

Bb

baby

- ? Sitting in the next seat was a young woman who was having a baby.

- ✓ **Sitting in the next seat was a young woman who was expecting a baby.**

have a baby = give birth to a baby: 'She's worried about having the baby at home in case there are complications.'

be expecting a baby = be pregnant: 'Janet is expecting another baby.'

Note that **be having a baby** can be used to mean 'be pregnant' but this should be avoided when there is a danger of confusion.

back

See RETURN 1

bad 1

- x I'm afraid I speak English very bad.

- ✓ **I'm afraid I speak English very badly.**

Bad is an adjective: 'I tried to ignore the child's bad behaviour.'

Badly is an adverb: 'The child behaved very badly indeed.'

2

- ? Of course, there are also bad things about living in a city.

- ✓ **Of course, there are also disadvantages to living in a city.**

- ? It's a bad thing that the population is increasing so quickly.

- ✓ **It's unfortunate that the population is increasing so quickly.**

The phrase **bad thing/s** is generally over-used and often sounds unnatural.

See also THING

badly 1

- x My shoulders were sunburnt badly.

- ✓ **My shoulders were badly sunburnt.**

- x Some were killed and others were injured badly.

- ✓ **Some were killed and others were badly injured.**

badly + past participle: 'The other car was badly damaged.'

2

See ILL 2

baggage

- x All the passengers carried their own baggages.

- ✓ **All the passengers carried their own baggage.**

Baggage is an uncountable noun: 'Baggage must not be left unattended in the terminal building.' 'How many pieces of baggage do you have?'

band

See MUSIC 2

barely

- x Although I am a member of the club, I barely go there.

- ✓ **Although I am a member of the club, I rarely go there.**

barely = almost not; only just: 'His handwriting is barely legible.' (= you can only just read it) 'The fog was so bad that we barely made it to the motel.'

rarely/seldom/hardly ever = almost never: 'He rarely makes any serious mistakes.'

base 1

- ✗ Political stability provides the base for economic development.
- ✓ **Political stability provides the basis for economic development.**

base = (1) the main part of something: 'Most of the paints we produce have an oil base.' (2) the lowest part of something: 'The base of the column is made of marble.'

basis = the very important thing from which something else develops or is made possible: 'The basis of a successful marriage is mutual respect.' 'Newton's discoveries provided the basis for future research.'

2

- ✗ The first role play base on a conversation at a hotel reception desk.
- ✓ **The first role play was based on a conversation at a hotel reception desk.**

be based on/upon = be developed from: 'Republican policy is based on the idea that people should compete with each other.' 'The film is based on a popular Bengali novel.'

basis

- ✗ The course is for students with a basis knowledge of English.
- ✓ **The course is for students with a basic knowledge of English.**

Basis is a noun. See note at **BASE 1**

Basic is an adjective: 'basic computer skills', 'basic principles'

bath 1

- ✗ We decided to have a bath in the hotel pool.
- ✓ **We decided to have a swim in the hotel pool.**

have a bath = wash yourself in a bath: 'I always have a bath or shower before going to bed.'

When you are talking about swimming, use **have a swim**, **have a dip** or (in formal styles of British English) **have a bathe**. See note at **BATHE**

2

- ✗ I always take a bath before going to bed.
- ✓ **I always have a bath before going to bed.**

In British English the phrase is **have a bath** (NOT **take**): 'There isn't enough water to have a bath.' **Take a bath** is used in American English.

3

See ***SUNBATH**

bathe

- ✗ Most nights when I come home, I'm too tired to bathe.
- ✓ **Most nights when I come home, I'm too tired to have a bath.**

In British English, **bathe**, **have/go for a bathe** and **go bathing** mean 'swim, play or just relax in the water' (NOT 'get clean in a bath'): 'It was the first time I'd bathed in the Red Sea.' Nowadays most people use **swim**, **have/go for a swim** or **go swimming** for this meaning. In American English, **bathe** means 'get clean in a bath'.

battle

- ✗ Many young Americans refused to battle in Vietnam.
- ✓ **Many young Americans refused to fight in Vietnam.**

battle = struggle to do or get something: 'Doctors are still battling to save the child's life.'

fight = use violence to hurt or kill people: 'My grandfather fought in the Spanish Civil War.'

be 1

- ✗ Meanwhile, Sarah was beginning to be upset.
 - ✓ **Meanwhile, Sarah was beginning to get upset.**
 - ✗ When she didn't arrive, I started to be anxious.
 - ✓ **When she didn't arrive, I started to become anxious.**
- When talking about a change in state, use **get/become/grow** + adjective (NOT **be**): 'I've put a couple of apples in your bag in case you get hungry.' 'The children were growing impatient.'

2

- ✗ After six months he was the general manager.
 - ✓ **After six months he became the general manager.**
- When talking about a change in state, use **become** + noun phrase (NOT **be**): 'In 1975 she became leader of the Conservative Party.'

3

- ✗ Nowadays is very difficult to get a job.
 - ✓ **Nowadays it is very difficult to get a job.**
- See IT 1

4

- ✗ On Saturdays is usually a party at someone's house.
 - ✓ **On Saturdays there is usually a party at someone's house.**
- See THERE 1

bear 1

- ✗ The government also controls the number of children that a couple can bear.
- ✓ **The government also controls the number of children that a couple can have.**

✗ I want to get married and bear children.

✓ **I want to get married and have children.**

Bear (sb) a child is used only in formal styles and refers to the physical process of giving birth: 'She bore her husband two daughters and one son.' The subject of **bear** is always a woman.

When you are talking about beginning a family or the number of children in a family, use **have** (NOT **bear**): 'We'd like to have children while we're still young.'

2

- ✗ 'I can't bear any longer,' he said. 'I'm ready to resign.'
 - ✓ **'I can't bear it any longer,' he said. 'I'm ready to resign.'**
 - ✗ I can't bear if someone starts cracking their knuckles.
 - ✓ **I can't bear it if someone starts cracking their knuckles.**
- can't bear + it** (+ **if/when** clause): 'I can't bear it when people start complaining about nothing.'

beautiful

- ? Thank you for your beautiful letter.
 - ✓ **Thank you for your interesting/newsy letter.**
- See Language Note at KILL

because 1

See REASON 3, 4

2

See note at so 1

become 1

- ✗ Eventually I became to like Singapore.
 - ✓ **Eventually I came to like Singapore.**
- Become** means 'start to be' and is followed by an adjective or noun (NOT a verb): 'We didn't meet again until after she had become famous.'

'Brunei became an independent member of the Commonwealth in 1984.'
 When talking about a gradual change in the way a person feels or thinks about someone or something, use **come/grow** + to-v (NOT **become**):
 'Although she had come to dislike her boss, she tried not to let it show.'
 'As the months passed, I actually grew to enjoy his company.'

- 2 x When my first child was born, I became to think seriously about my future.

✓ **When my first child was born, I began to think seriously about my future.**

begin/start to do sth (NOT **become**): 'My evenings were free and so I began to learn German.'

- 3 x The housing problem in Hong Kong becomes more serious.

✓ **The housing problem in Hong Kong is becoming more serious.**

To refer to something that is still happening or taking place, use the present progressive tense of **become**: 'It's becoming difficult to find somewhere to park.'

- 4 See BLIND, DARK, MAD 1, TRUE

bed 1

x Every morning I have to get up from my bed very early.

✓ **Every morning I have to get up very early.**

x I left my bed at 8 a.m. and had a shower.

✓ **I got up at 8 a.m. and had a shower.**

get up = get out of bed and start your day: 'I've got to get up early in the morning to catch the 7.00 train.'

2

x I decided to stay in my bed this morning.

✓ **I decided to stay in bed this morning.**

x I never go to my bed before 11 p.m.

✓ **I never go to bed before 11 p.m.**

stay in bed, go to bed, get out of bed, lie in bed, be in bed (WITHOUT **my, his, the,** etc)

Compare: 'Who's been sleeping in my bed?' asked Daddy Bear.

been 1

x I hadn't been in Scotland before.

✓ **I hadn't been to Scotland before.**

x Have you ever been in California?

✓ **Have you ever been to California?**

been in = been living or staying in: 'I've been in Paris since the beginning of June.' 'How long has Wendy been in hospital?'

been to = gone to and come back from; visited: 'I've been to Paris three times.' 'I've been to the hospital to see Wendy.'

2

x Last year I've been to England for a month.

✓ **Last year I went to England for a month.**

x First of all we've been to UCLA to see Ray's brother.

✓ **First of all we went to UCLA to see Ray's brother.**

When you are talking about a specific visit or trip that you made in the past, use **went to** (NOT **have been to**). Compare: 'I've been to England and Italy, but I haven't been to France.' 'I went to England in 1993 and to Italy in 1994.'

before 1

- x Before forty years the journey took twice as long.
- ✓ **Forty years ago the journey took twice as long.**
- x Not so long before we used animals for transportation.
- ✓ **Not so long ago we used animals for transportation.**

ago = before 'now', the moment of speaking: 'Her plane landed ten minutes ago. In fact, here she comes now.' 'I saw him just five minutes ago.' (= five minutes before now)
before = before 'then', a time in the past: 'I went to the airport last Monday to meet Sue. I hadn't been to the airport before.' (= before last Monday). 'I saw him last Friday in London and two days before in Leeds.' (= last Wednesday)

2

- x My parents first came here before 40 years ago.
- ✓ **My parents first came here 40 years ago.**

See Language Note at TIME

3

See EVER 2

beg 1

- x I beg you to send me the information as soon as possible.
- ✓ **I should be grateful if you would send me the information as soon as possible.**

When **beg** means 'ask someone to do something', it is nearly always used as a reporting verb. Compare: 'Please forgive me.' 'He begged her to forgive him.'

To make a request in a formal letter, use **I/we should/would be grateful if ...** (NOT **I/we beg you ...**). 'I would be grateful if you could raise this question at the next meeting.'

www.ELLS4U.blogfa.com

2

See PARDON 2

beginning 1

- x In the beginning of the century people travelled from Britain to Egypt by sea.
- ✓ **At the beginning of the century people travelled from Britain to Egypt by sea.**

See Language Note at FIRST

2

- x At the beginning I thought that the switch was broken but then I discovered it was a fuse.
- ✓ **At first I thought that the switch was broken but then I discovered it was a fuse.**

See Language Note at FIRST

behave

- x The magazine teaches parents how to behave with their children.
- ✓ **The magazine teaches parents how to behave towards their children.**

behave towards sb (NOT **with**): 'I've been noting the way he behaves towards you and I'm not impressed.'

behaviour 1

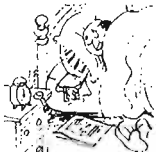
- x We were surprised by their peculiar behaviours.
- ✓ **We were surprised by their peculiar behaviour.**
- x Such a behaviour can easily cause offence.
- ✓ **Such behaviour can easily cause offence.**

Behaviour is an uncountable noun.

- 2
- ✗ Sometimes Juan has a very strange behaviour.
 - ✓ **Sometimes Juan behaves very strangely.**
 - ✓ **Sometimes Juan's behaviour is very strange.**
 - ✗ There are very few people having such a behaviour.
 - ✓ **Very few people behave in such a way.**

Instead of using **have + behaviour**, use **behaviour + be** or use the verb **behave + adverb**: 'His behaviour is atrocious.' 'He behaves atrociously.'

behind



- ✗ At night I keep my wallet behind my pillow.
- ✓ **At night I keep my wallet under my pillow.**

behind = at the back of something: 'Lizzie ran and hid behind a tree.'

under (or **beneath/underneath**) = directly below something, and sometimes touching or covered by it: 'Come and stand under my umbrella.' 'I eventually found the letter under a pile of old newspapers.'

believe 1

- ✗ You should not believe in everything you hear.
- ✓ **You should not believe everything you hear.**
- ✗ She couldn't believe in what was happening to her.
- ✓ **She couldn't believe what was happening to her.**

believe in sth = (1) accept that something exists: 'Do you believe in ghosts?' 'James still believes in Father Christmas.'

(2) think that something is good: 'I don't believe in capital punishment.' 'I believe in getting a good night's sleep before an examination.'

believe sth = accept that something is true or real: 'I believe every word she said.' 'I couldn't believe what I was seeing.'

www.IELTS4U.blogfa.com

- 2
- ✗ I could hardly believe in my eyes.
 - ✓ **I could hardly believe my eyes.**

could not/hardly believe your ears/eyes (WITHOUT in)

- 3
- ✗ I deeply believe that tourists will stop coming here.
 - ✓ **I firmly believe that tourists will stop coming here.**
 - ✗ My brother deeply believes in freedom of speech.
 - ✓ **My brother strongly believes in freedom of speech.**

firmly/strongly/fervently/sincerely/truly believe (NOT deeply): 'I sincerely believe that he had no connection with the crime.'

belong 1

- ✗ 'Are these gloves belonging to you?' she asked.
- ✓ **'Do these gloves belong to you?' she asked.**

See Language Note at INCLUDE

- 2
- ✗ The Toyota is belong to my wife.
 - ✓ **The Toyota belongs to my wife.**
 - ✗ Patreze is belong to the Williams team.
 - ✓ **Patreze belongs to the Williams team.**

Belong is a verb (NOT an adjective).

beloved

- ✗ He spends as much time as he can with his beloved children.
- ✓ **He spends as much time as he can with his children.**

Beloved is used only in literary and humorous styles: 'There were many regrets in her life, but her beloved son was not one of them.' 'He wants to move closer to his beloved football team, Chester City.' It is particularly common on gravestones and old-fashioned birthday cards: 'To the memory of Alice Holt, beloved wife of Thomas Holt.'

below 1



2

- ✗ Below the table there were some empty wine bottles.
- ✓ **Under the table there were some empty wine bottles.**

below = at or to a lower level than something: 'My room is on the third floor, and John's is on the floor below.' 'Our helicopter hovered just below the summit so that we could film the rescue.'

under (or **beneath/underneath**) = directly below something, and sometimes touching or covered by it: 'Come and stand under my umbrella.' 'I eventually found the letter under a pile of old newspapers.'

- ✗ The below report describes my recent stay at the Hotel Grove.
- ✓ **The report below describes my recent stay at the Hotel Grove.**

When **below** refers to the position of something on a page, it comes after the noun: 'Last month's sales figures are set out in the table below.'

Note that **above** can go before or after the noun: 'the table above', 'the above table'.

3

- ✗ The room rates are much below average for hotels in this area.
- ✓ **The room rates are far below average for hotels in this area.**

far below (NOT much): 'The cost of the trip was far below what we had expected.'

Compare: 'The room rates were much/far lower than we had expected.'

benefit 1

- ✗ This new service should benefit to all our customers.
- ✓ **This new service should benefit all our customers.**

✗ The trade agreement will benefit for both parties.

✓ **The trade agreement will benefit both parties.**

benefit sb (WITHOUT to/for): 'The new tax laws will not benefit the unemployed.'

2

- ✗ It is not true that only businessmen are benefited by tourism.
- ✓ **It is not true that only businessmen benefit from tourism.**

Instead of using **be benefited by** (passive), use **benefit from/by**. The subject of **benefit from/by** is the receiver of the benefit: 'Do you think she has benefited from going to extra classes?' 'The room would benefit by altering the size of the window.'

beside/
besides 1

- ✗ We need to discover another source of income, beside oil.
- ✓ **We need to discover another source of income, besides oil.**
- ✗ We went swimming in the river beside my house.
- ✓ **We went swimming in the river beside my house.**

beside = next to: 'She walked over and sat down beside me.'

besides = in addition to; also: 'Who did you invite besides Tom and Mary?' 'Besides tennis, what other games do you play?' 'I'm too old to apply for the job. Besides, it would mean moving house.'

2

- ✗ Beside of the traditional ceremonies, there are also foreign weddings.
- ✓ **Besides the traditional ceremonies, there are also foreign weddings.**
- ✗ Besides of this problem, her husband had lost his job.
- ✓ **Besides this problem, her husband had lost his job.**

When you mean 'in addition to', use **besides** (WITHOUT of): 'Who did you speak to, besides Alice?' **Beside/s of** does not exist.

- 3
- ✗ Beside the reduction of unemployment, the government has achieved very little.
 - ✓ **Apart from the reduction of unemployment, the government has achieved very little.**
 - ✗ Besides the goalkeeper, who was a disaster, the team played very well.
 - ✓ **Apart from the goalkeeper, who was a disaster, the team played very well.**

When you want to say that someone or something is not included in your main statement, use **apart from** (NOT **beside/s**): 'Apart from Peter, everyone had a good time.'

- 4
- ✗ I'd like to have two children. Besides, I hope that the first one will be a girl.
 - ✓ **I'd like to have two children and I hope that the first one will be a girl.**

Use **besides** only when you give an additional reason for something: 'If you're too busy, I'll go and post the letter myself. Besides, I think the walk will do me good.'

best 1

- ✗ He is the best surgeon of the hospital.
- ✓ **He is the best surgeon in the hospital.**
- ✗ It is one of the best theatres of Spain.
- ✓ **It is one of the best theatres in Spain.**

The phrase that follows **the best** (+ noun) usually begins with **in** (NOT **of**): 'one of the best restaurants in London'; 'the best team in the league', 'some of the best students in the class'

- 2
- ✗ We all made our best to see that they enjoyed themselves.
 - ✓ **We all did our best to see that they enjoyed themselves.**
- See Language Note at do

better 1

- ✗ German cars are more expensive but they are more better.
 - ✓ **German cars are more expensive but they are better.**
- good, better, best**

- 2
- ✗ You better make sure you're not late again.
 - ✓ **You'd better make sure you're not late again.**
 - ✗ My friends warned me that I should better be careful.
 - ✓ **My friends warned me that I had better be careful.**
- had better (not)**: 'If the phone rings again, you'd better answer it.' 'If it's a secret, you'd better not tell me.'
- Note that **had** is usually shortened to **d** and sometimes may not be heard at all.

- 3
- ✗ 'You'd better to hurry up,' she shouted.
 - ✓ **'You'd better hurry up,' she shouted.**
- had better (not) do sth** (NOT **to do**): 'You'd better not leave all that money on the table.'

- 4
- ✗ Instead of using a dictionary all the time, you had better try to guess the meaning of the words.

- ✓ **Instead of using a dictionary all the time, you should try to guess the meanings of the words.**
- ✗ If people want to be healthy, they had better be more careful about what they eat.
- ✓ **If people want to be healthy, they should be more careful about what they eat.**

Had better is used in informal styles when you give someone strong advice about what to do in a particular situation. The situation usually exists at the moment of speaking and so there is usually a sense of urgency in the advice: 'You'd better hurry or you'll miss the bus.' 'You'd better ring your parents - just in case they're worrying about you.'

To give advice on a general situation or to say that one course of action is better than another one, use **should**, **ought to** or **it would be better to**: 'Parents should teach their children to be kind to animals.' 'Rather than complain and risk upsetting her, it would be better to say nothing.'

between 1

- ✗ Between all the magazines on the shelves, only one was of any interest.
- ✓ **Among all the magazines on the shelves, only one was of any interest.**
- ✗ He wandered silently between the passengers on the boat.
- ✓ **He wandered silently among the passengers on the boat.**

Between is used when there are people or things on either side of someone or something: 'The ball went straight between the goalkeeper's legs.' 'The teacher walked up and down between the rows of desks.' 'Give me a number between 4 and 14.'

Among (or amongst) is used when (at least three) people or things are considered as a group or mass: 'I eventually found the photograph among a pile of old letters.'

- 2 ✗ Children between three to five go to kindergarten.
- ✓ **Children between three and five go to kindergarten.**
- ✗ Between June 1987 to March 1990 I was in France.
- ✓ **From June 1987 to March 1990 I was in France.**
- ✗ It will take them between six to eight weeks to finish it.
- ✓ **It will take them between six and eight weeks to finish it.**

Use **between ... and** or **from ... to** (NOT **between ... to**).

bicycle

- ? I enjoy riding a bicycle and playing badminton.
- ✓ **I enjoy cycling and playing badminton.**
- ? In the evenings we usually ride our bicycles.
- ✓ **In the evenings we usually go cycling.**

cycling = riding a bicycle as a sport or leisure activity: 'In the summer I do a lot of cycling.'

Compare: 'He learned to ride a bicycle at the age of four.'

big

- ✗ The party was big fun and we all enjoyed ourselves.
- ✓ **The party was great fun and we all enjoyed ourselves.**
- ✗ There is a big possibility that they may not come.
- ✓ **There is a strong possibility that they may not come.**

See Language Note on next page

Choosing the right word: WORD COMBINATIONS

As well as knowing what a word means, you need to know how to use it and this includes knowing which words it usually goes with. For example, **possibility** is often used with **strong** but not with **big**. The phrases 'a big possibility' and 'a strong possibility' have the same meaning and both will be understood. However, 'a big possibility' is unnatural and is generally regarded as an error. The rule that is broken by putting **big** and **possibility** together is one of word combination or 'collocation'.

Big and **strong** belong to a group of adjectives that are commonly used with abstract nouns (e.g. **change, risk, possibility, effect, difficulty**). It is important to know which adjectives go with which nouns. The table below shows which combinations are acceptable.

	big	deep	great	high	serious	strong
accident					✓	
attempt					✓	
change	✓		✓			
concern		✓	✓		✓	
cost			✓	✓		
crime					✓	
damage					✓	
danger			✓		✓	
difference	✓		✓			
difficulty			✓		✓	
effect	✓		✓		✓	✓
fun			✓			
impression		✓				✓
improvement	✓		✓			
income				✓		
influence	✓		✓		✓	✓
interest					✓	✓
mistake	✓		✓		✓	
possibility						✓
price				✓		
pride			✓			
problem	✓		✓		✓	
risk	✓		✓	✓	✓	
shock	✓		✓			
skill			✓			
speed			✓	✓		
surprise	✓		✓			
threat					✓	
trouble	✓	✓			✓	

bit 1

- ? 'An' is a bit problematic.
- ✓ **'An' is slightly problematic.**
- ? The instructions were a little bit confusing.
- ✓ **The instructions were a little confusing.**
- ? My diet is a little bit different nowadays.
- ✓ **My diet is slightly different nowadays.**
- ✗ Thank you very much for giving us a bit of your free time.
- ✓ **Thank you very much for giving us a little of your free time.**

A bit and a little bit are used mainly in informal styles. In other styles, it is better to use **a little, slightly, rather, quite** or **somewhat**: 'His brother was somewhat older than we had expected.'

2

- ✗ I watched a little bit television and went to bed.
- ✓ **I watched a little television and went to bed.**
- ✓ **I watched a bit of television and went to bed.**

Use **a (little) bit** before adjectives: 'She looked a bit tired.'

Before nouns, use **a little** or (in informal styles) **a (little) bit of**: 'He could do with a little help.' 'He's been a bit of a nuisance recently.'

3

- ✗ He is a little bit too short to be a policeman.
- ✓ **He is a bit/little too short to be a policeman.**
- ✓ **He is slightly too short to be a policeman.**
- ✗ The speech was a little bit too formal.
- ✓ **The speech was a bit/little too formal.**
- ✓ **The speech was slightly too formal.**

Use **a bit/little too or slightly/rather/somewhat too** (NOT **a little bit too**): 'She is still a bit too young.' 'The pears were a little too hard.' 'The basic salary is rather too low.'

blame

- ✗ I wasn't even there so you can't blame on me.
- ✓ **I wasn't even there so you can't blame me.**
- ✓ **I wasn't even there so you can't blame it on me.**
- ✗ Who is to be blamed about this?
- ✓ **Who is to be blamed for this?**

blame sb (for sth): 'Nobody can blame you for telling the truth.'

blame sth on sb/sth: 'Whenever children behave badly, people blame it on the teachers.'

Compare: 'He always tries to put the blame on me.'

blind 1

- ✗ Some people become blind with the disease.
- ✓ **Some people go blind with the disease.**

go blind (not become): 'When I couldn't see anything, I thought I'd gone blind.'

2

- ✗ Usually he just keeps a blind eye and lets them carry on.
- ✓ **Usually he just turns a blind eye and lets them carry on.**

turn a blind eye (to sth) = pretend not to notice something: 'The government prefers to turn a blind eye to these activities.'

board

- ✗ Within a week, I found myself on board of an aeroplane.
- ✓ **Within a week, I found myself on board an aeroplane.**

on board an aircraft, ship, etc (WITHOUT **of**): 'How the child managed to get on board the plane remains a mystery.'

body

? His dead body was flown back home for burial.

✓ **His body was flown back home for burial.**

When it is clear from the context that the person referred to is dead, use **body** (WITHOUT **dead**): 'The police found his body floating in the river.'

book

✗ I'm afraid that we're out of stock but I can book one for you.

✓ **I'm afraid that we're out of stock but I can order one for you.**

book = reserve a seat on a plane, a room in a hotel, a table at a restaurant, etc: 'The train was packed and I wished I'd booked a seat.'

order = ask for certain goods to be sent to a shop, especially because a customer wants to buy them: 'If you want to be sure of getting a daily newspaper, it's best to order one.'

bored 1

✗ My job at the bank was very bored.

✓ **My job at the bank was very boring.**

See note at **BORING**

2

✗ I don't think I'll ever get bored of the book.

✓ **I don't think I'll ever get bored with the book.**

✗ She soon got bored of talking to him.

✓ **She soon got bored with talking to him.**

be/get bored with (doing) sth: 'I'm bored with pasta and tomatoes – I want something different.' 'I got bored with lying on the beach and went off to explore the town.'

boring

✗ We get very boring with the same food every day.

✓ **We get very bored with the same food every day.**

✗ You'll be boring with nothing to do.

✓ **You'll be bored with nothing to do.**

If someone or something is **boring/exciting/frightening/interesting** (-ING), you feel **bored/excited/frightened/interested** (-ED): 'The lecture was terribly boring. Some of us were so bored that we fell asleep.'

born 1

✗ My name is Ali Sariat and I born in Tehran.

✓ **My name is Ali Sariat and I was born in Tehran.**

be born: 'Do you realize that a child is born every few seconds.' 'The baby was born in the middle of the night.' 'It was the first time I'd actually watched a child being born.'

2

✗ I have been born in a town just outside Paris.

✓ **I was born in a town just outside Paris.**

Use 'I was born', 'They were born', etc (NOT 'I have been born' or 'I am born'): 'I'll never forget the day when the seven puppies were born.'

3

✗ He was born in a Catholic family.

✓ **He was born into a Catholic family.**

be born into a particular type of family, world, etc (NOT **in**): 'She was born into a world that was on the brink of war.'

borrow

✗ I asked my friend to borrow me some money.

✓ **I asked my friend to lend me some money.**

✗ He borrowed me some of his books.

✓ **He lent me some of his books.**

✓ **I borrowed some of his books.**

When you **borrow** something (**from** someone), you are allowed to use it: 'Can I borrow one of your pencils?'

When you **lend** something (**to** someone), you let them use it: 'He asked me to lend him one of my pencils.'

boss

? My father is the boss of a small shipping company.

✓ **My father is the manager of a small shipping company.**

Boss is usually used in informal styles: 'From the way he acts, you'd think that he was the boss.'

both 1

x Both of them have not apologized yet.

✓ **Neither of them has apologized yet.**

x Both the husband and the wife aren't reliable.

✓ **Neither the husband nor the wife is reliable.**

See Language Note at NOT

2

x Anne and John both are scientists.

✓ **Anne and John are both scientists.**

x Two of the biggest firms are Apple and IBM, which both are in the computer business.

✓ **Two of the biggest firms are Apple and IBM, which are both in the computer business.**

See Language Note at ALWAYS

bottom

See note at TOP

boundary

x The country shares boundaries with Ruanda and Burundi.

✓ **The country shares borders with Ruanda and Burundi.**

Use **boundary** when you are talking about an area of land within a country: 'The Mississippi River forms a natural boundary between Tennessee and Arkansas.' 'Their farm is just inside the boundary of the National Park.'

The place where two countries meet is the **border**: 'We're about to cross the border between Austria and Switzerland.'

bread

x He's gone to buy a fresh bread.

✓ **He's gone to buy some fresh bread.**

See Language Note at SCENERY

break 1

x The family broke just after he was born.

✓ **The family broke up just after he was born.**

break up = stop being together as a couple or group: 'Did you know that Carol and Richard have broken up?' 'Can you remember when the Beatles broke up?'

2

? The police had to break the door to get in.

✓ **The police had to break down the door to get in.**

In an emergency situation, policemen, firemen, etc **break down** the door of a room or building: 'If the door's locked, you'll just have to break it down.'

3

See BROKEN

- breakfast 1**
- ✗ After the breakfast, we went shopping.
 - ✓ **After breakfast, we went shopping.**
 - ✗ Before my breakfast I usually go for a run.
 - ✓ **Before breakfast I usually go for a run.**

When **breakfast/lunch/dinner** etc refer to an event (rather than to the meal itself), they are used without **a/the/this/my** etc: 'What shall we do after lunch?' 'Pam and Simon have invited us to dinner.' 'What time do you have breakfast?'

You use **a/the/this/my** etc when you refer to the meal itself: 'We enjoyed the evening, even though the dinner was cold.' 'I don't usually have time for a cooked breakfast.'

- 2**
- ✗ Before I have a breakfast, I usually make my bed.
 - ✓ **Before I have (my) breakfast, I usually make my bed.**
 - ✗ Every morning my first job is to prepare a breakfast.
 - ✓ **Every morning my first job is to prepare (the) breakfast.**
- have (your) breakfast/lunch/dinner** etc (NOT **a**): 'Have you had (your) breakfast yet?'
- make/prepare (the/your) breakfast/lunch/dinner** etc (NOT **a**): 'Whose turn is it to make the dinner tonight?'
- Use **a/an** with **breakfast/lunch/dinner** etc only when you describe the meal: 'a cooked breakfast', 'a big breakfast', 'an American breakfast'.
- 3**
- ✗ There wasn't enough time to eat breakfast.
 - ✓ **There wasn't enough time to have breakfast.**
 - ✗ While I am taking breakfast, I listen to the radio.
 - ✓ **While I am having breakfast, I listen to the radio.**
- have (your) breakfast/lunch/dinner** etc (NOT **eat/take**): 'We had dinner in the hotel restaurant.'
- have sth for breakfast/lunch/dinner** etc: 'What did you have for lunch?'
- Do not use **eat** unless you wish to emphasize the activity of eating.
- Compare: 'We prefer to have dinner in the evening.' 'James always takes a long time to eat his dinner.'

- breath**
- ✗ She had a very bad cold and couldn't breath properly.
 - ✓ **She had a very bad cold and couldn't breathe properly.**
- Breath** / breθ / is a noun. **Breathe** / bri:ð / is a verb.
- The verb is longer than the noun both in its spelling and in its vowel sound.

- bribe**
- ✗ He was accused of accepting bribe money.
 - ✓ **He was accused of accepting a bribe.**
- a bribe** (NOT **bribe money**) = money or something valuable that is given to someone in an official position to persuade them to do something dishonest: 'As a police officer, what would you do if someone offered you a bribe?'

- bring 1**
- ✗ Would you like me to bring you home?
 - ✓ **Would you like me to take you home?**
 - ✗ Whenever I go sightseeing, I bring my camera with me.
 - ✓ **Whenever I go sightseeing, I take my camera with me.**
- See Language Note at **TAKE**

- 2 ☐ I went back into the house to bring my sunglasses.
☒ **I went back into the house to fetch my sunglasses.**
 See Language Note at TAKE
- 3 ☐ Global warming is bringing changes in the weather.
☒ **Global warming is bringing about changes in the weather.**
☐ Nuclear power could bring the destruction of our planet.
☒ **Nuclear power could bring about the destruction of our planet.**
 When you mean 'finally cause something to happen or exist', use **bring about**: 'These new manufacturing methods brought about an increase in production.' 'The company's poor performance was brought about by factors beyond its control.'
- 4 ☐ Our tourist industry brings a lot of foreign exchange.
☒ **Our tourist industry brings in a lot of foreign exchange.**
bring in = make or earn (money): 'The job keeps me busy and brings in a little extra cash.'

- bring up 1 ☐ I'm not working now because I'm bringing up my baby.
☒ **I'm not working now because I'm looking after my baby.**
bring up a child: 'Our parents brought us up to believe in the power of truth.'
look after/take care of a baby: 'Who looks after the baby while you're at work?'
- 2 ☐ I shall never forget the place where I brought up.
☒ **I shall never forget the place where I was brought up.**
be brought up (by sb): 'I was brought up to believe that people were basically kind.'

- British 1 ☐ I would prefer to study in America or British.
☒ **I would prefer to study in America or Britain.**
 The name of the country is **Britain** (or **Great Britain**).
British is an adjective: 'British industry', 'British Airways'.

2 See THE 12

- British Council 1 ☐ I am learning English at British Council.
☒ **I am learning English at the British Council.**
the British Council: 'Professor Sinclair's visit was organized by the British Council.'

- 2 ☐ I am a student in the British Council.
☒ **I am a student at the British Council.**
 See IN 5

- broken ☐ The car could not stop because its brakes were broken.
☒ **The car could not stop because its brakes were not working.**
☐ I turned on the radio but it was broken.
☒ **I turned on the radio but it wasn't working.**
broken = physically damaged: 'a broken windscreen'
not working = not functioning properly: 'I can't ring him because his phone's not working.'

bus

- ✗ The best way to see London is to get in a bus.
- ✓ **The best way to see London is to get on a bus.**
- ✗ She said I was in the wrong bus.
- ✓ **She said I was on the wrong bus.**

be/get on a bus (NOT in): 'During the rush hour, it's quicker to walk than get on a bus.'

business

- ✗ I often have to go abroad for business.
- ✓ **I often have to go abroad on business.**
- ✗ My father is now in Paris on his business.
- ✓ **My father is now in Paris on business.**

(be/go somewhere) on business: 'I'm off to Amsterdam tomorrow, on business as usual.'

busy

- ✗ I was busy with cooking the dinner.
- ✓ **I was busy cooking the dinner.**

be busy doing sth: 'She's busy trying to finish her thesis.'

Compare: 'I was busy with the housework.' 'I was busy doing the housework.'

but

- ✗ Although I enjoyed my stay in the USA, but I was still glad to come home.
- ✓ **Although I enjoyed my stay in the USA, I was still glad to come home.**
- ✓ **I enjoyed my stay in the USA, but I was still glad to come home.**

If the first clause begins with **although** or **(even) though**, do not begin the second clause with **but** or **yet**.

See also SO 1

by 1

- ✗ He managed to open the lid by a screwdriver.
- ✓ **He managed to open the lid with a screwdriver.**

You do something **with** a tool, instrument, etc (NOT **by**): 'He opened the envelope with a chopstick.' 'You can't eat spaghetti with a spoon.'

2

- ✗ I am staying in a small town by Oxford.
- ✓ **I am staying in a small town near Oxford.**

by = next to or very close to something: 'I've been sitting by the phone all morning waiting for her to ring.' 'I'll meet you on the corner, by the bank.' When talking about the position of towns, cities, countries etc, use **near**: 'I spent the first month in a little village called Farchant, near Garmen-Partenkirchen.'

3

- ✗ We can gain a lot of knowledge by these books.
- ✓ **We can gain a lot of knowledge from these books.**

You get information **from** a source: 'You can learn a great deal from a good dictionary.' 'I obtained their new number from directory enquiries.'

4

- ✗ Being locked up is a punishment by itself.
- ✓ **Being locked up is a punishment in itself.**
- ✗ Money by itself is of no interest to me.
- ✓ **Money in itself is of no interest to me.**

in itself = without anything added: 'His offer to pay for the repairs is in itself an admission of guilt.'

5

See MADE, REASON 5, REPLACE, SEE 2

www.IELTS4U.blogfa.com

www.ez-english.narod.ru