: John fall down and broke his leg. /

Say: John **fell** down and broke his leg.

The past tense of this verb is fell, not fall. Its principal parts are: fall, fell, fallen.

Note: Fell, felled, felled means to knock or cut down: The wood-cutter felled a large tree.

(See Exercise 60 on page 162.)

454 *Found* for **Find**.

Don't say: Rosie tried to found her lost book. /

Say: Rosie tried **to find** her lost book.

To find is a very common verb meaning to get back a thing lost. Its principal parts: find, found, found.

Note: There is, however, another verb to found, meaning to establish: He founded the school fifty years ago.

Have another look at . . .

Use of will and shall

I'll/will/shall	You'll/will	He/she/it'll/will
We'll/will/shall	You'll/will	They'll/will

The short form *ll* can be used for both *will* and *shall*.

We usually use the long form in writing and the short in speech, but when we are writing informally we also use the short form.

The future auxiliary *will* has several different meanings:

1 It can be used for things which we expect to happen :

He('ll) will speak to you about it tomorrow.

2 It can be used as a conditional with an *if* or *whether* clause:

jane will give you a lift if you need one.

3 We use *will* or *shall* for requests and offers:

Will you help me sort out these books?

4 When *will* is stressed it often means that someone insists on or persists in doing something:

Barry will keep handing in his homework late.

5 *Shall* is always used in the first person in the question form:

Shall I leave the door open? Shall we have lunch now?

6 *Shall* is sometimes used in modern English with the first person (I or we) when we are speaking or writing formally:

We shall never forget your kindness.

Shall isn't generally used in other contexts nowadays , though it used to be quite common .

Adverbs often confused

455 Very and Too.

(a) Very.

Don't say: It's too hot **in** Rome **in** the summer.

/ *Say:* It's **very** hot **in** Rome **in** the summer.

(b) Too.

Don't say: It's now very hot **to** play football. /

Say: It's now too hot **to** play football.

Very simply makes the adjective or adverb stronger. Too means more than enough, or so much that something else happens as a result.

(See Exercise 68 on page 166.)

456 Very and Much.

(a) Very.

Don't say: He's a much strong man .

It's a much interesting book.

/ *Say:* He's a very strong man .

It's a **very** interesting book .

(b) Much.

Don't say: He's very stronger than I am. /

Say: He's **much** stronger than I am.

Use very with adjectives and adverbs in the positive, and with present participles used as adjectives like interesting. Use much with comparatives.

(See Exercise 69 on page 167.)

457 Too much for Very much.

Don't say: She likes the cinema too much.

He's too much stronger than I am. /

Say: She likes the cinema **very much**.

He's **very much** stronger than I am.

Use very much instead of much for greater emphasis. Too much denotes an

Part 5

excessive quantity or degree. She ate too much, and felt ill. (See Exercise 70 on page 167.)

458 *Before* for **Ago**.

Don't say: I saw your friend before two weeks. /

Say: I saw your friend **two weeks ago**.

We use *ago* in counting from the time of speaking to a point in the past; half an hour ago, three days ago, four months ago, five years ago, a long time ago. We use *before* in counting from a distant to a nearer point in the past. Napoleon died in 1821, he had lost the battle of Waterloo six years before.

Note. When we use *ago*, the verb is always in the simple past tense. He came five minutes ago.

459 *Hardly* for **Hard**.

Don't say: She rubbed her eyes hardly. /

Say: She rubbed her eyes **hard**.

Hard means severely. *Hardly* means not quite or scarcely. The baby can hardly walk.

(See Exercise 71 on page 168.)

460 *No so* for **Not very**.

Don't say: I hear that he's not so rich. /

Say: I hear that he's **not very** rich.

We can't use *not so* in the sense of *not very*. The expression *He's not so rich* implies a comparison: He's not so rich as you are.

461 *Just now* **r*** or **Presently**, etc.

Don't say: The messenger will arrive just now. /

Say: The messenger will arrive **presently**.

If we are speaking of a near and immediate future time, we must use *presently*, *immediately*, *in a minute*, or *soon*. *Just now* refers to present or past time, and not to future time: He's not at home just now (= at this moment). He left just now (= a little time ago).

Confused words

462 *Presently* for *At present*.

***Don't say:* His uncle is in London presently. /**

***Say:* His uncle is in London at present.**

At present and presently are not synonymous. At present means now, but presently means soon: She will come back presently (= soon).

463 *Scarcely* for *Rarely*.

***Don't say:* Zoe scarcely comes to see me now. /**

***Say:* Zoe rarely comes to see me now.**

Scarcely isn't synonymous with rarely. Rarely means not often, scarcely means not quite / had scarcely finished when he came

464 *Lately* for *Late*.

***Don't say:* Last night I went to bed lately. /**

***Say:* Last night I went to bed late.**

The opposite of early is late, not lately. Lately means in recent times: / haven't been there lately.

Adjectives often confused

465 *Many* and *Much*.

(a) Many.

***Don't say:* My brother hasn't much books.**

***/ Say:* My brother hasn't many books.**

(b) Much.

***Don't say:* Is there many dust in the room? /**

***Say:* Is there much dust in the room?**

Use many with plural nouns: many books or many boys. Use much with uncountable nouns: much water or much bread.

Note: In affirmative sentences many and much are generally replaced by a lot (of), a great deal (of), plenty (of), a good deal (of), a good many (of), a great number (of), a large quantity (of), etc.

(See Exercise 9 on page 141.)

Part 5

466 Few and A Few.

(a) Few.

Don't say: Although the question was easy, a few boys were able to answer it.

S Say: Although the question was easy, **few** boys were able to answer it.

(b) A few.

Don't say: Although the question was difficult, few boys were able to answer it.

/ Say: Although the question was difficult, **a few** boys were able to answer it.

Few means not many and emphasises the smallness of the number it is distinguished from a few, which means at least some.

467 Little and A little.

(a) Little.

Don't say: He took a little exercise and wasn't very fit.

/ Say: He took **little** exercise and wasn't very fit.

(b) A little.

Don't say: She took little exercise and felt much better.

/ Say: She took **a little** exercise and felt much better.

Little means not much and emphasises the smallness of the amount. It's distinguished from a little which means at least some.

(For sections 466 - 467 see Exercise 10 on page 141.)

468 Each and Every.

(a) Each.

Don't say: She gave an apple to every of the children. /

Say: She gave an apple to **each** of the children.

(b) Every.

Don't say: Each child had an apple. /

Say: **Every** child had an apple.

Confused words

Use each tot one of two or more things, „anen one by one . Never use every for two, but always for more than two things, taken as a group Each is more individual and specific, but every is the more emphatic word

Note: Each and every are always singular: Each (or every) one of !he twenty boys has a book

469 His and Her .

(a) His.

Don't say: John visits her aunt every Sunday. /

Say: **John** visits **his** aunt every Sunday .

(b) Her.

Don't say: Ann visits his uncle every Sunday.

</ *Say:* Ann visits **her** uncle every Sunday.

In English, possessive adjectives (and pronouns) agree with the person who possesses, and not with the person or thing possessed When the possessor is masculine, use his, and when the possessor is feminine, use her.

(See Exercise 13 on page 142.)

470 Oider (oldest) and Elder (eldest).

(a) Older, Oldest.

Don't say: This girl is elder than that one.

This girl is the eldest of all

/ *Say:* This girl is **older** than that one .

This girl is the oldest of all.

(b) Elder, Eldest.

Don't say: My older brother is called John.

My oldest brother is not here.

/ *Say:* My **elder** brother is called John.

My **eldest** brother is not here .

Older and oldest are applied to both people and things, while elder and eldest are applied to people only, and most frequently to related people.

Note: Elder can't be followed by than Jane is older [not elder] than her sister.

(See Exercise 8 on page 140 and Exercise 15 on page 143.)

471 interesting and Interested .

(a) Interesting.

Don't say: I've read **an** interested story. /

Say: I've read **an** interesting story.

(b) Interested.

Don't say: Are you interesting in your work? /

Say: Are you interested in your work?

Interesting refers to the thing which arouses interest, while interested refers to the person who takes an interest in the thing.

(See Exercise 14 on page 143.)

472 Wounded and Injured or Hurt .

Don't say: Jack was wounded in a car accident. /

Say: Jack was injured in a car accident.

People are injured or hurt as a result of an accident or a fight, but people are wounded in wars and battles.

473 Farther and Further.

Don't say: Turn the page for farther instructions. /

Say: Turn the page for further instructions.

Note: Use further to mean both greater distance and more of something. We only use farther for distances. / live a bit farther away than you. Don't use it to mean more. We use further for both meanings in modern English.

474 A for An.

Don't say: A animal, a orange, a hour.

/ Say: **An** animal, **an** orange, **an** hour.

Use an instead of a before a vowel or a silent h (as in hour, heir, honest). Before a long u or a syllable having the sound of you, we use a (not an); a union, a European (but an untie).

475 One for A (n)

Don't say: Adam found one ring in the street. /

Say: Adam found **a** ring in the street

Confused words

Don't use the numeral one instead of the indefinite article a or an. Use one only where the number is emphatic; He gave me one book instead of two.

476 *Some* for *Any*.

(a) *Some*.

Don't say: Louis has got any milk.

J Say: Louis has got some milk.

(b) *Any*.

Don't say: There aren't some books on the shelf. *S*

Say: There aren't **any** books on the shelf.

We usually use *some* for affirmative phrases: She's got some chicken, and any in negative and interrogative phrases: Ian hasn't bought any food today. Have you bought any food? We sometimes use *some* in questions: Would you like some soup?

(See Exercise 12 on page 142.)

477 *Less* for *Fewer*.

Don't say: They have less books than I have. /

Say: They have fewer books than I have.

Less denotes amount, quantity, value, or degree, *fewer* denotes number.

We may have less water, less food, less money, less education, but fewer books, fewer letters, fewer friends.

Note. We say less than {five, si/., etc.} pounds because the pounds are considered as a sum of money and not as a number of coins.

478 *This* for **That**.

Don't say: Look at this dog across the street! /

Say: Look at **that** dog across the street!

This is used to indicate something physically close to the speaker. In the case of abstract things we use *this* for things which are most immediately present. This is a lovely song' I'll help you do it this time. When we talk about more than one thing we use *this* for the closer or more immediate and *that* for the further away or more remote in time. If we're only talking about one thing we usually use *that*. What's that noise? That's a nice coat' Don't do that'

479 *Latter* for **Later**.

Don't say: She got to school **latter** than I did. /

Say: She got to school **later** than I did.

Later refers to time. Latter refers to order and means the second of two things just mentioned. Alexandria and Cairo are large cities. The latter has a population of over a million. The opposite of latter is former.

480 *Last* for **Latter**.

Don't say: Sir Walter Scott and Charles Dickens are both excellent writers, but I prefer the last.

/ Say: Sir Walter Scott and Charles Dickens are both excellent writers, but I prefer the **latter**.

The latter means the second of two people or things which have been mentioned. The last refers to a series of more than two.

481 *Last* for **Latest**.

Don't say: What's the last news from the Palace? /

Say: What's the **latest** news from the Palace?

Latest is the last up to the present. Last is the final one. Z is the last letter of the alphabet.

482 *Small, Big* for **Young, Old**.

Don't say: I'm two years smaller than you.

She's three years bigger than me.

/ Say: I'm two years **younger** than you.

She's three years **older** than me.

If reference is to age, say young or old. Small and big usually refer to size. He is big (or small) for his age.

Note: Great refers to the importance of a person or thing: Napoleon was a great man, Homer's Iliad is a great book. Use great with words like distance, height, length, depth. There is a great distance between the earth and the moon. Informally, use great to mean something nice or good. We watched a great concert last night.

483 *High* for **Tall**.

Don't say: My elder brother **is** six feet high. /

Say: My elder brother **is** six feet tall.

We generally use tall with people, and it's the opposite of short. Use high when referring to trees, buildings, or mountains, and it's the opposite of low.

484 *Beautiful* for **Handsome** or **Good-looking**.

Don't say: He's grown into a beautiful young man. /

Say: He's grown into a **handsome** young man.

We usually say that a man is handsome or good-looking, and that a woman is beautiful, lovely, good looking or pretty.

485 *Sick* or **ill**.

Don't say: He's been sick for over a year. /

Say: He's been **ill** for over a year.

To be ill means to be in bad health. To be sick means to vomit. We sometimes use sick idiomatically to mean feeling ill. The smell made me sick.

Note: We can also use sick before certain nouns. The sick room, a sick note, sick leave. We use the plural noun the sick to mean ill people. Angela worked with the sick on the streets of Birmingham.

(See Exercise 11 on page 142.)

486 *Clear* for **Clean**.

Don't say: You should keep your hands clear. /

Say: You should keep your hands **clean**.

Clean is the opposite of dirty. Clear means transparent or unclouded: clear water, a clear sky.

487 *Angry* for **Sorry**.

Don't say: [was angry to hear of her death. /

Say: **I** was **sorry** to hear of her death.

Sorry is the opposite of glad. Angry means annoyed or enraged. He was angry when a boy hit him in the face.

488 Nervous for Angry.

Don't say: Our teacher is very nervous today. /

Say: Our teacher is very angry today.

Nervous means to be easily frightened or upset and can be a temporary or permanent condition. Angry describes someone's mood at a given moment.

Nouns often confused

489 House and Home.

Don't say: You should go to your house now. /

Say: You should go home now.

Take care not to say my house, his house, or your house when you should say home. A house is any building used for dwelling in, and home is the particular house in which someone is living.

Note Home may also denote one's own country. When an Englishman abroad says I'm going home this summer, he means going to England.

(See Exercise 4 on pages 138-139.)

490 Story and History.

(a) Story.

Don't say: She told me an interesting history.

/ Say: She told me an interesting story.

(b) History.

Don't say: We study the story of the Romans. /

Say: We study the history of the Romans.

A story is an account of events which may or may not be true. History is a systematic record of past events.

491 Habit and Custom.

(a) Habit.

Don't say: Telling lies is a very bad custom. /

Say: Telling lies is a very bad habit.

Confused words

(b) Custom.

Don't say: The Chinese have strange habits.

/ Say: The Chinese have strange **customs**.

A habit belongs to the individual, but a custom belongs to a society or country

(See Exercise 5 on page 139.)

^92 Cause of and Reason for.

(a) Cause of.

Don't say: What's the reason for a sandstorm? /

Say: What's the **cause of** a sandstorm?

(b) Reason for.

Don't say: You have a good cause of coming.

/ Say: You have a good **reason for** coming.

A cause is that which produces a result. A reason is that which explains or justifies a result

493 Scene and Scenery,

(a) Scene.

Don't say: The TV crew arrived at the scenery. /

Say: The TV crew arrived at the **scene**.

(b) Scenery.

Don't say: The scene in Cyprus is beautiful

/ Say: The **scenery** in Cyprus is beautiful.

A scene refers to one particular place, while scenery refers to the general appearance of the country. We don't use scenery in the plural

194 Centre and Middle.

(a) Centre.

Don't say: Stand in the middle of the circle. /

Say: Stand in the **centre** of the circle.

(b) Middle.

Don't say: He was in the **centre** of the street. /

Say: He was in the **middle** of the street.

Centre is the point that is equidistant from the edge of a circle. Middle is the area equidistant from two sides: middle of the road, middle of the room, middle of the page, etc.

495 Shade or Shadow.

(a) Shade.

Don't say: I like to sit in the shadow.

/ *Say:* I like to sit in the **shade**.

(b) Shadow.

Don't say: The dog saw his **shade** in the water.

«/ *Say:* The dog saw his **shadow** in the water.

Shade is a place sheltered from the sun. Shadow is a shade of a distinct form as of a tree, a man, a dog, etc.

496 Customer and Client.

(a) Customer.

Don't say: That grocer has plenty of clients.

/ *Say:* That grocer has plenty of **customers**.

(b) Client.

Don't say: That lawyer has plenty of customers. /

Say: That lawyer has plenty of **clients**.

A person can be a customer at a shop, but a client of a lawyer, a bank, etc.

497 Stranger for Guest.

Don't say: They had some strangers last night. /

Say: They had some **guests** last night.

A guest is usually a friend who comes to our house for a visit, while a stranger is a person unknown to us.

Note. A foreigner is a person from another country and speaking a foreign language.

Confused words

498 *Travel* for **Journey**.

Don't say: Our travel to Wales was lovely.

/ ***Say:*** Our **journey** to Wales was lovely.

Travel is a verb, used to describe any type of movement from one place to another. Journey is the noun but we also use (take a) trip for having a short journey: We took a trip to the seaside last Sunday. We also use travelling as noun: Jim loves travelling. We use a possessive pronoun with travels as an idiom: Jenny is off on her travels again.

Note: We use the noun travel (1) in a general sense: She loves travel. (2) in the plural: We have written a book about his travels.

499 *Foot* for **Leg**.

Don't say: I hurt my foot - if the injury is anywhere above the ankle.

/ ***Say:*** I hurt my **leg**.

Leg is the part of the body from the hip down to the ankle, and foot is the part below the ankle. (Hand must also be carefully distinguished from arm.)

Note: The leg of a chair, a table, a bed; the foot of a hill, a wall, a ladder, a page.

500 *Finger* for **Toe**.

Don't say: I hurt a finger of my right foot. /

Say: I hurt a **toe** of my right foot.

Fingers are on the hand, and toes are on the foot.

501 *Poetry* for **Poem**.

Don't say: I have a poetry to learn by heart.

, / ***Say:*** I have a **poem** to learn by heart.

Poetry is the form of literature dealing with poems. A poem is one piece of poetry.

Part 5

502 *Vieatre* for Play.

Don't say: Sarah is going to see a theatre tonight. /

Say: Sarah is going to see a play tonight.

A theatre is a building in which plays are acted, not the play itself.

503 *Play* for Game .

Don't say: They had a nice play of football. /

Say: They had a nice **game** of football.

Avoid using play in the sense game . Play means 'amusement' He is fond of play

504 *Dress* for **Suit**.

Don't say: My elder brother has a new dress.

/ *Say:* My elder brother has a new **suit**.

Only girls and women wear dresses ; anyone can wear suits (a jacket with trousers or a skirt) Clothes is a general word : John (or Mary-) is wearing new clothes.

Note We say a man in full evening dress, or morning dress for traditional , formal clothes

505 *Individual* for **Person/People**.

Don't say: There were five individuals in the shop. /

Say: There were five **people** in the shop.

Use individual with a single person as opposed to the group : The individual must act for the good of the community.

506 *Men* for **People**.

Don't say: All the streets were full of men . /

Say: All the streets were full of **people**.

Use people and not men when the reference is to human beings in general

507 *Woman* for **Wife**.

Don't use: The man took his woman with him. /

Say: The man took his **wife** with him.

Confused words

In English, these two words are carefully distinguished. *wife* is the woman in a marriage. Both husbands and wives can be referred to as partners.

508 *Cost* for **Price**.

Don't say: What's the cost of this watch? /

Say: What's the **price** of this watch?

Price is the amount of money paid by the customer. *Cost* is the amount paid by the shopkeeper. We can say: How much does it cost?

Note: *Value* is the usefulness or importance of something. The value of milk, as a food, the value of education. *Face value* is the amount printed on a piece of paper-money or on a postage stamp.

509 *Air* for **Wind**.

Don't say: The strong air blew her hat away. /

Say: The strong **wind** blew her hat away.

Air is what we breathe, and *wind* is what makes the leaves of the trees move.

510 *Ground* for **Floor**.

Don't say: When I entered the room, I saw a book on the ground.

•/ *Say:* When I entered the room, I saw a book on the **floor**.

The *floor* is the part of the room on which we walk. The *ground* is outside the house.

511 *Place* for **Room**.

Don't say: Is there place for me on the bus? /

Say: Is there **room** for me on the bus?

Don't use *place* in the sense of *room*, which means here unoccupied space.

512 *Organ* for **Instrument**.

Don't say: What other organ can you play?

/ *Say:* What other **instrument** can you play?

The *organ* is a particular musical instrument used in some churches to accompany the singing of hymns. Don't use *organ* to denote any other musical instrument.

513 Appetite for Desire, etc.

Don't say: I've no appetite at all to study. /

Say: I've no desire at all to study.

Appetite is generally used with food. For study, work, or play we use such words as desire, disposition, and inclination.

(See also Exercise 6 on page 139.)

Confusion Of number

The following can't be used in the plural:

514 Advice.

Don't say: Nick gave me some good advices. /

Say: Nick gave me some good advice.

Note: When we mean only one thing we say a piece of advice: Let me give you 3 pieces of advice.

515 Information.

Don't say: Can you give me any informations? /

Say: Can you give me any information?

Note: When we mean only one thing we say an item or a bit of information. He gave me a useful item of information.

516 Furniture.

Don't say: Furnitures are often made of wood. /

Say: Furniture is often made of wood.

Note: Furniture is a singular noun and always takes a singular verb and pronoun. A piece of furniture means one thing only.

517 Luggage.

Don't say: Her luggages are at the station.

/ Say: Her luggage is at the station.

Note: Baggage, another word for luggage, can't be used in the plural either. The baggage is ready for the train.

518 Damage .

Don't say: The fire caused many damages.

</ *Say:* The fire caused much **damage**.

Note: The plural form damages denotes money paid to make good a loss. The insurance company paid the man damages.

519 Work.

Don't say: Today I've many works to do. /

Soy: Today I've a lot of **work** to do.

Note The plural form works means a factory or the writings of an author. The works of Shakespeare are many, I visited the steel works.

520 Character.

Don't say: The school builds good characters. /

Say: The school builds good **character**.

Note. The plural form characters denotes the letters of the alphabet or the people in a book or play.

521 Hair .

Don't say : That man has long hairs.

</ *Say:* That man has long **hair**.

Note: When we use hair to denote a single thread, the plural form is hairs / found two long hairs in my food.

522 Bread.

Don't soy: Breads are sold at the baker's. /

Say: Bread is sold at the baker's.

Note. We can say a loaf of bread and loaves of bread: I bought a loaf (two, three, etc , loaves) of bread.

523 Fish.

Don't say: Yesterday we had fishes for dinner.

</ *Say:* Yesterday we had **fish** for dinner.

Note: Fish as food or in bulk (= large numbers) is always singular. We rarely use the plural form (fishes) which denotes fish individually: / caught three small fishes.

524 Fruit.

Don't say: We didn't have many fruits this summer. /

Say: We didn't have much fruit this summer.

Note: We rarely use the plural form fruits which means different kinds of fruit.
Cyprus produces oranges, apricots, and other fruits

525 Grass.

Don't say: The dog lay down on the grasses. /

Say: The dog lay down on the grass.

526 Dozen.

Don't say: I want to buy three dozens eggs. /

Say: I want to buy three dozen eggs.

Note: (A dozen = 12): I'd like to buy a dozen eggs. When dozen isn't preceded by a numeral (like three) or by a we use the plural form: There were dozens of eggs.

527 Hundred, etc.

Don't say: The town has fifty thousands people. /

Say: The town has fifty thousand people.

Note. Hundred, thousand, and million take the plural form if they're not preceded by a numeral or by a: Thousands of people were present.

528 Sheep.

Don't say: Ten sheeps are grazing the field. /

Say: Ten sheep are grazing in the field.

Note. Sheep, deer, salmon, and a few other nouns have the same form for singular and plural. We say one sheep or ten sheep.

529 Knowledge.

Don't say: Karen has good knowledges of history. /

Say: Karen has a good knowledge of history.

530 Progress.

Don't say: Tom has made great progresses.

</ *Say:* Tom has made great **progress**.

531 Thunder and Lightning.

Don't say: There were thunders and lightnings.

</ *Say:* There was thunder and **lightning**.

Note When only one thing is meant we say a clap of Thunder and a flash or bolt of lightning

532 Machinery.

Don't say: They're now using new machineries. *S*

Say: They're now using new **machinery**.

Note: Machinery is a singular noun and always takes a singular verb and pronoun We can say a piece of machinery or pieces of machinery.

533 Mathematics, etc. + singular verb.

Don't say: Mathematics are not easy to learn .

</ *Say:* **Mathematics is** not easy to learn.

Note The names of sciences and sublets ending in -ics (like mathematics, physics, politics, gymnastics) generally take a singular verb

534 Money + singular verb.

Don't say: All her money are kept in the bank . /

Say: All her **money is** kept in the bank .

Note Money is a singular noun ,and always takes a singular verb and pronoun

535 News + singular verb.

Don't say: **I'm** glad that the news are good. /

Say: **I'm** glad that the **news is** good.

Note News, though plural in form, always takes a singular verb If only one thing is meant we say a piece or an item of news This is a good piece of news.

Part 5

536 Scissors, etc. + plural verb.

Don't say: The scissor is lying on the table.

1/ Say: The scissors are lying on the table.

Note: All names of things consisting of two parts (like scissors, trousers, spectacles, shears, pliers) take a plural verb. We can say: a pair of (scissors, etc.) is

537 People + plural verb.

Don't say: There is lots of people in the cinema.

</ Say: There are lots of people in the cinema.

Note: People, meaning nation, is singular. The plural is peoples: The Greeks are 3 brave people, The peoples of Europe are often engaged in war

538 Clothes + plural verb.

Don't say: Your cloth is very fashionable.

S Say: Your clothes are very fashionable.

Note: Cloth, meaning the material of which clothes are made, is singular, and has a plural form cloths (without the e). She cleaned the table with a cloth. Merchants sell different kinds of cloths.

539 Riches + plural verb.

Don't say: All her riches was stolen.

/ Say: All her riches were stolen.

Note: Riches is a plural noun and always takes a plural verb.

540 Wages + plural verb.

Don't say: Keith complains that his wage is low.

/ Say: Keith complains that his wages are low.

Note: Wages is a plural noun and takes a plural verb. We say: a living wage

541 Billiards.

Don't say: Billiard is a very difficult game. /

Say: Billiards is a very difficult game.

Note: Billiards, draughts, darts are always plural, but are followed by verbs in the singular

Confused words

542 Misuse of the adjective in the plural.

Don't say: The rich have a duty to help the **poors.** /

Say: The rich have a duty to help the **poor.**

Note: Adjectives can't take the plural form, even when they're used as nouns in the plural.

543 Misuse of as well as with a plural verb.

Don't say: Tom as well as Mark **are** coming. /

Say: Tom as well as Mark **is** coming.

Two singular nouns joined by as well as require the verb to be singular.

544 Misuse of all (~ everything) with a plural verb.

Don't say: Nothing's left; **all are** lost.

/ ***Say:*** Nothing's left; **all is** lost.

All meaning everything, takes a singular verb, all meaning everybody, takes a plural verb: All of us are present.

545 Misuse of the plural before kind or sort.

Don't say: I don't like these **kind of** games. /

Say: I don't like this **kind of** game.

Or: I don't like **games of** this kind.

Note: The demonstrative word (this /that etc.) must agree with its noun. In the example, kind is singular and so this must agree with it

546 Misuse of the plural with the name of a language.

Don't say: English **are** easier than German.

/ ***Say:*** English **is** easier than German.

Names of languages are singular and always take a singular verb.

547 Misuse of one and parts of one with the singular.

Don't say: I read it in **one and a half** hour.

/ ***Say:*** I read it in **one and a half** hours.

In English, use the plural with anything greater than one, even if it's less than two.

Have another look *at* . . .

Singular and plural

} We generally form the plural of nouns by adding -s, -es or, when the noun ends in consonant y, -ies to the singular:

book	church	knife	city	journey
books	churches	knives	cities	journeys

2 The following nouns have irregular plurals:

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
man	men
woman	women
child	children
ox	oxen
tooth	teeth
foot	feet
goose	geese
mouse	mice

3 We don't use some nouns in the plural:

advice, information, knowledge, news, progress, work, money, luggage, furniture, scenery, machinery or item.

Note: When only one thing is meant, we say a *piece of advice* (information, news, work, money, furniture, luggage, machinery).

4 We don't use some nouns in the singular:

people, riches, clothes, wages, trousers, scissors, spectacles.

Note: We often use names of things consisting of two parts with the word *pair*: a *pair of trousers* (scissors, spectacles, etc.).

5 Some nouns have the same form for the singular as for the plural: *sheep, deer, salmon.*

548 Misuse of the singular with a collective noun of plurality.

Don't say: The class was divided in its opinion.

/ Say: The class were divided in their opinions.

A collective noun usually takes a singular verb, but when it denotes the individual members of the group and not the group as a whole use a plural verb

549 The number and A number.

(a) The number.

Don't say: The number of pupils are increasing. /

Say: The number of pupils is increasing.

(b) A number.

Don't say: A number of pupils is absent today. /

Say: A number of pupils are absent today.

When we precede number by the it denotes a unit and is singular When it's preceded by a it means several or many and is plural.

550 Misuse of This for These.

Don't say: This errors are sometimes made by foreigners.

/ Say: These errors are sometimes made by foreigners.

This changes to these if the noun that follows is in the plural.

Note: Also avoid the use of this instead of the personal pronoun John had the book but he gave this to his brother should be John had the book but he gave it to his brother

551 Misuse of There is for There are.

Don't say: There is some girls waiting outside. /

Soy: There are some girls waiting outside.

There is changes to there are if the noun that follows is the plural

552 Misuse of You was for You were.

Don't say: You was very foolish to do that.

Say: You were very foolish to do that.

Part 5

Was is singular and were is plural, but with the pronoun you, even when it's singular in meaning, we always use were.

Note: In conditions and wishes we can use were with the singular – If t *we* you, I'd go, I wish I *were* rich.

•53 Misuse of *life*, etc., for *Jives*, etc.

***Don't say:* Many people lost their life at sea.**

***/ Say:* Many people lost their lives at sea.**

In English, we use words like life, heart, soul, body, mind in the plural when they refer to more than one person.

>54 Agreement of number between noun and verb.

***Don't say:* A large supply of toys are expected.**

***/ Say:* A large supply of toys is expected.**

When the subject is singular, the verb must be singular and when the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural. Take care when a plural noun comes between a singular subject and its verb, as in the example above.

(See Exercises 1 and 2 on pages 137-138.)

Confusion of parts of speech

i55 As and Like.

***Don't say:* You don't look as your mother. /**

***Say:* You don't look like your mother.**

As is a conjunction, and is usually followed by a noun or pronoun in the nominative case. Like isn't a conjunction, but an adjective which behaves like a preposition in being followed by a noun or pronoun in the objective case.

(See Exercise 89 on page 176.)

556 So and Such.

(a) So.

***Don't say:* It's such small that you can't see it. /**

***Say:* It's so small that you can't see it.**

(b) **Such.**

***Don't say:* I've never seen a **so** large animal before.**

***•/ Say:* I've never seen **such** a large animal before.**

So is an adverb, and must qualify an adjective or another adverb. Such is an adjective and must qualify a noun.

557 No and Not.

(a) **No.**

Don't say:* I've not made any mistakes **in** dictation. *S

***Say:* I've made no mistakes **in** dictation.**

(b) **Not.**

Don't say:* I have made **no** any mistakes **in** dictation. *S

***Say:* I haven't (- have not) made any mistakes **in** dictation.**

We use no meaning not any, as an adjective to qualify the noun. If the noun is already qualified by an adjective, like any, much, enough, we must use the adverb not.

Note: We only use no as an adverb before a comparative: / have no more to say.

(See Exercise 90 on page 176.)

558 Fool and Foolish.

(a) **Fool.**

***Don't say:* Anne said **to** me, 'You're fool.'**

***/ Say:* Anne said **to** me, 'You're a fool.'**

(b) **Foolish.**

Don't say:* Anne said **to** me, 'You're a foolish. */

***Say:* Anne said **to** me, 'You're foolish.**

Fool is a noun, and requires the article when we use it with the verb to be. Foolish is an adjective, and can't be used with the article after the verb to be.

Note: A fool or a foolish person doesn't mean an insane person, but one who acts thoughtlessly. We tend to use silly or stupid instead of foolish in modern usage.

59 Misuse of **due** to as a preposition.

Don't say: William came late **due to** an accident.

-/ Say: William came late **because** of an accident.

Don't use **due to** as a preposition because of **Due**, as an adjective here, is used correctly only when it qualifies some noun: His decay **due to** an accident

60 Misuse of **rest** as **an** adjective.

Don't say: I spent the rest day at home .

/ Say: I spent **the rest** of the day at home .

Here, **rest** is a noun, and we can't use **n** as an adjective in the meaning of what's left

• 51 Misuse of **raiser** as an adjective.

Don't say: Jill loved money ; she was miser. /

Say: Jill loved money ; she was a miser.

?1isev is a noun, and we can't use it as ^n adjective fh^~ ^dj ^cuv< is miserly Sh<? was rrtiteriy.

>b/ Misuse **of opened** as an adjective.

'Don't say: I found all the window? **opened.** /

Say:} found all the windows open .

The adjective is **open**. The past participle is **opened** Somebody **h*i** opened all the windows

i63 Misuse of **friendly** as an adverb.

Don't say ; Andrew behaves **friendly**.

/ Soy: Andrew behaves **in a friendly way**.

The adverbial form is **in a friendly way** **Friendly** is an adjective a friendly game, to have friendly relations with one's neighbours, c-tc

564 Misuse of **truth** as an adjective.

Don't say: Is it **truth** **that** Diana's very ill? /

Say: **Is** it **true** that Diana's very ill?

Truth isn't an adjective but a noun The adjective is **true**, and we use **!** with no article between it and the verb to be

Confused word :

565 Misuse of **plenty** as an adjective.

Don't say: Mike had plenty work to do. /

Say: Mike had **plenty of work** to do.

Plenty isn't an adjective, but a noun meaning a large number or amount. The adjective is plentiful
Oranges are cheap now because they are plentiful

566 Misuse of **coward** as an adjective.

Don't say: She said, 'You are a coward boy.'

/ **Say:** She said, 'You are **a coward**.'

Coward (=one without courage) **K** The noun. The adjective is cowardly.

567 Misuse of **others** as an adjective.

Don't My: The others boys aren't here.

/ **Say:** The **other** boys aren't here.

Others isn't an adjective but a pronoun The adjective is other (without 'he s')
We can say The others aren't here omitting the noun boys

568 Misuse of *died* for **dead**.

Don't say: I think his grandfather is **died**. /

Say: I think his grandfather is **dead**.

Died is the past tense of die. The adjective is dead (See Exercise 91 on page 177.)

569 Misuse of *shoot* for **shot**.

Don't say: I had a good shoot at the goal. /

Say: I had a good **shot** at the goal.

Shoot On football is the verb The noun is shot

570 Misuse of *it's* for **its**.

Don't write: The bird was feeding it's young. /

Write: The bird was feeding **its** young.

The possessive adjective – its is correctly written without the apostrophe So also her s, ours, yours, theirs take no apostrophe.

(See Exercise 92 on page 177.)

Part 5

571 Misuse of *hot* as a noun.

Don't say: There's much hot this summer. /

Say: It's very hot this summer.

Hot is an adjective only, and we can't use it as a noun. The noun is heat.

572 Misuse of *pain* as a verb.

Don't say: I pain my leg or My leg is paining. /

Say: There's (or I've got) a pain in my leg.

We generally use pain as a noun, and precede it by have or feel.

573 Misuse of *worth* as a verb.

Don't say: My bicycle worths £ 1 5 0. /

Say: My bicycle is worth £ 1 5 0.

Worth isn't a verb, but an adjective.

574 Misuse of *able* as a verb.

Don't say: The poor man doesn't able to pay. •

Say: The poor man isn't able to pay.

Able is an adjective, and we can't use it as a verb.

575 Misuse of *afraid* as a verb.

Don't say: John doesn't afraid of anybody. /

Say: John's not afraid of anybody.

Afraid isn't a verb but an adjective, and we generally use it with the verb to be

576 Misuse of *weight* as a verb.

Don't say: Have you weighted the letter? /

Say: Have you weighed the letter?

Weight is a noun and we can't use it as a verb. The verb is weigh {without the t}.

577 Misuse of good for well.

Don't say: The goalkeeper plays very good. /

Say: The goalkeeper plays very well.

Good is an adjective only, and we can't use it as an adverb (See

Exercise 93 on pages 177 - 178.)

578 Misuse of adjective for adverb.

Don't say: The little girl sang beautiful. /

Say: The little girl sang beautifully.

We use an adverb, and not an adjective, to qualify a verb

Note After verbs such as took, feel, sound, taste, smell use an adjective instead of an adverb: Sugar tastes sweet (not sweetly).

579 Misuse of after for afterwards, etc.

Don't say: After we went home for dinner.

/ Say: Afterwards we went home for dinner.

After is a preposition and we must use it with an object. Afterwards, then, after that are adverbs of time and we can use them alone

580 And the two, etc., used for both, etc.

Don't say: I've seen and the two of them. /

Say: I've seen both of them.

Never say and the two instead of both. Also avoid and the three, four, etc. Say, all three, four, etc

531 Misuse of and for also or too.

Don't say: Let me do and the next exercise. /

Say: Let's also do the next exercise.

Or: Let me do the next exercise too.

And is a conjunction, and can only join similar forms of speech. He came and sat down. We can't use it instead of the adverbs also and too.

582 Misuse of *and* for *even*.

Don't say: She doesn't trust and her friends. /

Say: She doesn't trust even her friends.

And is a conjunction only, and we can't use it instead of the adverb even

583 Misuse of *loose* for *lose*.

Don't say: Be careful not to loose your money. /

Say: Be careful not to lose your money.

Lose (with one o) is the common verb meaning not to be able to find. Loose (with double o) is an adjective meaning unfastened, free' The horse was loose in The field

584 Misuse of *past* for *passed*.

Don't say: I past by your house yesterday. /

Say: I passed by your house yesterday.

Past isn't a verb The past tense and past participle of the verb to pass is passed

Note' We can use past as a noun, Don't think of the past: an adjective. The past week was warm: a preposition, We walked past the church: an adverb, The train went past

(See Exercises 94 and 95 on page 178.)