

Aa

a 1

- x I hope you all have a enjoyable stay.
- ✓ **I hope you all have an enjoyable stay.**

Always use **an** (NOT **a**) before a word beginning with a vowel sound: 'an egg' /ən eɡ/, 'an envelope' /ən ˈenvələʊp/.

2

- x My husband is doing a MSc in civil engineering.
- ✓ **My husband is doing an MSc in civil engineering.**

Use **an** (NOT **a**) before an abbreviation that begins with a vowel sound: 'an MSc' /ən ˌem es ˈsi:/, 'an MP' /ən ˌem ˈpi:/.

3

- x Sometimes it is difficult to live a honest life.
- ✓ **Sometimes it is difficult to live an honest life.**

Use **an** (NOT **a**) before words beginning with **h** when the **h** is not pronounced: 'an honour' /ən ˈɒnə/, 'an hour' /ən aʊə/.

a/an 1

- x The child had been a deaf since birth.
- ✓ **The child had been deaf since birth.**
- x One of the girls I share with is a British.
- ✓ **One of the girls I share with is British.**

Do not use **a/an** before an adjective (e.g. 'deaf', 'British') unless the adjective is followed by a noun: 'Her husband is disabled.' Compare: 'The footbridge cannot be used by the disabled.' (= all people who are disabled)

2

See ANOTHER 6

abandon 1

- x Since capital punishment was abandoned, the crime rate has increased.
- ✓ **Since capital punishment was abolished, the crime rate has increased.**

abandon = give up a plan, activity or attempt to do something, without being successful: 'Bad weather forced them to abandon the search.' 'Without government support, the project will have to be abandoned.'

abolish = remove a law, tradition or system, often by introducing a new law; do away with: 'In which year was slavery abolished in the United States?' 'I'd hate to see the monarchy abolished.'

2

- x It is difficult to reach abandoned places such as small country villages.
- ✓ **It is difficult to reach remote places such as small country villages.**

abandoned = left for ever by the owners or occupiers: 'The field was littered with abandoned cars.' 'Some of these old abandoned coal mines could be dangerous.'

2 ability

remote = far away and difficult to reach: 'The tribe lives in a small remote mountain village.' 'We have now managed to bring famine relief to people in even the most remote areas.'

ability 1

- x These machines are destroying our ability of thinking.
- ✓ **These machines are destroying our ability to think.**
ability to do sth (NOT of doing): 'Nobody doubts his ability to get the job done.' 'We need someone with the ability to work under pressure.'

2

- x I want to improve my ability of reading.
- ✓ **I want to improve my reading ability.**
- ✓ **reading/writing/teaching/acting ability:** 'Her acting ability was recognized at a very early age.'

3

- x I want to improve my ability of English.
- ✓ **I want to improve my ability in English.**
ability in a language or subject: 'Sarah has demonstrated considerable ability in both maths and chemistry.'

able 1

- x One man is able to destroy the whole world.
- ✓ **One man is capable of destroying the whole world.**
If someone is **able to do something**, they can do it and it is not unusual or surprising if they do it: 'The doctor said that after a few days I'd be able to get out of bed.' 'Will you be able to play on Saturday?'
If someone is **capable of (doing) something**, they do not usually do it, but it is possible for them to do it if they want to: 'I'm sure he's quite capable of getting here on time, but he can't be bothered.' 'The power station is capable of generating enough electricity for the whole region.'

2

- x There are so many places to visit in London that I'm not able to decide where to go.
- ✓ **There are so many places to visit in London that I can't decide where to go.**
- x We weren't able to stop laughing.
- ✓ **We couldn't stop laughing.**

With verbs of perception (e.g. **see, hear, smell**) and verbs of the mind (e.g. **understand, decide, remember**), we usually use **can, can't**, etc: 'I can't hear you. Could you speak a bit louder, please?' 'I think I can smell something burning.' 'Having met her new boss, I can see why she doesn't like him.' Note also the phrase **can't/couldn't stop doing something**: 'The book was so fascinating I couldn't stop reading it.' See also **COULD** 1

3

- x In some countries you are not able to drink until you are 21.
- ✓ **In some countries you can't drink until you are 21.**

For actions that are controlled by laws or rules, use **can, can't**, etc, or **be (not) allowed to**: 'Now that they are both sixteen, they can get married.' 'The goalkeeper can touch the ball, but nobody else can.'

4

- x Technology has made them able to grow their own food.
- ✓ **Technology has enabled them to grow their own food.**

enable = make someone able to do something: 'This scheme is designed to enable young people to find work.'
Note also the phrase **can't/couldn't stop doing something**: 'The book was so fascinating I couldn't stop reading it.' See also **COULD** 1

about 1

- ✗ I am always delighted when I receive a letter from you. About the party on December 26th, I shall be very pleased to attend.
- ✓ **I am always delighted when I receive a letter from you. With regard to the party on December 26th, I shall be very pleased to attend.**
- ✗ People usually sleep with the doors and windows closed. About public transport, the bus and train services are excellent.
- ✓ **People usually sleep with the doors and windows closed. As for public transport, the bus and train services are excellent.**

About may be used to introduce a topic (or change of topic), but only in informal styles: 'About that book you asked for – I'll get you a copy when I go to London.'

In other styles, use **with regard to, regarding, as for, as regards** or **as far as ... is concerned**: 'With regard to the matter of unemployment, I would like to add a few remarks to those of the previous speaker.' 'I regret to inform you that *Language and Culture* is out of print. As regards your second question, I suggest that you write to the British Museum.'

2

- ✗ It all depends on how different the new country is from your own. About myself, I haven't experienced any culture shock but then this is my second trip to the States.
- ✓ **It all depends on how different the new country is from your own. In my own case, I haven't experienced any culture shock but then this is my second trip to the States.**

To show that you are going to start talking about your own personal experience or situation, use **in my own case** or (especially in informal styles) **as for me/myself**: 'Many people have benefited from the operation. In my own case, I began to feel better immediately.' 'Most of my friends like school. As for me, I can't wait to leave.'

3

- ✗ I was about leaving when the telephone rang.
- ✓ **I was about to leave when the telephone rang.**
be about to do sth (NOT doing)
Compare: 'I was just leaving when the telephone rang.'

above 1

- ✗ There were above a hundred people in the crowd.
- ✓ **There were over a hundred people in the crowd.**
Do not use **above** with numbers (unless referring to points on a scale): 'He is over eighty years of age.' 'I receive over twenty letters a day.'
Compare 'Don't let the temperature get above thirty degrees.'

2

- ? I like to stay at home on a Sunday, as I've said above.
- ✓ **I like to stay at home on a Sunday, as I've already said.**
- ? What do you think of the above suggestion?
- ✓ **What do you think of my/this suggestion?**

Above is used in formal writing to refer to something that has been mentioned earlier: 'From the above arguments it can be seen that supporters of the dam project fall into two camps.' In informal styles, this use of **above** is inappropriate.

3

- ? Taking all the above into account, one could say that tourism does more harm than good.

4 above all

- ✓ **Taking all the above arguments into account, one could say that tourism does more harm than good.**

Instead of using **the above** as a loose reference to something mentioned earlier, make the reference more precise by using **the above + noun** (or **the + noun + above**): 'the above reasons', 'the statement above'.

above all 1

- ✗ He likes reading, above all novels.

- ✓ **He likes reading, especially novels.**

Above all means 'most importantly': 'Get plenty of sleep, eat lots of good food, and above all try to relax.' 'There were many qualities that made him a great leader. Above all, he had charisma.'

- 2 ✗ This year English is above all my most important subject.

- ✓ **This year English is by far my most important subject.**

With a superlative form ('the most important'), use **by far**: 'The riot was by far the most horrific scene I'd ever witnessed.'

- 3 ✗ Where would you like to go above all?

- ✓ **Where would you like to go most of all?**

When you mean 'more than anywhere/anything/anyone else', use **most of all** or **the most**: 'What worries me most of all is that the car is not roadworthy.' 'The one I liked the most was too expensive.'

above-mentioned

- ✗ I would be grateful if you would send it to the address above-mentioned.

- ✓ **I would be grateful if you would send it to the above-mentioned address.**

Above-mentioned comes before the noun: 'the above-mentioned person', 'the above-mentioned company'.

Note that **above** may be used before or after the noun: 'the above address', 'the address above'.

abroad

- ✗ Since I was small, I've always wanted to go to abroad.

- ✓ **Since I was small, I've always wanted to go abroad.**

- ✗ I would like to continue my studies in abroad.

- ✓ **I would like to continue my studies abroad.**

go/live/be abroad (WITHOUT to, at, in etc)

The only preposition that is used before **abroad** is **from**: 'She came back from abroad saying how much she had missed her home and family.'

absent

- ✗ It's a pity that you were absent from the training session.

- ✓ **It's a pity that you missed the training session.**

- ✓ **It's a pity that you weren't at the training session.**

be absent = not be present at something that you are officially supposed to attend: 'Her teacher wanted to know why she'd been absent.'

miss = not be present at something: 'She's missed a lot of classes this term because of illness.' 'I wouldn't miss Sandro's party for the world!' (= I really want to go to it).

be at = be present at something: 'John won't be at the meeting. He's had to fly to Rome on business.'

absolutely

- ✗ It is absolutely important that you see a doctor immediately.

- ✓ **It is very important that you see a doctor immediately.**

- ✓ **It is absolutely essential that you see a doctor immediately.**

See note at VERY 2

accept 1

- ✗ The company will not accept to buy new machines.
- ✓ **The company will not agree to buy new machines.**
You **accept** someone's advice, opinion, or suggestion BUT you **agree** (= say you are willing) to do something. Compare: 'I accepted her suggestion and agreed to see the doctor that evening.'

2

- ✗ The driver did not accept me to get on the bus.
- ✓ **The driver did not allow me to get on the bus.**
- ✗ We can't accept a motorway to be built through our town.
- ✓ **We can't allow a motorway to be built through our town.**
You **allow/permit** someone to do something, or **let** them do it: 'Many parents do not allow/permit their children to watch violent films.' 'Many parents do not let their children watch violent films.'

access

- ✗ Computers give us an easier access to information.
- ✓ **Computers give us easier access to information.**
Access is an uncountable noun: 'The entrance has been widened to provide easier access for disabled people.' 'They have no right to refuse us access to the files.'

accident

- ✗ Her car was involved in a big accident.
- ✓ **Her car was involved in a serious accident.**
a bad/dreadful/nasty/serious/fatal accident (NOT big)

accommodation

- ✗ Could you help me look for an accommodation?
- ✓ **Could you help me look for accommodation?**
- ✗ Accommodations in London are very expensive.
- ✓ **Accommodation in London is very expensive.**
In British English **accommodation** (= a place to stay or live in) is always uncountable: 'For the first year we stayed in rented accommodation.'
In American English both **accommodation** and **accommodations** (plural) are used.

accomplish

- ✗ To accomplish world unity, we need peace.
- ✓ **To achieve world unity, we need peace.**
- ✗ A balanced diet is accomplished by eating many different kinds of food.
- ✓ **A balanced diet is achieved by eating many different kinds of food.**
When you **accomplish** something, you manage to do it or complete it, especially something that gives you satisfaction: 'She felt that she could accomplish more through journalism.' 'During his five years as President, he accomplished very little.'
When you **achieve** something, you manage to do or obtain what you have planned to do or obtain, especially after a lot of effort: 'The company intends to achieve all these goals within the next five years.' 'By the age of twenty, she had already achieved her ambition.'
Note that **achieve** is also used to mean 'accomplish': 'By the end of the course, you will feel that you've really achieved something.'

according to 1

- ✗ According to me, we should spend more money on education.
- ✓ **In my opinion, we should spend more money on education.**
according to + the writer/Dr Owen/her teachers/them etc (NOT me/us): 'According to Charles Anderson, the government should pay

6 account

closer attention to public opinion.'

To introduce your own opinion, use **in my/our opinion**: 'In my opinion, he didn't deserve a prison sentence.'

2 See OPINION 1, POINT OF VIEW 1

account

- ✗ We also have to take into account that the schools are overcrowded.
- ✓ **We also have to take into account the fact that the schools are overcrowded.**

take into account + the fact + that-clause: 'They should take into account the fact that these archaeological treasures are extremely valuable.'

accurate

- ✗ I cannot give you the accurate date of my arrival yet.
- ✓ **I cannot give you the exact date of my arrival yet.**

Accurate is mainly used (1) to describe something said or written that contains no errors: 'Her novels are always historically accurate.' 'These figures can't be accurate, surely.' (2) to describe something that produces no errors: 'Are you sure the bathroom scales are accurate?' When you mean 'correct and as detailed as possible', use **exact**: 'The exact time is three minutes to seven.' 'Do you remember his exact words?' 'They'll be arriving next week – on Friday at three, to be exact.'

accustom 1

- ✗ I am beginning to accustom to the British way of life.
 - ✓ **I am beginning to get accustomed to the British way of life.**
- be/become/get/grow accustomed to sth**: Within a few minutes, my eyes had grown accustomed to the dark.
- Note that, apart from in formal styles, most people prefer **be/become/get/grow used to**: 'I am beginning to get used to the British way of life.'

- 2 ✗ Where I come from, we are not accustomed to see so many things in the shops.
- ✓ **Where I come from, we are not accustomed to seeing so many things in the shops.**

be accustomed to doing sth (NOT to do): 'He was accustomed to leading a life of luxury.'

ache

- ✗ After the run, I had an ache in my legs.
- ✓ **After the run, my legs were aching.**

Ache is usually used either as a verb or in compounds with **tooth, ear, head, back, stomach**: 'I did some weight training on Monday and my shoulders have been aching ever since.' 'That radio of yours is giving me a headache.'

Compare: 'After the run, I had pains in my legs.'

act 1

- ✗ I am interested in the way people act towards each other.
- ✓ **I am interested in the way people behave towards each other.**
- ✗ It is time that human beings learned how to act properly, without killing each other.
- ✓ **It is time that human beings learned how to behave properly, without killing each other.**

When you are talking about what someone does on a particular occasion, **act** and **behave** are interchangeable: 'Passengers who left the

flight in Rhodes said that they had seen two men acting/behaving very suspiciously.'

When you are talking generally about what someone does or what people do, use **behave**: 'You can't expect all babies to behave the same.' 'From the way he behaves, anyone would think that he doesn't get paid.'

2

✗ He refused to accept responsibility for his acts.

✓ **He refused to accept responsibility for his actions.**

The noun **act** is usually used when you want to comment on a particular thing that someone has done: 'It was an act of great courage.' 'These cowardly terrorist acts bring death and suffering to the innocent.'

When you are talking about someone's general behaviour, use **actions**: 'You can't be blamed for your parents' actions.' 'Her words and actions have not gone unnoticed.' See also ACTION 2

action 1

✗ The actions that we do everyday are made easier by computers.

✓ **The things that we do everyday are made easier by computers.**

✗ If someone has done a wrong action, he should be punished.

✓ **If someone has done something wrong, he should be punished.**

Do and **action** cannot be used together. Use **do + things/something/anything** etc: 'She's always doing things for charity.' 'Don't do anything that might upset them.'

2

✗ It is difficult to forgive those responsible for actions of terrorism.

✓ **It is difficult to forgive those responsible for acts of terrorism.**

✗ Blackmail is the action of trying to obtain money from someone by threatening to expose them.

✓ **Blackmail is the act of trying to obtain money from someone by threatening to expose them.**

an/the act of (doing) sth (NOT **action**): 'Such acts of violence will not be tolerated.' 'For some people, the very act of talking to a doctor can help them to feel better.'

3

✗ Few people are aware that an urgent action is needed.

✓ **Few people are aware that urgent action is needed.**

✗ The government should take an action to reduce the birth rate.

✓ **The government should take action to reduce the birth rate.**

When you are talking about the idea or process of doing something, **action** is uncountable: 'There is too much talk and not enough action.' In the phrase **take action**, **action** is always uncountable: 'This illegal trade will continue unless action is taken to stop it.'

actual

✗ We'd like to know more about the actual crisis (Not the economic problems of the past).

✓ **We'd like to know more about the present crisis (Not the economic problems of the past).**

✗ My actual job involves a lot of administration.

✓ **My present job involves a lot of administration.**

actual = real (as opposed what is believed, planned or expected):

'People think he is over fifty but his actual age is forty-eight.' 'Although

8 actually

buses are supposed to run every fifteen minutes, the actual waiting time can be up to an hour.'

present/current = happening or existing now: 'No one can drive that car in its present condition.' 'Her current boyfriend works for Shell.'

actually 1

- ✗ I never get bored by this city. Actually, each time I return I find something new to interest me.
- ✓ **I never get bored by this city. In fact, each time I return I find something new to interest me.**

When **actually** means 'in fact', it is usually used to correct a misunderstanding: 'People think we've got lots of money, but actually we're quite poor.' 'I'm sorry to have kept you waiting.' - 'Well actually I've only just arrived.'

When you simply want to develop a previous statement, use **in fact** or **as a matter of fact**: 'The winter of 1940 was extremely bad. In fact most people say it was the worst winter in living memory.' 'The company is doing very well. As a matter of fact, our sales have doubled.' See also **ACTUAL**

2

- ✗ We need to produce and export more than we do actually.
- ✓ **We need to produce and export more than we do at present.**

When you mean 'at the present time', use **at present**, **at the moment** or **currently** (NOT **actually**): 'At present the company is very short of staff.' 'At the moment I'm working part-time in a travel agency.'

add

- ✗ The other ingredients are then added into the mixture.

- ✓ **The other ingredients are then added to the mixture.**

add sth to sth (NOT **into**): 'They are demanding that a new clause be added to the contract which will give them a share of the profits.' 'When a prefix is added to a word, you make a new word.'

admire 1

- ✗ One hour is not long enough to admire all the exhibits.
- ✓ **One hour is not long enough to see all the exhibits.**
- ✗ I enjoyed admiring all the old buildings.
- ✓ **I enjoyed looking at all the old buildings.**

Do not use **admire** when you just mean 'see' or 'look at'. **Admire** means 'look at someone or something with a strong feeling of pleasure'. This meaning of **admire** is found mainly in novels and tourist brochures: 'Come and admire the magnificence of the Niagara Falls.' 'Rupert was sitting outside on the verandah, admiring the many jewels in the night sky.'

2

- ✗ Although it was a sad film, I admired it very much.
- ✓ **Although it was a sad film, I enjoyed it very much.**
- ✗ Everybody admired your talk because it was lively and interesting.
- ✓ **Everybody enjoyed your talk because it was lively and interesting.**

Do not use **admire** when you mean 'enjoy'. **Admire** means 'have a very high opinion of someone': 'I've always admired people who think for themselves.' 'Lewis was probably best known and admired for his work on medieval literature.'

adore

- ✗ I adore meeting new people.
- ✓ **I like/enjoy/love meeting new people.**

- ✗ I adore reading too.
- ✓ I like/enjoy/love reading too.

Adore usually expresses a very strong feeling: 'She adores her grandchildren and is always buying them presents.' 'The one singer I absolutely adore is Whitney Houston.' If you use **adore** to mean 'like/enjoy/love', you may sound insincere.

advance

See THANK 3

advantage

- ✗ Although the film has its advantages, it also has a serious flaw.
- 1 ✓ **Although the film has its merits/good points, it also has a serious flaw.**

advantage = something that puts you in a better position than other people: 'A healthier lifestyle is just one of the advantages of living in the country.' 'The main advantage of using word processors is the amount of time you save.'

merit = a good quality; a strength: 'The merits of the new health programme are gradually being recognized.' 'We should judge each application on its own merits.'

- 2 ✗ Television provides many advantages.
- ✓ **Television provides many benefits.**

benefit = a good result which improves your life or situation: 'Belonging to a union has a number of important benefits.' 'It's over a month since I got back from holiday, but I still feel the benefit.'

- 3 ✗ What are the advantages in studying in the United States?
- ✓ **What are the advantages of studying in the United States?**
- ✗ There are many advantages of having your own computer.
- ✓ **There are many advantages to/in having your own computer.**

the advantage/s of (doing/having) sth: 'He described the advantages of renewing the contract.' 'The advantages of independence soon became clear.'

there are (several/many etc) advantages to/in (doing/having) sth: 'There are advantages to working in a supermarket.' 'There are clear advantages to such an approach.' 'Are there any advantages in appointing coordinators?'

advertisement

- ✗ I have just seen your advertisement about a Chinese cook.
 - ✓ **I have just seen your advertisement for a Chinese cook.**
 - ✗ I am writing in reply to your advertisement of a part-time sales assistant.
 - ✓ **I am writing in reply to your advertisement for a part-time sales assistant.**
- an advertisement for sb/sth**: 'an advertisement for Heinz tomato soup'

advice 1

- ✗ I advised him to tell the police.
 - ✓ **I advised him to tell the police.**
- Advice** /əd'vaɪs/ is a noun. **Advise** /əd'vaɪz/ is a verb.

- 2 ✗ She gave me a good advice.
- ✓ **She gave me some good advice.**
- ✗ It is full of good advices on healthy eating.
- ✓ **It is full of good advice on healthy eating.**

10 advise

Advice is an uncountable noun: 'I could do with some advice.'
Compare: 'She gave me a good piece of advice.'

advise 1

- ✗ I asked my lawyer for her advice.
 - ✓ **I asked my lawyer for her advice.**
- See note at **ADVICE 1**

2

- ✗ Nowadays many doctors advise to live in the countryside.
- ✓ **Nowadays many doctors advise living in the countryside.**
- ✓ **Nowadays many doctors advise people to live in the countryside.**

advise sb to do sth: 'I advised her to see a lawyer.'

advise doing sth (NOT to do): 'I would advise leaving very early. Then you'll miss all the traffic.'

affect 1

- ✗ The programme is about computers and their affect on our lives.
- ✓ **The programme is about computers and their effect on our lives.**

To **affect** something (verb) is to have an **effect** on it (noun): 'Smoking affects your health.' (= smoking has an effect on your health)

2

- ✗ This problem has also affected on the automobile industry.
- ✓ **This problem has also affected the automobile industry.**

affect sb/sth (WITHOUT on): 'Fortunately these new tax laws don't affect us.'

Compare: 'This problem has also had an effect on the automobile industry.'

afford

- ✗ My father couldn't afford paying for my education.
- ✓ **My father couldn't afford to pay for my education.**

afford (to do) sth: 'Not many couples can afford to run two cars nowadays.'

afraid

- ✗ The road to the airport was very busy and we were afraid to miss the plane.
- ✓ **The road to the airport was very busy and we were afraid of missing the plane.**

be afraid to do sth = be unwilling to do something because you are frightened about what may happen: 'She was afraid to eat it in case it was poisonous.' 'Don't be afraid to ask for help.'

be afraid of doing sth = be worried or anxious about something which might happen: 'Most criminals are afraid of being caught.' 'He says that he is afraid of losing his job.'

after 1

- ✗ After a week we're going to Italy.
- ✓ **In a week's time we're going to Italy.**
- ✗ I hope that I'll still be healthy after ten years.
- ✓ **I hope that I'll still be healthy in ten years' time.**

When you mention a time in the future that is measured from 'now' (the moment of speaking), use **in a month's time, in three weeks' time**, etc (or just **in a month, in three weeks**): 'She'll be back again in a couple of weeks' time.'

Note the alternatives: 'A week (from) today we're going to Italy.' 'I hope that I'll still be healthy ten years from now.'

- 2
- ✗ I promised to meet Hitomi at the exhibition a week after.
 - ✓ **I promised to meet Hitomi at the exhibition a week later.**
 - ✗ I returned to Germany after two years' time.
 - ✓ **I returned to Germany two years later.**

When you mention a time in the past that is measured from an earlier time in the past, use **a month later, three months later**, etc: 'Six months later they got married.'

- 3
- ✗ After 1961 the consumption of cheese has increased each year.
 - ✓ **Since 1961 the consumption of cheese has increased each year.**

To refer to a period of time that begins in the past and continues up to 'now' (the moment of speaking), use **since** (NOT **after**): 'I've been standing here waiting for you since half past three.' 'She hasn't been to see us since she got married.'

- 4
- ✗ My first aim is to get a master's degree. After I would like to go and work in Canada.
 - ✓ **My first aim is to get a master's degree. Afterwards, I would like to go and work in Canada.**
 - ? A police car arrived within minutes and soon after an ambulance came.

- ✓ **A police car arrived within minutes and soon afterwards an ambulance came.**

After is used instead of **afterwards** only in informal styles, usually in phrases such as 'soon after', 'not long after' or 'just after'. Careful users generally prefer **afterwards**, especially at the beginning of a sentence: 'Shortly afterwards it was announced that the bank had collapsed.' In American English **after** is often used instead of **afterwards**.

- 5
- ? A police car arrived within minutes and soon after an ambulance came.
 - ✓ **A police car arrived within minutes and soon afterwards an ambulance came.**

In informal styles, **after** is used in phrases such as 'soon after', 'not long after' and 'just after'. Careful users prefer **afterwards**, especially in formal styles: 'Shortly afterwards it was announced that the bank had collapsed.'

In American English **after** is often used instead of **afterwards**.

- 6
- ? I studied English for 2 years. After that I got a job as a stewardess on an American airline.
 - ✓ **After studying English for 2 years, I got a job as a stewardess on an American airline.**
 - ? We could all meet at my house for lunch. After doing this, we could go to the beach.
 - ✓ **We could all meet at my house for lunch and afterwards we could go to the beach.**

The meaning 'then' can be expressed in a number of ways, e.g. **afterwards, then, later on, subsequently, after + v-ing**. Avoid the repeated use of **after that** and **after doing this/that**.

7

- ✗ After you will leave, we will write to you every day.
- ✓ **After you leave/have left, we will write to you every day.**
See Language Note at WILL

after all

- ✗ First we got stuck in a traffic jam and then our car broke down. After all we decided to cancel the trip and went back home.
- ✓ **First we got stuck in a traffic jam and then our car broke down. In the end, we decided to cancel the trip and went back home.**
- ✗ We stopped for a meal on the way and after all we didn't arrive until midnight.
- ✓ **We stopped for a meal on the way and in the end we didn't arrive until midnight.**
See Language Note at END

afternoon

- ✗ Afternoon we have classes until five o'clock.
- ✓ **In the afternoon we have classes until five o'clock.**
- ✗ School finishes at five in afternoon.
- ✓ **School finishes at five in the afternoon.**
- ✗ The afternoon I met them at the hotel and we went to the beach.
- ✓ **In the afternoon I met them at the hotel and we went to the beach.**
See Language Note at TIME

afterwards 1 ?

- ✗ We started going out together just to have fun, as friends. Afterwards we both realized that there was more than just friendship.
- ✓ **We started going out together just to have fun, as friends. Later on we both realized that there was more than just friendship.**

Afterwards suggests that the next thing happens as soon as the last thing has finished: 'On Saturday morning I went to see Adrian in hospital. Afterwards I drove into town to do some shopping.'
When there is a long interval or delay between two actions or events, use **later on**: 'I couldn't understand why she hadn't answered my letters. Later on I discovered that she had moved to a new address.'

2 ?

- ✗ First you draw a long straight line. Afterwards you draw another line, parallel to the first one.
- ✓ **First you draw a long straight line. Then you draw another line, parallel to the first one.**
To introduce the next action in a process or series of actions, use **then**: 'Check that the paper is properly loaded. Then press the start button.'
Compare: 'We all had lunch together at one o'clock. Afterwards we went to the beach.'

again 1

- ✗ It's time I gave you your photographs again.
- ✓ **It's time I gave you your photographs back.**
- ? He'd like to have his bicycle again if you've finished with it.
- ✓ **He'd like to have his bicycle back if you've finished with it.**
If you give something to the person who gave it to you, you **give it back** to them. When you mean 'to the person who had it before', 'to the place where something was before' etc, use **back** (NOT **again**): 'He took the

camera back to the shop and asked for his money back.' 'Shall I put these books back on the shelf?'

- 2 ☐ I'll phone you again in five minutes.
 ☒ **I'll phone you back in five minutes.**

If you telephone someone after they have telephoned you, you **call/ring/phone them back**: 'Put down the receiver and I'll call you back.'

- 3 ☐ I would like to visit again some of these places.
 ☒ **I would like to visit some of these places again.**
 ☐ I'll give you again my address.
 ☒ **I'll give you my address again.**

Again (= a second time) usually comes after the object: 'It's wonderful to see you again.' 'Would you like to watch the film again?'

4

See REPEAT

against

- ☐ Trying to avoid the sheep, he drove his car against a tree.
☒ **Trying to avoid the sheep, he drove his car into a tree.**

When someone has an accident, they **drive/run/walk/crash/bump into something** (NOT **against**): 'The lorry skidded on the ice and crashed into a wall.'



age 1

- ☐ I'm at the age of 22.
☒ **I'm 22 (years old).**

be + NUMBER (+ years old): 'David is almost twelve (years old).'

www.1ELI54U.blogfa.com

- 2 ☐ His age is about fifty-five years old.
 ☒ **He's about fifty-five (years old).**

Do not use **age** and **years old** together. The usual way of mentioning someone's age is simply **be + NUMBER**: 'She'll be sixteen next August.'

- 3 ☐ Soon you'll be of my age.
 ☒ **Soon you'll be my age.**
 ☐ Although we are at the same age, we have different interests.
 ☒ **Although we are the same age, we have different interests.**

be my/your etc age: 'When I was your age, I was already going out to work.'

be the same age (as sb): 'Most of my friends are the same age as me.'

- 4 ☐ In the age of 15, you are allowed to drive a car.
 ☒ **At the age of 15, you are allowed to drive a car.**

Phrases with **age** as their main word usually begin with **at** (NOT **in**): 'Keeping fit is very important at your age.' 'Some girls get married at a very young age.' 'She is at the age when she wants to go to school.'

- 5 ☐ A child in the age of seven or eight needs a little push.
 ☒ **A child of seven or eight needs a little push.**
 ☐ People in my age spend a lot of time in pubs.
 ☒ **People of my age spend a lot of time in pubs.**

noun + of + NUMBER: 'They have a little girl of three and a boy of five.'
noun + of + my/your etc age: 'He is very clever for a boy of his age.' 'A girl of her age needs someone to play with.'

14 aged

Note the alternative with **aged**: 'A child aged seven or eight needs a little push.'

- 6
- ✗ They have two children in the age of 8 and 12 years.
 - ✓ **They have two children aged 8 and 12.**
 - ✓ **They have two children, 8 and 12 years of age.**

When you mention two ages after a noun, use either of the following:
aged + NUMBER + and + NUMBER: 'two boys aged 12 and 14'
NUMBER + and + NUMBER + years of age: 'two boys, 12 and 14 years of age'.

- 7
- ✗ These books are for children at the age of from 4 to 6 years.
 - ✓ **These books are for children aged 4 to 6.**
 - ✓ **These books are for children between the ages of 4 and 6.**

When you mention an age range after a noun, use either **aged + NUMBER + to + NUMBER**: 'suitable for children aged seven to eleven' or **between the ages of + NUMBER + and + NUMBER**: 'suitable for children between the ages of seven and eleven'.

- 8
- See MIDDLE AGE

- aged 1
- ? Not all aged parents have children to look after them.
 - ✓ **Not all elderly parents have children to look after them.**

When it means 'very old', **aged** (pronounced / 'eɪdʒd /) is mainly used in formal styles, usually in the phrase **the aged**: 'The poor and the aged are entitled to free health care.'

The usual word for this meaning is **elderly**, which also sounds polite: 'The photograph was of an elderly gentleman with a white moustache.'
'The building has been converted into a retirement home for the elderly.'

- 2
- ✗ My father left school at aged fourteen.
 - ✓ **My father left school at (the age of) fourteen.**
 - ✗ At aged 45, farmers are able to retire.
 - ✓ **At (the age of) 45, farmers are able to retire.**
- at (the age of) + NUMBER**: 'Alan got married at twenty.' 'Sue got divorced at the age of twenty-one.'

- agent
- ✗ I applied for a job at a travel agent.
 - ✓ **I applied for a job at a travel agent's.**

To refer to a shop or company, use the 's form: **a greengrocer's, a chemist's, a tailor's, a butcher's.**

- ago 1
- ✗ The accident happened at ten years ago.
 - ✓ **The accident happened ten years ago.**
 - ✗ I came to England in two years ago.
 - ✓ **I came to England two years ago.**
 - ✗ He went to Sydney before five years ago.
 - ✓ **He went to Sydney five years ago.**
 - ✗ I started learning English since two years ago.
 - ✓ **I started learning English two years ago.**

See Language Note at TIME

- 2
- ✗ I'm writing in reply to your letter that I've received two days ago.
 - ✓ **I'm writing in reply to your letter that I received two days ago.**

With references to past time such as **yesterday, last week, a year ago**, use a past tense (NOT the present perfect): 'I came to England exactly six months ago.' (NOT 'have come')

- 3 ✗ The train left at exactly 3 o'clock. Just five minutes ago I had been stuck in a traffic jam.
 ✓ **The train left at exactly 3 o'clock. Just five minutes before I had been stuck in a traffic jam.**
 See note at BEFORE 1

- agree 1** ✗ I don't agree the people who say women should stay at home.
 ✓ **I don't agree with the people who say women should stay at home.**
 ✗ In many ways I agree to his statement.
 ✓ **In many ways I agree with his statement.**
 agree with sb/sth = have the same opinion as: 'You can't expect everyone to agree with you all the time.' 'I tend to agree with you that the proposal is too risky.'

- 2 ✗ I don't understand why he doesn't agree the divorce.
 ✓ **I don't understand why he doesn't agree to the divorce.**
 ✗ Conservationists will never agree the building of the motorway.
 ✓ **Conservationists will never agree to the building of the motorway.**

agree to sth = be willing to accept or allow something: 'The bank manager has agreed to our request for a loan.'

- 3 ✗ I am agree that archaeological treasures should be protected.
 ✓ **I agree that archaeological treasures should be protected.**
 ✗ In some ways I am agree with those who want stricter punishments.
 ✓ **In some ways I agree with those who want stricter punishments.**

Agree is a verb (NOT an adjective).

- 4 See FACT 4

- agreement** ✗ The government has made an agreement with the People's Republic of China.
 ✓ **The government has reached agreement with the People's Republic of China.**
 reach agreement or **reach/come to/work out an agreement (with sb)**: 'After a week of talks, Britain and Iceland reached agreement on fishing limits.' 'Recent government attempts to work out an agreement have proved unsuccessful.'

- agriculture** ✗ The country's economy is based on the agriculture.
 ✓ **The country's economy is based on agriculture.**
 See note at THE 4

- aid 1** ✗ We must begin to aid ourselves and not wait for other countries.
 ✓ **We must begin to help ourselves and not wait for other countries.**

- ✗ Education can aid us to understand our world.
- ✓ **Education can help us to understand our world.**

Aid is mainly used as a noun: 'Many countries survive on foreign aid from richer neighbours.' 'It is government policy to provide aid to the homeless or the unemployed.'

As a verb, **aid** is used in formal styles and usually means 'help something recover, develop, grow, etc': 'The country's economic recovery has been aided by the recent peace agreement.'

2

- ✗ They can learn faster by the aid of computers.
- ✓ **They can learn faster with the aid of computers.**

with the aid of sth (NOT **by**): 'These bacteria cannot be seen without the aid of a microscope.'

aim 1

- ✗ Her lifelong aim was to learn how to fly.
- ✓ **Her lifelong ambition was to learn how to fly.**

See note at **AMBITION** 1



2

- ✗ He was aiming a gun against me.
- ✓ **He was aiming a gun at me.**
- ✗ These programmes are aimed to a very wide audience.
- ✓ **These programmes are aimed at a very wide audience.**

aim sth at sb/sth: 'Each ball seemed to be aimed at my head.' 'This new dictionary is aimed at intermediate learners of English.'

3

- ✗ I started to learn English with the aim to become a teacher.
- ✓ **I started to learn English with the aim of becoming a teacher.**

with the aim of doing sth: 'I originally went out to the Far East with the aim of setting up my own import-export business.' Compare: 'My aim is to become a teacher.'

air 1

- ✗ It's hard to find a fresh air nowadays.
- ✓ **It's hard to find any fresh air nowadays.**

Air (= the mixture of gases that we breathe) is an uncountable noun: 'Let's go for a walk and get some air in our lungs.'

2

See **PURE**

aircraft

- ✗ All the aircrafts have to be checked and refuelled.
- ✓ **All the aircraft have to be checked and refuelled.**

The plural form of **aircraft** is **aircraft** (no change).

alarm

- ✗ Finally we got really worried and alarmed the local police.
- ✓ **Finally we got really worried and alerted the local police.**

alarm = make someone feel worried about a possible danger: 'We don't wish to alarm people unnecessarily, but it would be wise to avoid drinking the tap water here.'

alert = inform someone of possible danger so that they can be ready to deal with it: 'When the pilot realized that one engine had failed, he alerted air traffic control.'

alive 1

- ✗ Every alive creature in the sea is affected by pollution.
- ✓ **Every living creature in the sea is affected by pollution.**

alive = not dead: 'He was very seriously ill and is lucky to be alive.'
living = (1) alive now: 'He has no living relatives.' (2) used to refer to all creatures and things that live and die: 'Yeast is a living organism and too much heat or cold can kill it.' 'The ants will eat any living thing that comes into their path.'

2 X Our teacher, Mr Collins, is very alive.

✓ **Our teacher, Mr Collins, is very lively.**

lively = full of energy: 'The Yorkshire Terrier is a lively breed of dog.'

3 X My reason for being alive had disappeared.

✓ **My reason for living had disappeared.**

When you mean 'continue to be alive', use the verb **live**: 'Her grandmother lived to a great age.' 'The baby was four months premature and was not expected to live.'

all 1

? He spent all the journey talking about accidents.

✓ **He spent the whole journey talking about accidents.**

X This decision changed all of her life.

✓ **This decision changed her whole life.**

Before the singular form of a countable noun we usually use **whole** or **entire**: 'We spent the whole lesson singing songs.' 'The entire document will have to be rewritten.' Note that sometimes both **all** and **whole/entire** are possible: 'It rained the whole/all the afternoon.' In these cases, **whole/entire** provides greater emphasis and often expresses a feeling of surprise, disappointment, satisfaction etc: 'I read the whole book in just two evenings.'

2 X People envy her because she is good at all.

✓ **People envy her because she is good at everything.**

X Nobody understands all.

✓ **Nobody understands everything.**

Do not use **all** to mean 'everything' unless it is immediately followed by a relative clause: 'Is that all she wanted to know?'

3 X All of us didn't want to go to bed.

✓ **None of us wanted to go to bed.**

X All companies will not tolerate lazy workers.

✓ **No company will tolerate lazy workers.**

See Language Note at NOT

4 X We all must try to find a solution to the problem.

✓ **We must all try to find a solution to the problem.**

X We all were delighted when we heard the news.

✓ **We were all delighted when we heard the news.**

See Language Note at ALWAYS

5 X As all you know, my name is Mary Smith.

✓ **As you all know, my name is Mary Smith.**

X I've never forgotten how beautiful all it was.

✓ **I've never forgotten how beautiful it all was.**

All of is placed immediately before a pronoun, but **all** is placed immediately after. Compare: 'All of them speak French.' 'They all speak French.'

- 6
- ✗ I like all the kinds of music.
 - ✓ **I like all kinds of music.**
 - ✗ All of children learn to speak naturally.
 - ✓ **All children learn to speak naturally.**
 - ✗ All of the young couples need a home of their own.
 - ✓ **All young couples need a home of their own.**

For general reference, put **all/most/some etc** immediately in front of the noun: 'In Japan most people use chopsticks.'

For specific reference, use **all/most/some + of the/these/their etc + noun**: 'Most of the Americans I met were very friendly.'

- 7
- ✗ I didn't like the meal and couldn't eat all.
 - ✓ **I didn't like the meal and couldn't eat it all.**
 - ✓ **I didn't like the meal and couldn't eat all of it.**

Do not use **all** to replace a pronoun. Use **all** (or **all of**) with a pronoun: 'She took six exams and passed them all.' 'She took six exams and passed all of them.'

8 See DURING 2

9 See PEOPLE 1

- allow 1
- ✗ They also allow to the prisoners to keep birds.
 - ✓ **They also allow the prisoners to keep birds.**

allow sb to do sth (NOT to sb): 'The principal doesn't allow them to wear jewellery to school.'

- 2
- ✗ It's not allowed to talk in the library.
 - ✓ **You aren't allowed to talk in the library.**
 - ✓ **Talking in the library isn't allowed.**

It is not usually used as a preparatory subject before **(not) allowed**, especially in spoken English.

- almost 1
- ✗ I almost have forgotten what she looks like.
 - ✓ **I have almost forgotten what she looks like.**
 - ✗ The suitcase almost was too heavy to lift.
 - ✓ **The suitcase was almost too heavy to lift.**

See Language Note at ALWAYS

- 2
- ✗ My job takes me almost to every part of the world.
 - ✓ **My job takes me to almost every part of the world.**

Almost comes immediately before the word it modifies: 'He was working in Hungary for almost ten years.'

- 3
- ? Outside Japan, almost nobody speaks Japanese.
 - ✓ **Outside Japan, hardly anybody speaks Japanese.**

Instead of saying **almost no/nobody/never etc.**, it is more usual to say **hardly any/anybody/ever etc.**: 'It was so early that there was hardly any traffic.' 'I hardly ever go to the cinema nowadays.'

- 4
- ✗ She almost couldn't breathe.
 - ✓ **She could hardly breathe.**

Almost is used with a negative verb when something does actually happen although, at the time, there is a strong possibility that it will not happen: 'I was feeling so tired that I almost didn't come.' 'The traffic was so heavy that she almost didn't get here in time.'

When you mean 'only a little' or 'only with great difficulty', use **hardly**:
 'We hardly know each other.' 'She was so tired that she could hardly keep her eyes open.' 'I can hardly hear myself think.'

alone 1

- ✗ I was very alone at first but then I made some friends.
 ✓ **I was very lonely at first but then I made some friends.**

alone = without other people around you: 'I've thought about getting married, but I prefer living alone.'

lonely = sad because you are alone and feel that nobody loves you or cares about you: 'I didn't know anyone in Boston and felt very lonely.'
 'Sarah hated the long lonely days in the empty house.'

2

- ✗ Children learn a lot by doing things alone.
 ✓ **Children learn a lot by doing things on their own.**

on your own = without anyone's help or supervision; independently: 'He built the car all on his own.'

along

- ✗ Walking along the city after dark is not a good idea.
 ✓ **Walking through the city after dark is not a good idea.**

along = (moving) next to the side of something long such as a road or river: 'We walked along the Thames as far as Hampton Court.'

through = from one side of an area to another: 'The road goes through all the major towns.'

a lot (of)

See LOT/LOTS

already 1

- ✗ Next July I'm going back to Hong Kong. I booked the tickets already.
 ✓ **Next July I'm going back to Hong Kong. I've booked the tickets already.**

Already is usually used with the present perfect tense (NOT the past tense): 'If he's already seen the film, he won't want to see it again.'

2

- ✗ Most of the food is cold already when you get it.
 ✓ **Most of the food is already cold when you get it.**
 ✗ They had already ten children and didn't want any more.
 ✓ **They already had ten children and didn't want any more.**
 ✓ **They had ten children already and didn't want any more.**

See Language Note at ALWAYS

3

- ✗ The war is not over already.
 ✓ **The war is not over yet.**
 ✗ The new shop has not been opened already.
 ✓ **The new shop has not been opened yet.**

Instead of using **not + already**, use **not + yet**: 'We haven't been paid yet.' 'The plane hasn't landed yet.'

also 1

- ✗ We also would like to be given more fresh food.
 ✓ **We would also like to be given more fresh food.**
 ✗ The school has also a gymnasium.
 ✓ **The school also has a gymnasium.**
 ✗ Besides the nature society, there also is a music society.
 ✓ **Besides the nature society, there is also a music society.**

See Language Note at ALWAYS

- 2
- ✗ I don't like your climate and I don't like English food also.
 - ✓ **I don't like your climate and I don't like English food either.**
 - ✗ He doesn't also recommend winter holidays.
 - ✓ **He doesn't recommend winter holidays either.**
- See note at too 2
- 3
- ? Women are often better at negotiating than men. Also, they don't give up so easily.
 - ✓ **Women are often better at negotiating than men. What's more, they don't give up so easily.**
 - ? A footbridge would take too long to build. Also, it would be of no use to the disabled.
 - ✓ **A footbridge would take too long to build. Furthermore, it would be of no use to the disabled.**
- When you want to add another reason and give it special emphasis or importance, use **furthermore**, **moreover**, **what's more** or **besides**: 'The drug has powerful side effects. Moreover, it can be addictive.' **Also** is not wrong but does not have the same persuasive force.

- alternate**
- ✗ We decided to make alternate arrangements in case the hotel was fully booked.
 - ✓ **We decided to make alternative arrangements in case the hotel was fully booked.**

In British English **alternate** and **alternative** have different meanings.

alternate = (1) happening in turn, first one then the other: 'alternate periods of sun and rain' (2) every second (day, week, etc): 'Our local football team plays at home on alternate Saturdays.'

alternative = that may be used instead of the usual one or the one you had planned to use: 'In view of the roadworks, motorists are advised to use an alternative route.'

In American English **alternate** is used with the same meaning as **alternative**.

- alternatively**
- ✗ In Sweden many wives and husbands stay at home alternatively to look after their children.
 - ✓ **In Sweden many wives and husbands stay at home alternatively to look after their children.**

alternatively = another possibility is: 'I thought we'd stay at home.

Alternatively, you might like to go for a walk.'

alternately = in turns, first one then the other: 'The play is alternately sad and happy.'

Note the more common alternative: 'In Sweden many wives and husbands take it in turns to stay at home and look after their children.'

- although**
- See BUT

- altogether**
- ✗ Afterwards, we played altogether monopoly.
 - ✓ **Afterwards, we all played monopoly.**
 - ✗ After dinner, we watch altogether television.
 - ✓ **After dinner, we all watch television.**

When you mean 'each person or thing (in a group)', use **all** after the subject (NOT **altogether**): 'The flowers had all died.' 'The children were all tired and hungry.'

always 1

✗ Come and spend the weekend with me. I live always at the same address in Croydon.

✓ **Come and spend the weekend with me. I still live at the same address in Croydon.**

✗ He died a long time ago, but his ideas are always alive.

✓ **He died a long time ago, but his ideas are still alive.**

Always means 'all the time' or 'every time': 'She has always wanted her own Mercedes.' 'I always go to work by train.'

To say that a previous situation has not changed and continues 'now' (at the time of speaking), use **still** (NOT **always**): 'Lucy is recovering, but she's still in hospital.' 'The house is still for sale.'

2

✗ I have always the feeling that she enjoys teaching us.

✓ **I always have the feeling that she enjoys teaching us.**

✗ You will be always welcome.

✓ **You will always be welcome.**

✗ During the winter months, they always were in the kitchen.

✓ **During the winter months, they were always in the kitchen.**

See Language Note on next page

a.m.

See O'CLOCK 2

ambition 1

✗ My immediate ambition is to find somewhere to live.

✓ **My immediate aim is to find somewhere to live.**

ambition = something very important that you have wanted to do or achieve for a very long time: 'Sandro's one ambition is to play for Italy in the World Cup.'

aim = what you hope to achieve when you do something: 'The aim of the course is to develop the students' writing skills.'

2

✗ Not many people manage to satisfy their ambitions.

✓ **Not many people manage to achieve their ambitions.**

achieve your ambition (NOT **satisfy, meet, reach, arrive etc**): 'He has achieved his main ambition – to make a name for himself in politics.'

among 1

✗ The main purpose of the visit is to develop a closer relationship among the two countries.

✓ **The main purpose of the visit is to develop a closer relationship between the two countries.**

Use **among** when you are talking about three or more people or things. For two people or things, use **between**.

2

✗ Try to avoid arousing anger and fear among the children.

✓ **Try to avoid arousing anger and fear in the children.**

✗ He is very popular among the people of Japan.

✓ **He is very popular with the people of Japan.**

Do not use **among** when the preceding verb/noun/adjective requires a different preposition: e.g. **arouse** anger in someone.

3

✗ Among these problems, the most serious is the excessive growth of the world's population.

✓ **The most serious of these problems is the excessive growth of the world's population.**

When a phrase beginning with **among** comes at the start of a sentence, it is usually followed by the verb **be** (NOT by the subject of the sentence): 'Among her reasons for resigning is the fact that she wants to move back to her home town.' 'Among those attending the ceremony were the Sultan of Pahang and his wife.' Note also that this structure is not common and is used only in formal styles.

Using 'middle position' adverbs

The words below are common examples of 'middle position' adverbs.

FREQUENCY	always, usually, normally, often, frequently, sometimes, occasionally, rarely, seldom, hardly ever, never
TIME	already, just, soon, still, once
DEGREE	almost, nearly, hardly, really
FOCUS	even, just, merely, only, really
OTHER	also, probably, definitely, suddenly

- Middle position adverbs usually go immediately in front of the main verb:

I **usually** have a cold shower in the morning.
It was so dark that I could **hardly** see.
You will **always** be welcome.

- When there is more than one auxiliary verb, these adverbs usually go immediately after the first one:

I have **often** been asked why I chose this career.
We will **soon** be taking our examinations.

- When the main verb is **am/is/are/was/were**, these adverbs go immediately after it (NOT in front of it):

He was **soon** fit and well again.
Fortunately, the shops were **still** open.

Note:

- 1 These rules also apply to **all, both** and **each** when these words are used for emphasis:

These countries **each** have their own traditions.
The rooms on the top floor are **all** being redecorated.
We are **both** fond of music.

- 2 Adverbs such as **sometimes, usually** and **soon** may also go at the beginning or end of a clause. In these positions they receive more emphasis:

Don't worry. I'm sure they'll be arriving **soon**.
Sometimes the noise keeps us awake at night.
Usually they come home for lunch.

amount 1

- x The amount of accidents is steadily increasing.
- ✓ **The number of accidents is steadily increasing.**

- ✗ Only small amounts of students will be admitted.
- ✓ **Only small numbers of students will be admitted.**

amount of + uncountable noun

number of + plural countable noun

Compare: 'an amount of money', 'a number of coins'

- 2
- ✗ I was lucky and won a big amount of money.
 - ✓ **I was lucky and won a large amount of money.**
 - ✗ Cream cheese contains a high amount of fat.
 - ✓ **Cream cheese contains a large amount of fat.**
- a large amount (NOT big/high)**

- 3
- ✗ The amount of crime have increased.
 - ✓ **The amount of crime has increased.**
 - ✗ A tremendous amount of research have been carried out.
 - ✓ **A tremendous amount of research has been carried out.**

amount of (singular) + uncountable noun + singular verb

amounts of (plural) + uncountable noun + plural verb

Compare: 'A large amount of money is required.' 'Large amounts of money are required.'

ample

- ✗ The kitchen is very ample and has a window overlooking the garden.
- ✓ **The kitchen is very spacious and has a window overlooking the garden.**

ample = (more than) enough; plenty of: 'The boot contains ample room for two large suitcases.' 'Just one spoonful should be ample.' 'He was given ample opportunity to express his opinion.'

spacious = large, with a lot of space: 'These ideal holiday homes are extremely spacious and within walking distance of the sea.'

amuse

- ✗ I made a lot of new friends during my stay in England and amused myself a lot.
- ✓ **I made a lot of new friends during my stay in England and really enjoyed myself.**

amuse yourself = do something to stop yourself from getting bored:

'Can't you find something to do to amuse yourself?' 'With a pencil or two and a few sheets of paper, young children can amuse themselves for hours.'

enjoy yourself = have a pleasant time: 'The party was a huge success and all the guests enjoyed themselves.'

amusing 1

- ✗ The last three years have been the most amusing years of my life.
- ✓ **The last three years have been the most enjoyable years of my life.**

amusing = causing you to laugh or smile: 'The speaker was clearly embarrassed when the microphone stopped working, but the audience found the situation very amusing.' 'I don't see anything amusing about finding a snake in your tent in the middle of the night.'

enjoyable = causing you to feel happy; pleasant: 'It was one of the most enjoyable holidays we've ever had.' 'Exercise may be hard work, but it can also be enjoyable.'

- 2 ✗ Most visitors find the museum extremely amusing.

✓ **Most visitors find the museum extremely interesting.**

Something that holds your attention (and makes you want to know more) is **interesting** (NOT **amusing**): 'The most interesting thing about the dinosaurs is their sudden disappearance.' 'His plan for raising more money sounds interesting but I'm not sure it'll work.'

an

- ✗ I had never visited an hospital before.

✓ **I had never visited a hospital before.**

Before a word beginning with **h**, use **a** if the **h** is pronounced: 'a house', 'a half', 'a horrible day'. Use **an** if the **h** is silent: 'an hour', 'an honour'. If the **h** is pronounced but the syllable is unstressed, it is possible to use **a** or **an** ('a/an hotel'). However, the use of **an** here is considered old-fashioned and most people use **a**.

and 1

- ✗ There is a beautiful and old church in the centre of the town.

✓ **There is a beautiful old church in the centre of the town.**

Do not use **and** between two adjectives that come before a noun unless they describe similar qualities, e.g. 'a red and green umbrella' (two colours), 'a gold and silver bracelet' (two materials), 'a hunting and fishing knife' (two functions).

2

See MANY 3

anger 1

- ✗ I was surprised and anger that he did not apologize.

✓ **I was surprised and angry that he did not apologize.**

Anger is a noun and a verb: 'The workers who lost their jobs expressed anger and resentment.' 'The government's handling of the affair has angered local residents.' The adjective is **angry**: 'Some of the women felt angry about the way they were treated.'

2

- ✗ He'll have to learn how to control his anger.

✓ **He'll have to learn how to control his temper.**

control/keep/lose your temper (NOT **anger**): 'The problem with George is that he can't control his temper.' (= cannot stop himself from suddenly getting angry)

announce

- ✗ The following day their father suddenly announced them that he was leaving.

✓ **The following day their father suddenly announced (to them) that he was leaving.**

After **announce**, use **to** before the listener: 'Shortly after losing the heavyweight title, he announced (to the world's press) that he was retiring from the ring.'

announcement

- ✗ On almost every page there were announcements for cigarettes and tobacco.

✓ **On almost every page there were advertisements for cigarettes and tobacco.**

When you want to give people some important information, you make an **announcement**: 'Following the announcement of their marriage, they were pursued by crowds of journalists.'

An **advertisement** is an item in a newspaper, on television, etc, that tries to persuade people to buy something, apply for a job, etc: 'At this time of the year, the papers are full of holiday advertisements.'

**annoy/
annoyed 1**

- ? The noise of the traffic outside all day annoys me.
 ✓ **The noise of the traffic outside all day irritates me.**
 ? I feel rather annoyed when I see the same advertisement time and time again.
 ✓ **I feel rather irritated when I see the same advertisement time and time again.**

Something unpleasant that happens repeatedly or continuously over a long period of time tends to **irritate** or **frustrate** people, especially because they know that they can do nothing to stop it: 'I felt so tense that even the ticking of the clock began to irritate me.' 'I am constantly frustrated by all the niggling little jobs I have to do.'

2

- ✗ Some people are annoyed by these violent films.
 ✓ **Some people are disturbed by these violent films.**
 ✓ **Some people find these violent films disturbing.**

Someone who is emotionally shocked by something they see or read is **disturbed/upset/distressed/offended** by it, or they find it **disturbing/upsetting/distressing/offensive**: 'Viewers are warned that this documentary contains a number of violent scenes which they may find disturbing.'

3

- ✗ She annoyed that I hadn't waited for her.
 ✓ **She was annoyed that I hadn't waited for her.**

be/get annoyed: 'My boss is always getting annoyed with me for some reason or other.'

annoyed

- ✗ I felt terribly annoyed with his lack of sensitivity.
 ✓ **I felt terribly annoyed at his lack of sensitivity.**

annoyed with/at sb: 'She's annoyed with you for not answering her letters.'

annoyed at/about sth: 'The thing that I'm really annoyed about is that nobody told me.'

another 1

- ✗ Rio has another important sights such as the famous football stadium.
 ✓ **Rio has other important sights such as the famous football stadium.**

another + singular: 'another child'
other + plural: 'other children'

2

- ✗ He gave the class another homework.
 ✓ **He gave the class some more homework.**

another + singular countable noun: 'We need another chair.'

(some) more + uncountable noun: 'We need (some) more furniture.'

3

- ✗ I hate horror films. Let's watch another.
 ✓ **I hate horror films. Let's watch something else.**
 ✗ If Henry is busy, get another man to help you.
 ✓ **If Henry is busy, get someone else to help you.**
 ✗ Can't you use another's computer?
 ✓ **Can't you use someone else's computer?**

When you mean 'a different person/thing/place', use **someone else, something else, somewhere else**: 'I got fed up with the job and decided to do something else.'

- 4 ☒ There is also another point that is worth mentioning.
☒ **There is another point that is worth mentioning.**
☒ Also another way to lose weight is to eat less.
☒ **Another way to lose weight is to eat less.**
another (NOT **also another**): 'Another problem, of course, is finding a job.'
- 5 ☒ Families fall into two categories. One is the composite family; another is the nuclear family.
☒ **Families fall into two categories. One is the composite family; the other is the nuclear family.**
 When you are talking about two people or things, use **the other** (NOT **another**): 'One of the twins is called Youki and the other is called Azusa.'
- 6 ☒ Without a car, it takes a long time to get from a place to another.
☒ **Without a car, it takes a long time to get from one place to another.**
from one ... to another (NOT **from a/an ... to another**): 'The job involves travelling from one country to another.'

- answer 1 ☒ They still can't find an answer for this problem.
☒ **They still can't find an answer to this problem.**
an answer to a problem or question (NOT **for**): 'The answer to the second question is Abraham Lincoln.'
- 2 ☒ It has taken them almost two months to answer to my letter.
☒ **It has taken them almost two months to answer my letter.**
☒ I couldn't answer to the last two questions.
☒ **I couldn't answer the last two questions.**
☒ My job involves cooking, cleaning and answering to the door bell.
☒ **My job involves cooking, cleaning and answering the door bell.**
answer sb/sth (WITHOUT **to**): 'Have you answered their letter yet?'
 Note that **answer** also has less common meanings where **to** is necessary: 'Anyone who upsets you will have me to answer to.' 'The dog answers to the name of Zak.'

- 3 ☒ I rang the number you gave me but nobody answered me.
☒ **I rang the number you gave me but nobody answered.**
☒ I called her name but nobody answered me.
☒ **I called her name but nobody answered.**
 Do not use an object with **answer** unless this adds new meaning to the sentence (meaning which is not obvious from the rest of the sentence). Compare: 'He asked her for an explanation but she didn't answer.' 'I'd like to speak to him but he refuses to answer the phone.' In the first sentence the object 'him' is understood and there is no need to mention it.

- antique 1 ☒ There is a beautiful antique church in the centre of the town.
☒ **There is a beautiful old church in the centre of the town.**
Antique is used for objects (NOT buildings): 'The upper-middle class have become collectors of antique furniture.'

- 2 x He has made a lot of money from selling antique things.

✓ **He has made a lot of money from selling antiques.**

an antique (NOT an antique thing): 'Some of these antiques must be worth a fortune.'

anxious 1

- x I always feel anxious when I have to make a speech.

✓ **I always feel nervous when I have to make a speech.**

anxious = worried because you fear that something bad may happen or may have happened: 'Their daughter hadn't come home from school and they were anxious about her safety.' 'I knew it was just a minor operation, but I couldn't help feeling anxious.'

nervous = worried because you are in or about to enter a stressful situation: 'I was so nervous about the exam that I couldn't sleep.' 'It was our first television appearance and we were all feeling nervous.'

- 2 x She is anxious that the hotel rates will be too expensive.

✓ **She is worried that the hotel rates will be too expensive.**

- x I was anxious that somebody would see us through the window.

✓ **I was worried that somebody would see us through the window.**

worried = unhappy because you have (or expect that you are going to have) a problem: 'The business is losing money and the boss is very worried.'

- 3 x He obviously isn't anxious about public opinion.

✓ **He obviously isn't worried about public opinion.**

not worried/concerned/bothered about sth = feeling that something is not a problem: 'I'm not bothered about how much it will cost.'

Note the alternative: 'He obviously doesn't care about public opinion.'

- 4 x I'm anxious to hear about your new boyfriend.

✓ **I can't wait to hear about your new boyfriend.**

- x I am anxious to see how British people celebrate Christmas.

✓ **I'm longing to see how British people celebrate Christmas.**

If you are **anxious** to do something, you want to do it in order to improve a (difficult or unpleasant) situation: 'We are anxious that people are informed of the truth of the matter.' 'The police are anxious to speak to anyone who witnessed the accident.'

If you simply have a strong desire to do something, you are **keen/eager/longing/dying** to do it, or you **cannot wait** to do it: 'I can't wait to get out of these wet clothes.'

- 5 x Most unemployed people are anxious for finding work.

✓ **Most unemployed people are anxious to find work.**

anxious to do sth (NOT for doing): 'He was anxious to gain approval.'

any 1

- x Any day was the same.

✓ **Each day was the same.**

- x Any smoker must remember that the people around him are inhaling the smoke.

✓ **Every smoker must remember that the people around him are inhaling the smoke.**

- x Any parents are thrilled when their first baby arrives.

✓ **All parents are thrilled when their first baby arrives.**

To refer to all the people or things in a group or category, use **each/every** + singular countable noun OR **all** + plural countable noun (NOT **any**): 'Every house in the street had one or two broken windows.' 'All students are required to register during the first week.'

- 2
- ✗ If you have any question, ask your teacher.
 - ✓ **If you have any questions, ask your teacher.**
 - ✗ She doesn't have any friend.
 - ✓ **She doesn't have any friends.**

When **any** is used with a countable noun, the noun is usually plural: 'a question' BUT 'any questions'.

- 3
- ✗ Has Atsuko found any job yet?
 - ✓ **Has Atsuko found a job yet?**
 - ✗ If there is any hole in the balloon, the air will escape.
 - ✓ **If there is a hole in the balloon, the air will escape.**

Any is usually used with uncountable nouns and plural countables (NOT with singular countable nouns). Compare: 'Do you have any money?' (**money** is an uncountable noun) 'Do you have any fifty-cent coins?' (**coins** is a plural countable noun) 'Do you have a fifty-cent coin?' (**coin** is a singular countable noun)

Note, however: 'I'll accept any job I'm offered.' (= it does not matter which job)

- 4
- ✗ When he asked if he could use the telephone, he was told that the family didn't have any.
 - ✓ **When he asked if he could use the telephone, he was told that the family didn't have one.**

Do not use **any** as a pronoun for a singular countable noun (see last entry). Compare: 'He asked for some help but nobody gave him any.' (**help** is an uncountable noun) 'She wanted to borrow some books but nobody would lend her any.' (**books** is a plural countable noun) 'I need a new computer but I can't afford one.' (**computer** is a singular countable noun)

- 5 See Language Note at NOT

- any more**
- ✗ People go there when they are not able any more to look after themselves.
 - ✓ **People go there when they are not able to look after themselves any more.**
 - ✗ The state does not any more provide a pension for everyone.
 - ✓ **The state does not provide a pension for everyone any more.**

When used in connection with time, **any more** usually comes at the end of the sentence: 'Helen doesn't work here any more.'

Note the alternatives: 'People go there when they are no longer able to look after themselves.' 'The state no longer provides a pension for everyone.'

- anybody/ anyone 1**
- ✗ Anyone should speak not just one but several languages.
 - ✓ **Everyone should speak not just one but several languages.**
 - ✗ Anybody else in the class speaks Japanese.
 - ✓ **Everybody else in the class speaks Japanese.**

To refer to all the people in a group, use **everybody/everyone** (NOT **anybody/anyone**).

- 2
- ✗ Please ask your staff if anybody of them has seen my purse.
 - ✓ **Please ask your staff if any of them has seen my purse.**
 - ✗ He doesn't know anyone of them, but he doesn't care.
 - ✓ **He doesn't know any of them, but he doesn't care.**

Before an **of** phrase, use **any** (NOT **anybody/anyone**).

- 3
- ✗ Anyone are welcome to join us.
 - ✓ **Anyone is welcome to join us.**
 - ✗ If anybody want one, please write your name on the board.
 - ✓ **If anybody wants one, please write your name on the board.**

anybody/anyone + singular verb: 'If anyone calls, tell them I'll be back after lunch.'

- 4
- ? If anyone wants to leave now, he may do so.
 - ✓ **Anyone who wants to leave now may do so.**
 - ? When anyone reads these lines, he or she will think that the writer is very sad.
 - ✓ **Anyone reading these lines will think that the writer is very sad.**

See Language Note at HE

**anyhow/
anyway**

- ✗ Those students who pass are given an intermediate certificate. Anyhow, the examination is far from easy.
- ✓ **Those students who pass are given an intermediate certificate. However, the examination is far from easy.**
- ✗ Unfortunately, the beach is not white and sandy. Anyway, it is seldom crowded and we can enjoy the sea.
- ✓ **Unfortunately, the beach is not white and sandy. On the other hand, it is seldom crowded and we can enjoy the sea.**
- ✗ I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend your wedding. Anyway, I would like to give you something for your new home.
- ✓ **I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend your wedding. Nevertheless, I would like to give you something for your new home.**

Anyhow and **anyway** are used to connect sentences only in informal styles (NOT in essays, written reports, etc). Their main uses are: (1) to show that you are about to return to the main topic or story line: 'Anyway, as soon as the plane landed he was rushed off to hospital and that was the last I saw of him.' (2) to show that your next point is just as important or relevant as your last one; 'In any case, I'm too busy to play tennis this afternoon. Anyhow, it looks like it's going to rain.' For reasons of style and logic, **anyhow** and **anyway** cannot be used in place of **however**, **on the other hand** or **nevertheless**.

anyone

See **ANYBODY/ANYONE**

anyway

See **ANYHOW/ANYWAY**

anywhere 1

- ✗ This is a serious problem for teachers anywhere.
- ✓ **This is a serious problem for teachers everywhere.**

30 apologize

- x Computers will be anywhere we go.
- ✓ **Computers will be everywhere we go.**
When you mean 'in/to all places', use **everywhere** (NOT **anywhere**).

- 2
- x When it snows, it is difficult to go to anywhere.
 - ✓ **When it snows, it is difficult to go anywhere.**
See note at SOMEWHERE 2

- apologize 1
- x The waiter was made to apologize my father.
 - ✓ **The waiter was made to apologize to my father.**
 - x He apologized her for the long delay.
 - ✓ **He apologized to her for the long delay.**

apologize to sb: 'The US has apologized to Britain for the accident that cost nine lives.'

- 2
- x She insisted on apologizing her husband's behaviour.
 - ✓ **She insisted on apologizing for her husband's behaviour.**
 - x I apologize that I can't come to the wedding.
 - ✓ **I apologize for not being able to come to the wedding.**

apologize (to sb) for (doing) sth: 'I'd like to apologize for causing you so much trouble.'

- appear 1
- x Suddenly, a bright flash of lightning appeared.
 - ✓ **Suddenly, there was a bright flash of lightning.**
 - x We don't want any more wars to appear.
 - ✓ **We don't want there to be any more wars.**

A simple way of saying that something happens or develops is to use **there + be**: 'Suddenly, there was a loud bang and all the lights went out.' 'There have been several serious accidents along this stretch of the road.' 'This time I don't want there to be any mistakes.'

- 2
- x Unemployment appears in nearly all developed countries.
 - ✓ **Unemployment occurs in nearly all developed countries.**
 - x Unfortunately, another problem has appeared.
 - ✓ **Unfortunately, another problem has occurred.**

appear = (1) become visible or (suddenly) be seen: 'Small red patches appeared all over the child's back.' 'A minute later the manager appeared and asked what was wrong.' (2) (of something new) become available or be seen for the first time: 'The first edition appeared in 1987.' 'The new model will not appear in the shops until the end of the year.' 'When did dinosaurs first appear?'

occur = (1) (of unplanned events) happen: 'The crash occurred just minutes after take-off.' 'These storms usually occur in the late afternoon.' (2) exist or be found (in a particular place): 'The Japanese 'r' sound does not occur in European languages.'

- 3
- x If he were alive, he would appear a lot of good films.
 - ✓ **If he were alive, he would appear in a lot of good films.**
 - x Recently she has appeared on several TV commercials.
 - ✓ **Recently she has appeared in several TV commercials.**

appear on television, a television channel: 'This is the first time that Britt has appeared on television.' 'He is scheduled to appear on Channel 4 next month.'

appear on/in a television programme: 'He's always appearing on/in BBC

sports programmes.' 'We asked the Home Office to appear on/in this programme, but they refused.'
appear in a film, play, show, television commercial: 'What's the name of that young actor who appeared in *Jurassic Park*?' 'Before that she had appeared in a Broadway production of *West Side Story*.'

- 4 x There appears a haphazard attitude among the younger generation.
 ✓ **There appears to be a haphazard attitude among the younger generation.**

there appears/appeared + to be + noun phrase (= seem): 'There appears to be a shortage of paper.' 'There appears to have been a breakdown in communication.'

apply 1

- x I've applied a one-year course in computer studies.
 ✓ **I've applied for a one-year course in computer studies.**
 x I don't have enough experience to apply to the job.
 ✓ **I don't have enough experience to apply for the job.**
apply (to an organization) for a job, course, scholarship etc.: 'She has applied for the post of Senior Lecturer.'

- 2 x The new tax law applies only on people with large incomes.
 ✓ **The new tax law applies only to people with large incomes.**

apply to sb/sth (= be aimed at): 'The club's rules and regulations apply to all members.'

appointment

- x I was very nervous during the appointment and I'm sure they'll give the job to someone else.
 ✓ **I was very nervous during the interview and I'm sure they'll give the job to someone else.**

appointment = an arrangement that you have made to see a doctor, dentist, business person, etc at a particular time: 'You can't see the manager without an appointment.' 'My appointment was for ten thirty.'

interview = a formal meeting at which people ask you questions to see if you are suitable for a particular job, course of study, etc: 'If they're interested in your application, they'll ask you to go for an interview.'

- 2 x I had an appointment with Takumi, a friend of mine.
 ✓ **I had arranged to meet Takumi, a friend of mine.**

You make an **appointment** to see a doctor, principal, business person, etc: 'I've got an appointment to see Dr Tanner on Tuesday.'
 You **arrange to meet/see** a friend, relative etc: 'We've arranged to meet Alan at the swimming pool.'

appreciate 1

- x I don't appreciate magazines or newspapers that have been censored.
 ✓ **I don't like magazines or newspapers that have been censored.**

appreciate = like or enjoy something because you have studied it and understand the value of it: 'I've never appreciated modern art.' 'It was during my years in Paris that I learned to appreciate good wine.'

- 2 x I would greatly appreciate if you could send me Ray's address.
 ✓ **I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me Ray's address.**

appreciate + it (+ if/when clause): 'I'm sure she'd appreciate it if you could give her a hand.' See also GRANTED

approach

- x He approached to my table and took a seat opposite me.
 - ✓ **He approached my table and took a seat opposite me.**
- approach sb/sth (WITHOUT to):** 'One of the girls approached our car and held out her hand.'

appropriate 1

- x The third paragraph of the essay is not appropriate.
 - ✓ **The third paragraph of the essay is not relevant.**
 - x Will you please send me all the appropriate information?
 - ✓ **Will you please send me all the relevant information?**
- appropriate** = suitable in a particular situation: 'Once we know more about the cause of the problem, we can take appropriate action.' 'To offer them more money at this stage would not be appropriate.'
- relevant** = having a clear connection with what you are doing or talking about: 'I'll try to answer any questions, as long as they are relevant.' 'You cannot enter the country unless you have obtained all the relevant documents.'

2

- x Some bottles are not appropriate for recycling.
 - ✓ **Some bottles are not suitable for recycling.**
 - x She is clearly the most appropriate person for the job.
 - ✓ **She is clearly the most suitable person for the job.**
- Appropriate** and **suitable** have similar meanings and are sometimes interchangeable: 'We're still waiting for a suitable/an appropriate moment to break the news to them.'
- When you mean 'having the necessary qualities, skills etc, the usual word is **suitable**': 'The hotel isn't suitable for families with children.'

approve

- x Those who approve the death penalty claim that life imprisonment is not effective.
 - ✓ **Those who approve of the death penalty claim that life imprisonment is not effective.**
 - x Some husbands do not approve the idea of their wives having a job.
 - ✓ **Some husbands do not approve of the idea of their wives having a job.**
- approve sth (without of)** = formally accept a plan, proposal or application: 'The use of the new drug has yet to be approved by the Medical Research Council.'
- approve of sb/sth** = think that someone or something is good: 'I'm sure that most athletes will approve of the new rules on drug testing.' 'I don't approve of sending young children to boarding school.'

approximately

- ? I arrived in L.A. approximately a month ago.
 - ✓ **I arrived in L.A. about a month ago.**
 - ? The party should end at approximately midnight.
 - ✓ **The party should end at around midnight.**
 - ? The train fare is approximately £20.
 - ✓ **The train fare is roughly £20.**
- Approximately** is used mainly in formal written styles: 'It is estimated that, during the period in question, approximately 47,000 cars were stolen in the London area alone.'
- Unless you wish to sound formal, use **about**, **around** or **roughly**.

area

- ? A number of different countries and areas face the same problem.
- ✓ **A number of different countries and regions face the same problem.**

To refer to one of the very large parts of a country, or to an area which includes more than one country, use **region**: 'This region of France is famous for its wine.' 'We apologize to viewers in the southern region for the poor picture quality.' 'This variety of rice is grown mainly in cool temperate regions.'

argue

- X In the first class after lunch we usually argue.
- ✓ **In the first class after lunch we usually have a discussion.**

When people **argue** (or **quarrel**), they disagree strongly about something and are often angry or upset: 'Parents should try not to argue in front of their children.' 'We were always arguing about silly things, like whose turn it was to do the shopping.'

When people consider a subject from several points of view, they **have a discussion** or **have a debate** (= a formal discussion in which two or more groups take it in turns to present their opinions).

argument

- X There are several good arguments for people preferring to live in the countryside.
- ✓ **There are several good reasons for people preferring to live in the countryside.**
- X They don't want children, for purely personal arguments.
- ✓ **They don't want children, for purely personal reasons.**

argument = a reason that you give to support your opinion, especially when you are trying to persuade someone: 'The writer's main argument is that a better train service will take cars off the road and lead to a healthier environment.' 'The argument against higher taxation is very simple.'

reason = something that explains someone's actions or feelings, or why a particular situation exists: 'My main reason for doing the course is to improve my qualifications.' 'He's got to go back to Mexico, for family reasons.'

arise

- X These problems have been arised as a result of overpopulation.
- ✓ **These problems have arisen as a result of overpopulation.**

Arise (arising, arose, arisen) is an intransitive verb, just like **arrive**, **happen** etc: 'When there is a clear written agreement, these misunderstandings do not arise.' 'The problem first arose when I tried to get a visa.' 'Should the need arise, you could sell the Mercedes and buy something cheaper.'

arithmetic

- X She comes to see me three times a week for help with her arithmetics.
- ✓ **She comes to see me three times a week for help with her arithmetic.**

mathematics (WITH -s) but **arithmetic** (WITHOUT -s): 'Arithemtic isn't difficult if it's taught properly.'

See also MATHEMATICS

arm 1

- X The plan to reduce the arm forces is strongly opposed.
- ✓ **The plan to reduce the armed forces is strongly opposed.**

armed = having one or more weapons: 'Both hijackers are believed to be armed.'

the armed forces = (a country's) army, navy, and air force

2

- ✗ She wouldn't stop crying until I held her on my arms.
- ✓ **She wouldn't stop crying until I held her in my arms.**
- ✗ I shall never forget the day he died on my arms.
- ✓ **I shall never forget the day he died in my arms.**

(hold sb/sth) in your arms (NOT on): 'He had a great pile of books in his arms.'

armchair

- ✗ She was sitting on her favourite armchair.
- ✓ **She was sitting in her favourite armchair.**

sit (down) in an armchair (NOT on): 'He sat down in the armchair and almost immediately fell asleep.'

arrival 1

- ✗ At his arrival in Vienna, he was surprised not to find his friend.
- ✓ **On his arrival in Vienna, he was surprised not to find his friend.**

on/upon sb's arrival (NOT at): 'On arrival in Addis Ababa I reported immediately to the British High Commission.'

2

- ✗ The Pope's arrival to the Philippines caused a lot of excitement.
- ✓ **The Pope's arrival in the Philippines caused a lot of excitement.**

See notes at ARRIVE 1, 2

arrive 1

- ✗ You'll arrive to London at two in the morning.
- ✓ **You'll arrive in London at two in the morning.**
- ✗ When the train arrived at Munich, he was still asleep.
- ✓ **When the train arrived in Munich, he was still asleep.**

arrive/arrival in a country, city etc: 'I'll be arriving in Hong Kong in time for Chinese New Year.'

2

- ✗ She arrived the station just in time to catch the train.
- ✓ **She arrived at the station just in time to catch the train.**
- ✗ We arrived to the hotel in time for dinner.
- ✓ **We arrived at the hotel in time for dinner.**

arrive/arrival at a building, station, airport etc: 'Make sure you arrive at the airport with plenty of time to spare.' See also HOME 1

arouse

- ✗ If your feelings arouse easily, you cannot concentrate.
- ✓ **If your feelings are easily aroused, you cannot concentrate.**

Arouse is a transitive verb: 'The chairman's resignation is bound to arouse new fears about the company's future.' 'My suspicions were aroused when I noticed that the car had been resprayed.'

art

- ✗ The college offers both science and art subjects.
- ✓ **The college offers both science and arts subjects.**
- ✗ I worked as a tutor in the Faculty of Art and Social Sciences.
- ✓ **I worked as a tutor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.**

Subjects of study are divided into **the sciences** (e.g. biology, physics, chemistry) and **the arts** (e.g. history, French, geography): 'If you don't like numbers, you should stick to the arts.'

The noun **arts** (WITH -s) is often used in front of another noun: 'I'm studying for an arts degree.'

artificial 1

- ✗ There are two artificial lakes – one for swimming and one for fishing.
- ✓ **There are two man-made lakes – one for swimming and one for fishing.**
- ✗ The city has suffered both natural and artificial disasters.
- ✓ **The city has suffered both natural and man-made disasters.**

artificial = not made of natural materials: 'I still prefer sugar to all those artificial sweeteners.' 'Most people look better under artificial light.'

man-made = made or caused by people, although sometimes having a natural appearance: 'This canal is the longest man-made waterway in the world.' 'It's hard to believe that these enormous caves are actually man-made.'

2

- ✗ He managed to lose weight by eating artificial diet foods.
- ✓ **He managed to lose weight by eating synthetic diet foods.**
- ✗ I am worried about taking artificial products into the body.
- ✓ **I am worried about taking synthetic products into the body.**
- ✗ I never eat artificial foods.
- ✓ **I never eat synthetic foods/food substitutes.**

synthetic = not natural but made by a chemical process: 'Many old herbal remedies have been replaced by synthetic drugs.'

artistic

- ✗ The country's artistic treasures should be left where they are.
- ✓ **The country's art treasures should be left where they are.**
- ✗ Students coming from artistic schools can join the Academy of Arts.
- ✓ **Students coming from art schools can join the Academy of Arts.**

artistic = (1) showing the skill or imagination of an artist: 'Both my parents were highly imaginative and artistic.' (2) connected with art or artists: 'His paintings have little artistic merit.'

art = things produced by artists such as paintings and sculptures.

This word is used as a noun and to modify another noun: 'The portrait is a fine example of early Renaissance art.' 'She owns one of the finest art collections in Europe.'

as 1

- ✗ His skin is not as the skin of a young man.
- ✓ **His skin is not like the skin of a young man.**
- ✗ It looked very fragile and so I handled it as china.
- ✓ **It looked very fragile and so I handled it like china.**

In comparisons, the word that is usually used in front of a noun or noun phrase is **like** (NOT **as**): 'James is very tall, just like his father.' 'Their car is like ours - old and full of rust.'

As is used in the patterns (not) **as ... as**, **not so ... as**, and **the same (...)** **as**: 'James is as tall as his father.' 'Their car is the same colour as ours.'

2

- ✗ The book is concerned with important social issues as child abuse and women's rights.

- ✓ **The book is concerned with important social issues such as child abuse and women's rights.**
- ✓ **The book is concerned with important social issues like child abuse and women's rights.**

Examples of a class or category are introduced by **such as** or **like** (NOT **as**): 'Serious diseases such as AIDS and cancer can cause a great deal of suffering.'

3

- ✗ She looked at everyone as she were their superior.
- ✓ **She looked at everyone as if she were their superior.**
- ✗ I suddenly felt as I was fifteen again.
- ✓ **I suddenly felt as if I was/were fifteen again.**

To compare a real situation with an imaginary or remembered situation, use **as if** or **as though** (NOT **as**): 'She came straight over and spoke to me as if we had known each other for years.' See also **was**

4

- ✗ As our room was upstairs, so we didn't hear him.
- ✓ **As our room was upstairs, we didn't hear him.**
- ✓ **Our room was upstairs and so we didn't hear him.**

See note at **so** 1

as if

- ✗ I was treated as if an old friend.
- ✓ **I was treated as if I was/were an old friend.**
- ✓ **I was treated like an old friend.**

Do not use a noun phrase immediately after **as if** and **as though**: 'She looked at me as if/though she'd never seen me before.' 'He walked with difficulty, as if/though (he were) in pain.' See also **was**.

as long as

- ✗ I'll go with you as long as I won't have to sing.
- ✓ **I'll go with you as long as I don't have to sing.**

See Language Note at **will**

as soon as

- ✗ I'll pay you as soon as I will receive the parcel.
- ✓ **I'll pay you as soon as I receive/I've received the parcel.**

as well 1

- ✗ I don't have a car and I don't want one as well.
- ✓ **I don't have a car and I don't want one either.**

See note at **too** 2

2

- ✗ As good Spaniards, they know as well how to enjoy life.
- ✓ **As good Spaniards, they also know how to enjoy life.**
- ✓ **As good Spaniards, they know how to enjoy life as well/too.**
- ✗ Could you bring as well a tape recorder?
- ✓ **Could you also bring a tape recorder?**
- ✓ **Could you bring a tape recorder as well/too?**

As well usually goes at the end of the clause: 'Do we have to invite their husbands as well?'

3

- ? The book is useful for teachers and pupils as well.
- ✓ **The book is useful for teachers and pupils alike.**

To emphasize that something is equally true for each of the people, groups or things mentioned, use **alike**: 'This new medical dictionary will serve doctors and nurses alike.'

as well as

- ✗ Each week he wrote her three letters, as well as telephoned her.
- ✓ **Each week he wrote her three letters, as well as telephoning her.**

as well as + v-ing: 'Did you realize that, as well as being a dress designer, she manages a chain of health food shops?'

ashamed

- ✗ I always feel ashamed when I have to speak in public.
 - ✓ **I always feel embarrassed when I have to speak in public.**
- ashamed** = guilty and disgusted with yourself because of something (bad) that you have done: 'Anyone who steals from the poor should be ashamed of themselves.'
- embarrassed** = feeling socially uncomfortable or anxious: 'You can imagine how embarrassed I felt when I couldn't pay the bill.'



ask 1

- ✗ We have to ask to ourselves whether such films should be censored.
 - ✓ **We have to ask ourselves whether such films should be censored.**
 - ✗ She asked to me to tell her a story.
 - ✓ **She asked me to tell her a story.**
- ask sb (NOT to sb):** 'He asked me if I could give him a lift to the station.'

2

- ✗ She asked me what was the time.
 - ✓ **She asked me what the time was.**
 - ✗ They asked him what would he like to do.
 - ✓ **They asked him what he would like to do.**
- When the object of the sentence is a **wh**-clause, the subject and the verb in the **wh**-clause do not change places. Compare: 'How old are you?' 'She asked me how old I was.'

aspect 1

- ✗ From a biological aspect, the two plants are very similar.
 - ✓ **From a biological point of view, the two plants are very similar.**
 - ✗ History can be studied in many different aspects.
 - ✓ **History can be studied from many different points of view.**
- aspect** = one of the parts or features of a situation, idea, problem, etc: 'Modern technology affects all aspects of our daily lives.' 'The book concentrates on the cruel aspects of war.'
- point of view** = a particular way of looking at a situation, event, problem, etc: 'From a vegetarian's point of view, these new controls on meat preparation are of little interest.' 'What does the process of getting old mean from a medical point of view?' 'I wish you'd try and see things from my point of view for a change.'

2

- ✗ Another function of newspapers is to shape public opinion and in this aspect the Guardian is very influential indeed.
 - ✓ **Another function of newspapers is to shape public opinion and in this respect the Guardian is very influential indeed.**
- To refer back to something that you have just said, use **in this respect (NOT in this aspect)**: 'Mr Jones has far more experience than the other applicants, and in this respect I'd say that he is the strongest candidate.'

- 3 X At one time it seemed as if men were stronger than women in every aspect.
 ✓ **At one time it seemed as if men were stronger than women in every respect.**

When you wish to control the strength of a statement, use in **some/several/certain/many/all respects** or in **one/this/every respect**: 'In many respects she is the best teacher I've ever had.' 'In some respects the two cultures are very similar.'

- assassinate** X He was charged with assassinating a taxi-driver.
 ✓ **He was charged with murdering a taxi-driver.**
 See Language Note at KILL

- assassin** X The prison is full of crooks, thieves and assassins.
 ✓ **The prison is full of crooks, thieves and murderers.**
 See Language Note at KILL

- assist** 1 X All members are required to assist to the meeting.
 ✓ **All members are required to attend the meeting.**
 X The school where I am going to assist is in Cambridge.
 ✓ **The school that I am going to attend is in Cambridge.**

assist = (formal) help: 'Should you have difficulty in finding a book, the library staff will be pleased to assist you.'

attend = (formal) (1) be present at a meeting or event; go to: 'He's had to cancel the trip in order to attend his mother's funeral.' (2) be a member of something that has regular meetings, such as a school or class; go to: 'The couples who attended the prenatal classes found childbirth much easier, especially the wives.' See also Attend 1

- 2 X One of the prison guards assisted them to escape.
 ✓ **One of the prison guards assisted them in their escape.**
 ✓ **One of the prison guards assisted them in escaping.**

assist (sb) in/with sth: 'A Swiss rescue team is being flown in to assist in the search for survivors.' 'I've been asked to assist with the wedding arrangements.'

assist (sb) in doing sth (NOT to do): 'Our main job is to assist foreign governments in developing their economies.'

- 3 X Ask Susie to assist you.
 ✓ **Ask Susie to help you.**

Assist is used only in formal styles. See note at ASSIST 1.

- assure** X I can assure that your name will not be mentioned.
 ✓ **I can assure you that your name will not be mentioned.**
 X I assure that the meeting will not last very long.
 ✓ **I assure you that the meeting will not last very long.**

assure sb that: 'I assure you that we are doing everything we can to avoid further delays.'

- asylum** X Asylums are typically seen as places where people go to die.
 ✓ **Hospices are typically seen as places where people go to die.**

asylum = (old-fashioned) a hospital for the mentally ill, nowadays known as a **psychiatric hospital**

hospice = a special type of hospital for people who are dying

Note also the term **old people's home** = a place where old people go to live when they need someone to look after them: 'She'd rather stay in an old people's home than be a burden to her family.'

- at 1**
- X I always have a good breakfast at the morning.
 - ✓ **I always have a good breakfast in the morning.**
 - X At afternoon I visited the Fitzwilliam Museum.
 - ✓ **In the afternoon I visited the Fitzwilliam Museum.**
- See Language Note at TIME
- 2**
- X In Germany we have a lot of snow at wintertime.
 - ✓ **In Germany we have a lot of snow in wintertime.**
 - X I was married at 1989 and have two children, a boy and a girl.
 - ✓ **I was married in 1989 and have two children, a boy and a girl.**
- See Language Note at TIME
- 3**
- X I bought the tape just a week ago, at 4th December.
 - ✓ **I bought the tape just a week ago, on 4th December.**
 - X We were all very tired at the last day of our journey.
 - ✓ **We were all very tired on the last day of our journey.**
- See Language Note at TIME

athletic

- X A lot of athletic reporters write for the magazine.
- ✓ **A lot of athletics reporters write for the magazine.**
- X The race was organized by the National Athletic Association.
- ✓ **The race was organized by the National Athletics Association.**

athletic = physically strong and good at running, jumping, etc: 'I've never been very athletic.'

athletics = sports such as running, jumping, and throwing the javelin: 'I've never been very good at athletics.'

The noun **athletics** (WITH -s) is often used in front of another noun: 'He's been selected for the athletics team.'

attempt

- X His attempt of seizing power was defeated by the army.
- ✓ **His attempt to seize power was defeated by the army.**

(make) an attempt to do/at doing sth: 'The government's attempts to control inflation have failed miserably.' 'He made several unsuccessful attempts at getting the car started.'

attend 1

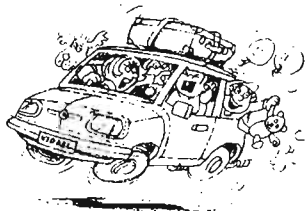
- ? I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend your wedding.
- ✓ **I'm sorry that I won't be able to be at your wedding.**
- ? I'm afraid that I can't attend your party.
- ✓ **I'm afraid that I can't make it to your party.**

Attend is used mainly in formal styles: 'All committee members are expected to attend the meeting.' In other styles use **be at**, **come/go (to)** or (informal) **make it (to)**: 'Apart from John and Sue, who else will be at the party?' 'Did you go to the match on Saturday?' 'We hope you can come but don't worry if you can't make it.'

2

- X It's very important to attend to all the classes.
- ✓ **It's very important to attend all the classes.**
- X I won't be able to attend at the meeting.
- ✓ **I won't be able to attend the meeting.**

attend a meeting, class, school, etc (WITHOUT to or at)

- attention 1**
- ✗ Everyone should pay attention to avoiding stressful situations.
 - ✓ **Everyone should take care to avoid stressful situations.**
 - ✗ Pay attention when refuelling and try not to spill any petrol.
 - ✓ **Be careful when refuelling and try not to spill any petrol.**
- When talking about a situation that could be dangerous or harmful, use **be careful or take care (NOT pay attention)**: 'When the road surface is wet, drivers should take extra care.' 'Be careful to keep all medicines out of the reach of children.'
- 2**
- ✗ People should pay more attention on what they eat.
 - ✓ **People should pay more attention to what they eat.**
- pay attention to sb/sth (NOT on/in/at)**: 'This part of the course pays special attention to the spoken language.'
- 3**
- ✗ When driving, you must give your best attention to what you are doing.
 - ✓ **When driving, you must give your full attention to what you are doing.**
- full/undivided attention**: 'I assure you that this matter will receive our undivided attention.'
- 
- 4**
- ✗ The attention is a bit slow, but the waiters are always polite.
 - ✓ **The service is a bit slow, but the waiters are always polite.**
- service** = the help and attention that you get from the people who work in a shop or restaurant: 'We complained about the poor service.'
- 5**
- ✗ To the attention of: Mrs H. Greaves, Principal.
 - ✓ **For the attention of: Mrs H. Greaves, Principal.**
- for the attention of (NOT to/at)**
- audience**
- ✗ The priest stands in front of the bride and groom, facing the audience.
 - ✓ **The priest stands in front of the bride and groom, facing the congregation.**
- audience** = the people who go to watch/listen to a film, play, concert, public lecture, etc: 'The group has played to vast audiences all over the world.' 'At the end of the talk, members of the audience were invited to ask questions.'
- congregation** = the people who attend a church service: 'The vicar is always pleased to see new faces in the congregation.'
- authority**
- ✗ Those who bend the rules are reported to the authority.
 - ✓ **Those who bend the rules are reported to the authorities.**
 - ✗ The authority had refused them even their basic civil rights.
 - ✓ **The authorities had refused them even their basic civil rights.**
- To refer in a general way to the officials who make all the important decisions in a country, use **the authorities**: 'The authorities estimate that nearly 100,000 immigrants have entered the country illegally.'
- As a countable noun, **authority** refers to an official group or organization that controls an area or activity: 'You can claim housing benefit from your local authority.'

average 1

- ✗ The article was about average British people and their reluctance to learn foreign languages.
- ✓ **The article was about typical British people and their reluctance to learn foreign languages.**
- ✗ The Los Angeles Medical Centre announced that the average AIDS patient requires about two to three months of hospitalization.
- ✓ **The Los Angeles Medical Centre announced that the typical AIDS patient requires about two to three months of hospitalization.**

average = not special or unusual in any way; of the usual standard or level: 'Anyone of average intelligence knows that drugs are dangerous.'

typical = having the same appearance, behaviour or characteristics as a particular type of person or thing: 'McGarron looked like a typical American car salesman.' 'John's wife is a typical teacher.'

2

- ✗ The average of hours spent watching television has increased.
- ✓ **The average number of hours spent watching television has increased.**
- ✓ **The average hours spent watching television have increased.**

an/the average of + NUMBER: 'The average of 3, 4 and 8 is 5.' 'The test results produced an average of 65 per cent.'

the average number/amount/level/age of + NOUN: 'The average age of the children is five years and seven months.'

an/the average + NOUN: 'The average salary is \$2100 a month.'

avoid 1

- ✗ He put his hand over my mouth to avoid me to scream.
- ✓ **He put his hand over my mouth to prevent me from screaming.**
- ✗ These new measures are intended to avoid the spread of the disease.
- ✓ **These new measures are intended to prevent the spread of the disease.**
- ✓ **These new measures are intended to prevent the disease from spreading.**

avoid (doing) sth = be careful not to do something: 'The best way to lose weight is to avoid eating fatty foods.' 'These drugs are dangerous and should be avoided.' 'Try to avoid subjects that can cause offence.'

prevent sb/sth (from doing sth) = stop someone or something from doing something; stop something from happening: 'The wall is supposed to prevent dogs from getting into the garden.' 'It is hoped that the new speed limit will help to prevent accidents.'

2

- ✗ He is such a nice man that you can't avoid liking him.
- ✓ **He is such a nice man that you can't help liking him.**
- ✗ I couldn't avoid falling in love with her.
- ✓ **I couldn't help falling in love with her.**

can't help doing sth = cannot stop yourself from doing something: 'Whenever he tries to sing, I just can't help laughing.'

- 3
- ✗ I told him that we would be grateful if he would kindly avoid ringing our doorbell after midnight.
 - ✓ **I told him that we would be grateful if he would kindly refrain from ringing our doorbell after midnight.**
- refrain from doing sth** = (formal) stop yourself from doing something because other people do not like it: 'Hotel guests are asked to refrain from smoking in the restaurants.'

- 4
- ✗ I avoid to use a computer for personal letters.
 - ✓ **I avoid using a computer for personal letters.**
- avoid doing sth (NOT to do):** 'He obviously wants to avoid getting involved in the dispute.'

await

- ✗ We await for your reply and apologize for any inconvenience.
 - ✓ **We await your reply and apologize for any inconvenience.**
- await sb/sth (WITHOUT for):** 'The committee is awaiting a decision from head office.'

awake

- ✗ I get up at seven o'clock but I awake an hour earlier.
- ✓ **I get up at seven o'clock but I wake up an hour earlier.**
- ✗ The next morning we awoke up at 7 o'clock to catch the train.
- ✓ **The next morning we woke up at 7 o'clock to catch the train.**

Awake is used mainly as an adjective: 'It's gone ten o'clock and the children are still awake.' As a verb, **awake (WITHOUT up)** is used only in literary styles: 'I awoke to the sound of church bells.'

The usual verb is **wake up**: 'She told me that she keeps waking up in the middle of the night.' - was woken up by a loud whistling noise.'

award

- ✗ The insurance company has offered an award to anyone who can provide information about the theft.
- ✓ **The insurance company has offered a reward to anyone who can provide information about the theft.**

award = (1) a prize, certificate, or medal that is given for doing something very well: 'The award for this year's best actor went to Harry Cohen.' (2) a sum of money that someone wins in a court of law: 'Each survivor of the disaster received an award of \$20,000.'

reward = (1) something that you are given by someone who is pleased by what you have done: 'As a reward for eating all her dinner, she was given an ice cream.' (2) a sum of money that someone promises to pay to the person who provides useful information, usually in connection with a crime that has been committed or something that has been lost: 'A reward of \$5,000 has been offered for information leading to the recovery of the necklace.'