

Cc

call 1

- ✗ Last night I tried to call to my father back home in Turkey.
- ✓ **Last night I tried to call my father back home in Turkey.**
- ✗ Please call to 945 8026.
- ✓ **Please call 945 8026.**

call/ring/telephone a person, place or number (WITHOUT to): 'Call me tonight and we'll make arrangements for the morning.' 'If you're sure that it's been stolen, you'd better call the police.'

2

- ✗ If you receive this note, please phone call me.
- ✓ **If you receive this note, please call/ring me.**
- ✓ **If you receive this note, please give me a call/ring.**

The verb is **call/ring/phone/telephone** (NOT **phone call**).

Phone call is a noun: 'I need to make one or two phone calls.'

3

- ✗ Please call me with number 0248 312689.

- ✓ **Please call me on 0248 312689.**

call sb on a particular number (British English)

call sb at a particular number (American English)

4

- ✗ Koreans call this room as 'anbang'.
- ✓ **Koreans call this room 'anbang'.**
- ✗ This process is called as nitrogen fixation.
- ✓ **This process is called nitrogen fixation.**

call sb/sth + name (WITHOUT as): 'People call her the Queen of Rock.' 'The big apples are called Red Delicious.'

calm 1

- ✗ If you prefer a calm environment, try the countryside.
- ✓ **If you prefer a peaceful environment, try the countryside.**
- ✗ Go and find somewhere calm and get some rest.
- ✓ **Go and find somewhere quiet and get some rest.**
- ✗ What you need is a calm holiday somewhere.
- ✓ **What you need is a quiet and relaxing holiday somewhere.**

Calm is usually used to describe situations where there has recently been violence or noisy activity: 'After yesterday's fighting, the streets of Jerusalem are reported to be calm again this morning.'

2

- ✗ You need calm and quiet to digest your lunch properly.
- ✓ **You need peace and quiet to digest your lunch properly.**

Peace and quiet is a fixed phrase: 'It's impossible to find peace and quiet in a house full of children.'

3

- ? My best friend Nick is very calm and never gets upset.
- ✓ **My best friend Nick is very easygoing and never gets upset.**

Calm is usually used to describe how someone behaves in a difficult situation: 'The boat was being tossed by the waves but we managed to stay calm.'

To describe someone who has a relaxed attitude to life, use words such as **easygoing**, **placid**, **laid-back** (informal), **patient**, **tolerant**.

- 4 ? I fastened my seat belt and tried to be calm.
 ✓ **I fastened my seat belt and tried to stay calm.**

When you are talking about someone's behaviour in an emergency or unpleasant situation, use **keep/stay/remain calm**: 'In the event of fire, leave the building by the nearest exit and remain calm.'

Compare: 'For the first two days the sea was perfectly calm.'

- calm down** x He had calmed down his anger, but he was still annoyed.
 ✓ **He had calmed down, but he was still annoyed.**

Calm down (intransitive) means 'to become less angry, less excited, etc': 'Once everyone had calmed down, the meeting continued.'

The object of **calm down** (transitive) is always a person: 'The doctor gave him a tranquillizer to calm him down.' 'In the end I agreed to go with her, just to calm her down.'

- cameraman** x Shotaro Akiyama is a famous Japanese cameraman.
 ✓ **Shotaro Akiyama is a famous Japanese photographer.**

cameraman = a person who is employed by a television or film company to operate a camera: 'The cameraman had never shot a car chase before and needed the director's advice.'

photographer = a person who takes (or whose job is to take) photographs: 'She is one of the world's leading fashion photographers.'

- camping** See GO 3

- can 1** ? Can you possibly send me an application form?
 ✓ **Could you possibly send me an application form?**
 ? I'd be grateful if you can confirm whether you are coming.
 ✓ **I'd be grateful if you could confirm whether you are coming.**
 To make a polite request, use **could**: 'Could you pass the butter, please?'

- 2 x The next generation can fly to the moon for their holidays.
 ✓ **The next generation will be able to fly to the moon for their holidays.**

Use **can** to talk about someone's present ability: 'All our children can swim.'

Use **be able to** to predict someone's future ability: 'You'll never be able to swim if you don't try.'

- 3 See REMEMBER

- 4 See COULD

- cancel** x The meeting has been cancelled until next Thursday.
 ✓ **The meeting has been postponed until next Thursday.**
 cancel = arrange for a planned event not to take place after all: 'Five of their players were either ill or injured, and so the match had to be cancelled.'

postpone = arrange for a planned event to take place at a later time or date: 'We've decided to postpone the wedding until Steve has found a job.'

cancer

- x Her husband died 10 years ago of a lung cancer.
- ✓ **Her husband died 10 years ago of lung cancer.**

cancer (uncountable) = a type of serious disease: 'It is generally believed that diet plays an important role in the prevention of cancer.'
'Skin cancer is related to prolonged exposure to sunlight.'

a cancer (countable) = an abnormal growth in someone's body which is caused by this disease; tumour: 'Some small cancers may be destroyed by the body's defence mechanisms.'

capable

- x She is no longer capable to do her job properly.
- ✓ **She is no longer capable of doing her job properly.**

able to do sth: 'I hope you'll be able to come.'

capable of doing sth: 'She is quite capable of passing the exam, provided that she does some work.'

capacity 1

- x This type of job requires special capacities.
- ✓ **This type of job requires special skills.**
- x I wish to improve my speaking and listening capacities.
- ✓ **I wish to improve my speaking and listening skills.**

capacity = the power or quality that makes someone able to do, experience, give or receive something: 'These children display an extraordinary capacity for learning.' 'Man's capacity for love and generosity is unlimited.'

skill = what someone needs to have learned before they can actually do a particular job or activity: 'Being a good manager requires a number of highly specialized skills.' 'This course is designed to develop the student's reading and writing skills.'

- 2 x The atomic bomb has given man the capacity of self-destruction.
- ✓ **The atomic bomb has given man the capacity for self-destruction.**

capacity for sth: 'He has an enormous capacity for hard work.'

capacity to do sth: 'The human race shows an extraordinary capacity to change with the times.'

capture

- x Her blue eyes and long blond hair captured him.
- ✓ **Her blue eyes and long blond hair captivated him.**

capture = make someone a prisoner: 'That day they captured twenty enemy soldiers.' 'The leader of the resistance group was captured and executed.'

captivate = strongly attract and impress someone: 'From the day she met him, she was captivated by his charm.'

car 1

- x I went into the car and turned on the engine.
- ✓ **I got into the car and turned on the engine.**
- x I went out of the car and waited outside the shop.
- ✓ **I got out of the car and waited outside the shop.**
- x She got out from the car and apologized.
- ✓ **She got out of the car and apologized.**

get in/into or get out of a car, taxi, etc: 'She got in the car and drove away.' 'I got out of the car to see what was happening.'

2

- ✗ He brought me back to Cambridge with his car.
- ✓ **He brought me back to Cambridge in his car.**
- ✗ We went to the party by a friend's car.
- ✓ **We went to the party in a friend's car.**

You go somewhere **by car** or **in someone's car** (NOT with): 'If you'd rather go by car, we can go in mine.'

care 1

- ✗ These children need a special care and attention.
- ✓ **These children need special care and attention.**
- ✗ My host family took a good care of me.
- ✓ **My host family took good care of me.**

Care is nearly always an uncountable noun: 'Care of the environment has become a priority in government thinking.' 'Would you like me to take care of the plants while you're away?'

2

- ✗ The only thing they cared for was how to make money.
- ✓ **The only thing they cared about was how to make money.**
- ✗ It encourages readers to care for what they buy.
- ✓ **It encourages readers to care about what they buy.**
- ✗ Some criminals simply don't care of being caught.
- ✓ **Some criminals simply don't care about being caught.**
- ✗ They don't take care about religion.
- ✓ **They don't care about religion.**

care for = (1) (formal) like: 'Would you care for another drink?'

(2) = (usually adjectival or passive) look after: 'Don't worry. The child is being well cared for.'

care (about) = think that something is important: 'I don't care (about) how much it costs.' 'I don't care about the cost.'

3

- ✗ Take care of not catching a cold.
- ✓ **Take care not to catch a cold.**
- ✗ You'd better take care of not offending her.
- ✓ **You'd better take care not to offend her.**

Take care of means 'look after': 'Who's going to take care of the dog while you're away?'

When you mean 'be careful to avoid something', use **take care not to** or **take care that you don't**: 'He took great care not to let anyone know his intentions.'

4

- ✗ Some women stay at home to take care after the children.
- ✓ **Some women stay at home to take care of the children.**
- ✗ The government must take care for the teachers.
- ✓ **The government must take care of the teachers.**
- ✗ Who will take care about the shop?
- ✓ **Who will take care of the shop?**

take care of or **look after sb/sth**: 'After his mother died, there was nobody to take care of him.'

career 1

- ✗ After ten years as a taxi driver, he decided it was time to change his career.
- ✓ **After ten years as a taxi driver, he decided it was time to change his job/occupation.**

See Language Note at OCCUPATION

- 2 ✕ I'd like to be a doctor or something related to that career.
 ✓ **I'd like to be a doctor or something related to that profession.**
 See Language Note at OCCUPATION

- careful** ✕ Be careful to water the African violets regularly.
 ✓ **Make sure (that) you water the African violets regularly.**
 ✕ Be careful to fix any oil leaks.
 ✓ **Make sure (that) you fix any oil leaks.**
 Use **be careful** when you want someone to pay special attention to something so that they do not have an accident, make a mistake, or do something that will cause damage: 'Be careful! You're about to spill your coffee.' 'You should be careful about what you say to her. She is easily offended.'
 To tell someone that they must not forget to do or check something, use **make sure**: 'Before you set off, make sure that you have enough petrol.' 'Make sure that you don't leave the key in the car.'

- careless** ✕ How wonderful it would be to be young and careless again!
 ✓ **How wonderful it would be to be young and carefree again!**
careless = paying too little attention to something: 'If you're careless, you're bound to make mistakes.'
carefree = happy because you have no worries or responsibilities: 'Some children never know what it means to be carefree.'

- carry** ✕ An ambulance arrived and the man was carried to hospital.
 ✓ **An ambulance arrived and the man was taken to hospital.**
 ✕ He said he would carry me home and told me to get in the car.
 ✓ **He said he would take me home and told me to get in the car.**
 See Language Note at TAKE

- carry out** ✕ I shall now describe how wedding ceremonies are carried out in Iran.
 ✓ **I shall now describe how wedding ceremonies are conducted in Iran.**
conduct/perform a ceremony or ritual (NOT **carry out**): 'The funeral ceremony was conducted according to ancient traditions.'

- case 1** ✕ Switzerland has very little unemployment and in this case we are very lucky.
 ✓ **Switzerland has very little unemployment and in this respect we are very lucky.**
in this/that case = in these/those circumstances: 'What shall I do if there are no trains?' 'In that case you'll have to go by bus.'
in this/that respect = with regard to this/that point or detail: 'The film is full of violence and in this respect is unsuitable for children.'

- 2 ✕ I advise you to eat something now in case there won't be any food when we get there.
 ✓ **I advise you to eat something now in case there isn't any food when we get there.**
 See Language Note at WILL

- 3
- x In case a woman goes out to work, she shouldn't have to do all the housework.
 - ✓ **If a woman goes out to work, she shouldn't have to do all the housework.**

In British English **in case** is used only when you talk about something that is done as a precaution: 'Let's wait for another five minutes, just in case he shows up.'

In American English **in case** is sometimes used like **if** at the beginning of a conditional clause.

cash 1

- x I prefer to pay by cash.
- ✓ **I prefer to pay in cash.**
- ✓ **I prefer to pay cash.**

pay by cheque, pay by credit card BUT pay in cash or just **pay cash**: 'If you pay (in) cash, you might get a discount.'

2

- x The purse contained about \$200 cash.
- ✓ **The purse contained about \$200 in cash.**

amount of money + **in cash**: '£550 in cash', '\$190 in cash'

catch

- x The dialogue in this video is very difficult to catch.
- ✓ **The dialogue in this video is very difficult to understand.**
- x At that time I couldn't speak or catch English at all.
- ✓ **At that time I couldn't speak or understand English at all.**

Catch (= hear and/or understand) is used only in connection with what someone has just said: 'I'm afraid I didn't quite catch the last point. Could you go over it again?' 'Did either of you manage to catch her name?'

catch up 1

- x I have to catch up all the lessons I missed.
- ✓ **I have to catch up on all the lessons I missed.**

catch up (on/with sth) = do the things that you should have done before so that your work is up to date: 'Why don't you stay at home tonight and catch up on some of your homework?'

Compare: 'Don't get too far behind with your homework or you'll never be able to catch up.'

2

- x New job opportunities will never catch up the rapid growth in population.
- ✓ **New job opportunities will never catch up with the rapid growth in population.**

catch up (with sb/sth) = draw level with: 'Let's stop here for a few minutes so that the others can catch up with us.' 'In schools up and down the country, girls have not only caught up with boys but they're now in the lead.'

cause 1

- x The cause why I want to change my job is as follows.
- ✓ **The reason why I want to change my job is as follows.**
- x For this cause the journey took a long time.
- ✓ **For this reason the journey took a long time.**

cause = an action, event, situation etc that makes something happen: 'The cause of the fire is still being investigated.' 'These outbreaks of violence will continue to occur until the causes have been eliminated.'

reason = something that provides an explanation: 'I'm sure that they

must have good reasons for wanting to live abroad.' 'The reason why there is only one applicant is that the job wasn't advertised.'

- 2 ☒ The police wanted to know the cause for the accident.
 ☒ **The police wanted to know the cause of the accident.**
 reason for sth BUT cause of sth: 'The underlying causes of the present dispute date back to 1987.'
 Note however: **cause for concern/alarm/complaint/hope etc:** 'The new rise in unemployment has given the government cause for concern.'
- 3 ☒ This causes that the children look for affection elsewhere.
 ☒ **This causes the children to look for affection elsewhere.**
 cause sb to do sth (NOT cause that): 'A week-long power failure caused the whole computer network to shut down.'
- 4 ☒ Smoking is one of the most important causes of lung cancer.
 ☒ **Smoking is one of the major causes of lung cancer.**
 a major/chief/primary cause (NOT important)
- 5 ☒ Acid rain is caused by several reasons.
 ☒ **Acid rain has several causes.**
 Do not use **reason** after **be caused by:** 'The autopsy showed that her death was caused by liver failure.'

celebrate

See PARTY 1

centre

See CITY CENTRE

ceremony

See CARRY OUT

certain 1

- ☒ Just suppose, for a certain reason, that there was suddenly a shortage of oil.
☒ **Just suppose, for some reason, that there was suddenly a shortage of oil.**
☒ Every creature must have a certain way of protecting itself.
☒ **Every creature must have some way of protecting itself.**
☒ He's working in London for a certain travel company.
☒ **He's working in London for some travel company or other.**
 Use **certain** + noun when you continue (or could continue) by giving details: 'There are certain advantages to living in the countryside, the most important being the fresh air.' 'I'm not allowed to eat certain types of seafood, especially squid and octopus.'
 Use **some** + noun (+ **or other**) when you cannot or do not wish to give details: 'In the end, he sold it to some second-hand car dealer.' 'If the factory is shut down for some reason, what will happen to all the workers?'
 The phrase **some** + noun + **or other** is often used in informal styles to suggest that the person or thing is completely unknown to you and not worth thinking about: 'Apparently, their daughter has got engaged to some shop assistant or other.'

2

- ☒ Under some certain circumstances, such as war, food has to be rationed.
☒ **Under certain circumstances, such as war, food has to be rationed.**

Do not use a determiner (e.g. **some, the, their**) before **certain** when it means 'particular' (see the note at **certain 1** above): 'Each member of the committee has **certain** duties to perform.'

- certainly 1**
- ✗ All of a sudden the engine started to make a strange noise. Certainly, I stopped the car at once to see what had happened.
 - ✓ **All of a sudden the engine started to make a strange noise. Naturally, I stopped the car at once to see what had happened.**

Certainly is mainly used to emphasize that something is really true, really happened, etc: 'I'm sorry if I upset you. I **certainly** didn't mean to.' 'The file **certainly** wasn't given to me or it would be on my desk.' When you mean 'as anyone would expect', use **naturally** or **of course**: 'It was the first time the little boy had seen an elephant and **naturally** he was a little scared.'

- 2**
- ✗ Are you sure that you **certainly** don't want to go?
 - ✓ **Are you sure that you definitely don't want to go?**
 - ✗ If they **certainly** can't find a job, they should be given further training.
 - ✓ **If they definitely can't find a job, they should be given further training.**

When you mean 'absolutely certain and without even the slightest doubt', use **definitely**. This word gives very strong emphasis and is often used in connection with intentions and future events: 'He **definitely** wants to be a vet.' 'Do you think that you'll **definitely** be able to come?'

- 3**
- ✗ **Certainly** I think so.
 - ✓ **I certainly think so.**
 - ✗ The car can be repaired **certainly**.
 - ✓ **The car can certainly be repaired.**
 - ✗ **Certainly**, it was a pleasant surprise.
 - ✓ **It was certainly a pleasant surprise.**
 - ✓ **It certainly was a pleasant surprise.**

Certainly is usually used like a middle position adverb (see Language Note at ALWAYS): 'She **certainly** likes you.' 'His work has **certainly** improved this year.'

For extra emphasis, however, **certainly** may be placed before the first auxiliary verb and before **be** when this is the main verb: 'His work **certainly** has improved this year.' 'She **certainly** is one of the best teachers on the staff.'

- certificate**
- ✗ The other day I was given a gift certificate, but it was only worth two thousand yen.
 - ✓ **The other day I was given a gift voucher, but it was only worth two thousand yen.**

certificate = an official document that states certain facts about someone: 'a birth/marriage/death certificate', 'a certificate of health'
voucher = a kind of ticket that can be used instead of money: 'a gift/luncheon/travel voucher'.

- chair 1**
- ✗ During the flight she sat on the chair behind me.
 - ✓ **During the flight she sat in the seat behind me.**

seat = a place to sit, as found in a cinema, train, bus etc: 'To be on the safe side, you'd better reserve a seat.'

chair = a movable seat for one person: 'Before the children go home, they have to put all the chairs on top of the desks.'

2

See ARMCHAIR

chance

- ✗ The higher your qualifications, the better your chances to find a job.
- ✓ **The higher your qualifications, the better your chances of finding a job.**

chances of doing sth (= degree of probability): 'What are the chances of finding them alive?'

change 1

- ✗ We can reduce the unemployment rate with a change of the economy.
- ✓ **We can reduce the unemployment rate with a change in the economy.**
- ✗ I'm disappointed by all the changes of London.
- ✓ **I'm disappointed by all the changes in London.**

Use **change of** when you mean that someone or something has been replaced: 'What the country needs is a change of government.' (= a completely new government)

When you mean that someone or something is now different in some way, use **change in**: 'The Prime Minister has made several changes in the government.'

2

- ✗ I took the camera back to the shop and changed it with another one.
- ✓ **I took the camera back to the shop and changed it for another one.**

change/exchange sth for sth: 'I'd like to change this shirt for a smaller size.'

character

- ✗ She has that rare character – the ability to listen to people.
- ✓ **She has that rare characteristic – the ability to listen to people.**
- ✗ However, the Japanese also have a lot of good characters.
- ✓ **However, the Japanese also have a lot of good points.**

When you mean 'a feature of someone's character', use **characteristic** or **quality**: 'All great leaders share certain mean characteristics.' 'What qualities do you need to be a good parent?' In contrast with qualities that you do not like, you can also talk about someone's **good points**.

cheap 1

- ✗ The wages in Taiwan are very cheap.
- ✓ **The wages in Taiwan are very low.**
- ✗ The monthly payments were cheaper than I'd expected.
- ✓ **The monthly payments were lower/less than I'd expected.**

When you talk about costs, payments, rents, wages, salaries, incomes, expenses, taxes, fees etc, use **low/high** (NOT **cheap/expensive**): 'During the recession, prices stayed low.' 'People on low incomes have been severely hit.' 'Rents in Helsinki are very high compared to the rest of Finland.'

Note that **price** is sometimes used with **cheap/expensive**, but not in formal styles.

- 2 ? The train fare is very cheap.
 ✓ **The train fare is very reasonable.**
 ? It's difficult to find a cheap flat in Tokyo.
 ✓ **It's difficult to find an affordable flat in Tokyo.**
 See Language Note at KILL

- checking** x Once inside the airport, I made my way to the checking.
 ✓ **Once inside the airport, I made my way to the check-in.**
check-in = the place at an airport (or hotel) where you check in: 'There's bound to be a long queue at the check-in.' 'The girl at the check-in desk asked if we had a reservation.'
check in = show your ticket, passport and luggage at a counter in an airport and receive a boarding card: 'Once you've checked in, you have to go through customs.'

- cheque** x I am enclosing a cheque of £49.
 ✓ **I am enclosing a cheque for £49.**
 x He gave me a cheque £5.
 ✓ **He gave me a cheque for £5.**
a cheque for an amount of money: 'He wrote me a cheque for \$50.'

- children** x Some couples prefer NOT to make children.
 ✓ **Some couples prefer not to have children.**
have children (NOT make): 'We'd like to settle down and have children while we're still young.'

- choice** x In my new job I have to make a lot of important choices.
 ✓ **In my new job I have to make a lot of important decisions.**
 x Please will you let us know your choice by the end of the month.
 ✓ **Please will you let us know your decision by the end of the month.**
 When you pick the person/thing that you want (from a range of possibilities), you make a **choice**: 'Her parents are not happy about her choice of husband.' 'Oxford was my first choice, but I didn't get the grades.'
 When you make a judgement about something, especially after thinking carefully about it, you make a **decision**: 'Although the job offer is attractive, I'd like more time to make a decision.' 'My decision to leave school at 15 was the biggest mistake I ever made.'

- choose 1** x If you choose to see a film, we can go to the cinema instead.
 ✓ **If you prefer to see a film, we can go to the cinema instead.**
 x I choose the first story because it's more exciting.
 ✓ **I prefer the first story because it's more exciting.**
prefer = like something more than something else: 'Which do you prefer, black coffee or white coffee?' 'Peter prefers classical music to rock.' 'I'd prefer to stay here, if you don't mind.'

- 2 x There are over forty different courses to choose between.
 ✓ **There are over forty different courses to choose from.**
 x There is also a library where you can choose among a wide range of books.
 ✓ **There is also a library where you can choose from a wide range of books.**

choose between two (or a few) possibilities: 'You have to choose between a beginner's course and a more advanced course.' 'If I had to choose between staying here and living abroad, I'd stay here.'

choose from a large number of possibilities: 'When it comes to wallpaper, there are hundreds of different patterns to choose from.'

3 x Hilde chose for sources of energy as her topic.

✓ **Hilde chose sources of energy as her topic.**

choose sb/sth (WITHOUT for): 'The roses were too expensive so I chose the daffodils.' 'The team chose Alan as their captain.'

Compare: 'Tests have shown that girls opt for languages whereas boys choose science or maths.'

church

x Not so long ago nearly everybody used to go to the church.

✓ **Not so long ago nearly everybody used to go to church.**

See note at SCHOOL 1

cinema

x We went to cinema to see 'Who framed Roger Rabbit?'

✓ **We went to the cinema to see 'Who framed Roger Rabbit?'**

go to the cinema (WITH the): 'Before the baby was born, we used to go to the cinema about once a week.'

See also SCHOOL 1

circulate

x The story circulates around his career in the army.

✓ **The story revolves around his career in the army.**

circulate = (of news, stories, rumours etc) spread by being passed from one person to another: 'One of the rumours circulating at the moment is that the company is about to go bankrupt.'

revolve around = (of a novel, film, story etc) be about: 'His latest film revolves around the difficulties of being a single parent.'

circum-stance

x I believe that in this circumstance students should be allowed to have a part-time job.

✓ **I believe that in these circumstances students should be allowed to have a part-time job.**

Circumstances is nearly always used as a plural noun (WITH s): 'The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding his death.' 'Under normal circumstances, I would never have left my passport with a stranger.'

city centre

x Most people work in city centre.

✓ **Most people work in the city centre.**

the city centre (WITH the): 'It's only five minutes by bus to the city centre.'

civilization

x Each country has its own civilization and ideology.

✓ **Each country has its own culture and ideology.**

x American civilization is very different from that of Japan.

✓ **American culture is very different from that of Japan.**

civilization = (a society or group of societies having) a way of life that is considered to be advanced in terms of culture and social organization: 'The remote mountain villages are still untouched by modern civilization.' 'The film examines the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome, and their contributions to Western society.'

culture = art, music, literature, etc especially that which is produced by a particular society or group of societies: 'Visitors to Singapore discover a happy marriage of western and oriental cultures.' 'The Samba is an important part of Brazilian culture.'

claim 1

- x The public are claiming stricter laws.
- ✓ **The public are demanding stricter laws.**

claim = ask to be given something that belongs to you or that you think you are entitled to: 'People on a low income are able to claim legal aid.'

demand = ask strongly for something: 'The laboratory was surrounded by demonstrators demanding an end to animal experiments.'

Note also **clamour for** = repeatedly ask for something in a noisy or angry way: 'In response to the increase in domestic violence, people are clamouring for stricter laws that will help to protect wives and children.'

2

- x At the end of World War II there was a claim for a 'United Europe'.
- ✓ **At the end of World War II there was a demand/clamour for a 'United Europe'.**

See note at CLAIM 1

classic 1

- x I prefer classic music to pop.
- ✓ **I prefer classical music to pop.**

classic = being among the best or most typical of its class; serving as a standard or model: 'The painting is a classic example of sixteenth-century Venetian art.'

classical music = the music of Mozart, Beethoven, etc

2

- x I love the sound of a classic guitar.
- ✓ **I love the sound of a classical guitar.**

a classical guitar = a guitar that is used to play classical music

clean

- x The local residents would like to clean the neighbourhood.
- ✓ **The local residents would like to clean up the neighbourhood.**

clean up = (1) clean a place, especially by taking away all the things which make it look dirty, untidy or unattractive: 'You can play in your bedroom as long as you promise to clean it up afterwards.' (2) make an area or organization a better place for people to live or work in, especially by removing criminals, corrupt officials, etc: 'It's time someone cleaned up this city; we have one of the highest crime rates in the country.'

clear

- x I should like to make clear that the accommodation is far from luxurious.
- ✓ **I should like to make it clear that the accommodation is far from luxurious.**

make it clear + that-clause (WITH it): 'She made it quite clear (to him) that she wasn't interested in getting married.'

climate

- x While I was driving to the airport, the climate was still wet and foggy.
- ✓ **While I was driving to the airport, the weather was still wet and foggy.**

- ✗ Before going off in the boat, you should check the climate conditions.
- ✓ **Before going off in the boat, you should check the weather conditions.**

climate = the typical weather conditions that exist in a country or region; the place where these weather conditions exist: 'Northern Europe has a mild climate and a high rainfall.' 'These flowers will not grow in cold climates.'

clock

See O'CLOCK

close 1

- ✗ They closed the man in a room until the police came.
 - ✓ **They locked the man in a room until the police came.**
- lock/shut sb in** a room, house, etc (NOT **close**): 'He was picked up by the police and locked in a cell for the night.'
Compare: 'She closed the door and then locked it so he couldn't escape.'

2

- ✗ I always close the television when there is a storm.
- ✓ **I always turn/switch the television off when there is a storm.**

See note at OPEN 1

cloth 1



- ✗ I bought some cheap cloth to make some curtains.
- ✓ **I bought some cheap material to make some curtains.**

Cloth (uncountable) usually refers to material made of cotton, wool etc that is used for making clothes: 'The tailor took my measurements and then showed me several rolls of cloth.'

Material (and **fabric**) have a more general meaning and may be used in connection with clothes, curtains, sheets, etc: 'The cushion covers and the curtains were made from the same material.' 'They specialize in the manufacture of elasticated fabric.'

2

- ✗ He likes fast cars and expensive cloths.
- ✓ **He likes fast cars and expensive clothes.**
- ✗ None of the cloth shops had any pink socks.
- ✓ **None of the clothes shops had any pink socks.**

A cloth (pronounced /kloth/) is a piece of material made of cotton, wool, etc, usually used for cleaning or drying something: 'I'm afraid I've spilled some milk. Have you got a cloth?' 'I need a new face cloth.'

Clothes (pronounced /kloʊðz/) are the things people wear, such as trousers, sweaters, etc: 'I spend half my salary on clothes.'

clothes 1



- ✗ The dancers were dressed in their national clothes.
- ✓ **The dancers were dressed in their national costume.**

costume = (1) (countable) a set of clothes worn during a performance by an actor, clown, etc: 'She used to work for a theatre company, designing and making costumes.' (2) (uncountable) a set of clothes that are typical of a particular country or historical period: 'The castle guides were dressed up in Elizabethan costume.' 'A group of Hungarian folk dancers came on stage, all wearing national costume.'

2

- ✗ Don't go out and buy a special clothes.
- ✓ **Don't go out and buy any special clothes.**

Clothes is a plural noun: 'I need some new clothes.' (NOT 'a new clothes')

- clothing 1**
- X As soon as I arrived, I unpacked my clothing.
 - ✓ **As soon as I arrived, I unpacked my clothes.**
 - X He had grown so much that his clothing didn't fit him.
 - ✓ **He had grown so much that his clothes didn't fit him.**
- Use **clothing** when you are thinking about clothes in general: 'The population is in desperate need of foreign aid - especially food, medicine and clothing.' 'She works in the clothing industry.'
- To refer to the things that you wear, use **clothes**: 'You'd better take off those wet clothes or you'll catch a cold.'
- 2**
- X Those who work with pesticides are given protective clothings.
 - ✓ **Those who work with pesticides are given protective clothing.**
- Clothing** is an uncountable noun: 'The population is in desperate need of foreign aid, especially food, medicine and clothing.'
- club** See PART 6
- coin** See FACE 5
- collaboration**
- X The police were grateful to the public for their collaboration.
 - ✓ **The police were grateful to the public for their co-operation.**
- Collaboration** comes from the verb **collaborate** (= work in partnership with someone on the same task, especially one of a scientific, artistic or industrial nature): 'He was one of the scientists who had collaborated with Oppenheimer to produce the first atomic bomb.'
- Co-operation** comes from the verb **co-operate** (= be willing to help someone to achieve something, be helpful): 'Faced with the threat of a full-scale military invasion, the general had no choice but to co-operate.'
- college**
- X By going to the college or university, you become more mature.
 - ✓ **By going to college or university, you become more mature.**
- See note at SCHOOL 1
- colour 1**
- X The belt has the same colour as the coat.
 - ✓ **The belt is the same colour as the coat.**
- When you describe or enquire about the colour of something, use **be** (NOT **have**): 'What colour was the dress she was wearing?'
- 2**
- X I bought a blue colour shirt and a pair of socks.
 - ✓ **I bought a blue shirt and a pair of socks.**
 - X I have never liked black colour.
 - ✓ **I have never liked black.**
- The noun **colour** is not usually used with the name of a colour (**red, green, blue** etc). **Colour** is used only when the colour of something is not pure or is difficult to describe exactly: 'It's an unusual bluish-grey colour'. See note at COLOURED 1
- Note however that the name of a colour can be used with **in colour**: 'It's brown in colour with white buttons down the front.'
- 3**
- X The purse is made of leather and is dark brown colour.
 - ✓ **The purse is made of leather and is a dark brown colour.**
- When describing a colour that is not pure, use **a/an**: 'The dress is a reddish-green colour.'

- 4 x My wallet colour is black.
 ✓ **The colour of my wallet is black.**
the colour of sth: 'Do you remember the colour of their kitchen?'

- 5 x At Hari Raya we hang colour lights around the house.
 ✓ **At Hari Raya we hang coloured lights around the house.**
colour = showing people and things in their natural colours: 'a colour television', 'a colour photograph'
coloured = having one or more colours (not white or black), especially in order to look attractive: 'Do you want plain envelopes or coloured ones?' 'Each book is full of brightly-coloured full-page illustrations.'

- coloured 1** ? The cardigan is pink-coloured and is made of wool.
 ✓ **The cardigan is pink and is made of wool.**
When you describe the colour of something, you usually just say that it is red, blue, green etc (WITHOUT -coloured): 'Her new dress is pale blue with red buttons down the front.'
 Adjectives ending with **-coloured** are quite rare. They are mainly used when the colour of something is difficult to describe exactly ('pink-coloured' = not exactly pink) and usually come before the noun: 'a cream-coloured dressing gown' See note at COLOUR 2

- 2 x He showed me the coloured photographs he had taken.
 ✓ **He showed me the colour photographs he had taken.**
 See note at COLOUR 5

- come 1** x He was afraid of his father and didn't want to come back home.
 ✓ **He was afraid of his father and didn't want to go back home.**
Come is used for movement towards the place where the speaker is, was, or intends to be, or towards the person being talked about: 'Come and look at this.' 'Why didn't he come to see me?' 'He was just about to go out when his wife came into the office in tears.'
Go is used for movement in other directions: 'I wish those noisy children would go away.' 'Let's go to London for a few days.'

- 2 x The students who are coming from Japan are hard-working.
 ✓ **The students who come from Japan are hard-working.**
When you mention someone's country or where something was made or grown, use the present simple tense. Compare: 'She comes from Germany.' (= she was born in Germany) 'She is coming from Germany.' (= she is travelling from Germany)

- common 1** x I think that people in common have good sides and bad sides.
 ✓ **I think that people in general have good sides and bad sides.**
If you have the same background, interests, tastes etc as someone, the two of you have a lot in common: 'I'm sure the marriage won't last. They've got nothing in common.'
When you mean that something happens or is true 'in most situations', use in general: 'In general, parents care more about their children's health than about their own.' 'Students in general have very little money to spend on luxuries.'

- 2 ✗ There are so many things in common between us.
 ✓ **We have so many things in common.**
 Two or more people **have (got)** something **in common**: 'We've moved in the same circles over the last ten years and so we have a great deal in common.'

- 3 ✗ In Spain it is common that people turn up at your house without warning.
 ✓ **In Spain it is common for people to turn up at your house without warning.**
it is common + for sb to do sth (NOT that): 'It's quite common for new fathers to feel jealous for the first few weeks.'

- company** ✗ For those who live by themselves, television provides a good company.
 ✓ **For those who live by themselves, television provides good company.**
 When **company** means 'someone or something that stops you from feeling lonely or bored; companionship', it is uncountable: 'Whenever he goes off on a long trip, he takes his radio with him for company.'

- compare** ✗ The teachers will be able to visit our schools and compare our teaching methods to their own.
 ✓ **The teachers will be able to visit our schools and compare our teaching methods with their own.**
compare to = describe (someone or something) as being similar to (someone or something else); liken: 'She compared the child to a noisy monkey.'
compare with = examine two or more people/things/ideas etc to discover similarities and/or differences: 'Having compared the new dictionary with the old one, she found the new one more helpful.'

- complain** ✗ It is childish to complain against rules.
 ✓ **It is childish to complain about rules.**
 ✗ They are always complaining for something.
 ✓ **They are always complaining about something.**
complain about sth: 'Residents living near the airport have a lot to complain about.'

- complaint** ✗ There have been several complaints for the service in the canteen.
 ✓ **There have been several complaints about the service in the canteen.**
(make) a complaint about sth (NOT for): 'If you have any complaints about the service, you should write to the manager.'

- completely** ✗ Then the lights went out and we were completely scared.
 ✓ **Then the lights went out and we were very scared.**
 See note at VERY 2

- composed** ✗ The committee is composed by six teachers and a student representative.
 ✓ **The committee is composed of six teachers and a student representative.**

be composed of (NOT by): 'The human body is composed of billions of tiny cells.'

- comprehension** ☒ There is not enough comprehension between our two countries.
☒ **There is not enough understanding between our two countries.**

Comprehension refers to the ability to understand the meaning of something, especially something that is spoken or written: 'I'd like to develop my vocabulary and improve my listening comprehension.'
 When you mean 'an attitude of sympathy', use **understanding**: 'When it comes to the employees' personal problems, the management shows a complete lack of understanding.'

- comprehensive** ☒ The teachers are very kind and comprehensive.
☒ **The teachers are very kind and understanding.**

comprehensive = including everything or almost everything: 'The witness provided a comprehensive account of the accident.'
understanding = feeling sympathy for someone: 'As people grow older, they tend to be a bit more understanding and easier to live with.'

- comprise** ☒ The former Soviet Union comprised of fifteen union republics.
☒ **The former Soviet Union comprised fifteen union republics.**
 See Language Note at INCLUDE

- concentrate 1** ☒ I am concentrated on both speaking and writing.
☒ **I am concentrating on both speaking and writing.**
☒ A bus driver has to be concentrated and should not speak to the passengers.
☒ **A bus driver has to concentrate and should not speak to the passengers.**

concentrate (on sth) NOT be concentrated: 'How can children concentrate on their homework when they have one eye on the television?'
 Compare: 'The juice is then concentrated by a process of evaporation.'

- 2 ☒ The teaching tends to concentrate in grammar.
☒ **The teaching tends to concentrate on grammar.**
☒ I try to concentrate in one subject at a time.
☒ **I try to concentrate on one subject at a time.**

concentrate on sth (NOT in): 'She gave up teaching so that she could concentrate on research.'

- 3 ☒ I couldn't concentrate myself as there was someone talking.
☒ **I couldn't concentrate as there was someone talking.**
 See Language Note at MYSELF

- concern 1** ☒ As far as I concern, the cost of the repair is not my responsibility.
☒ **As far as I'm concerned, the cost of the repair is not my responsibility.**

as far as sb/sth is concerned: 'As far as my parents are concerned, I'm free to come whenever I like.' 'As far as the law is concerned, you are innocent until proven guilty.' 'As far as your grammar is concerned, you seem to be having a problem with tenses.'

- 2 ☒ You should concern more about your health.
☒ **You should be more concerned about your health.**
☒ There are far more serious things to concern about.
☒ **There are far more serious things to be concerned about.**
be concerned about sth (= be worried or anxious): 'The government is becoming increasingly concerned about the rising level of unemployment.' 'The manager is naturally very concerned about the recent spate of injuries.'
- 3 ☒ The first chapter is concerned about the disposal of nuclear waste.
☒ **The first chapter is concerned with the disposal of nuclear waste.**
☒ **The first chapter concerns the disposal of nuclear waste.**
be concerned with sth OR **concern sth** = (of a book, film, essay etc) be about a particular subject: 'The article is concerned with recent developments in primary education.'
- 4 ☒ Some dentists are more concerned in earning money than doing a good job.
☒ **Some dentists are more concerned with earning money than doing a good job.**
be concerned with (doing) sth = be interested in: 'We should be more concerned with re-educating criminals than punishing them.'

concerning ☒ Concerning your accommodation, there are several possibilities.
☒ **With regard to your accommodation, there are several possibilities.**
 To introduce a new topic, use **with regard to, regarding, as regards, as far as ... is concerned** (NOT **concerning**): 'As far as food is concerned, the college has its own canteen.'
 Compare: 'He was then asked several questions concerning his banking activities.' 'We got into an interesting discussion concerning the need for censorship.'

conclusion ☒ As a conclusion, I'd like to say that everyone should be able to work if they want to.
☒ **In conclusion, I'd like to say that everyone should be able to work if they want to.**
☒ To come to the conclusion, I would like to say that everyone should read the book.
☒ **To conclude, I would like to say that everyone should read the book.**
 To introduce a concluding statement, use **in conclusion, by way of conclusion, or to conclude**: 'By way of conclusion, I'd just like to add that the answers to the questions I have raised would still appear to be a long way off.'

condition 1 ☒ You should try to keep the car in a good condition.
☒ **You should try to keep the car in good condition.**
in good/excellent/perfect/bad/terrible ... condition (WITHOUT a/an): 'Most of the CDs were still in excellent condition.' 'What sort of condition is the car in?'

2 x They are forced to live in a terrible condition.

✓ **They are forced to live in terrible conditions.**

When you describe the situation in which someone lives or works, use **conditions**: 'Latest reports from the capital suggest that the conditions there are getting worse.' 'How do they manage to survive in such dreadful conditions?'

3 x How are you? I hope you're in good condition.

✓ **How are you? I hope you're keeping fit and well.**

in good condition/shape = physically fit and strong because you do exercises: 'Most of the team had kept themselves in good condition during the summer months.'

To enquire about or refer to someone's general state of health, use **well** or **fit and well**: 'Sarah has a bit of a cold but apart from that we're all well and looking forward to the summer holiday.'

confidence x She has no confidence for what the future has to offer.

✓ **She has no confidence in what the future has to offer.**

confidence in sb/sth: 'The trouble is she lacks confidence in her own ability.' 'It seems that investors have lost confidence in the major stock markets.'

confident 1 x I feel quite confident with my English.

✓ **I feel quite confident about my English.**

confident about sth: 'The more familiar you are with the machine, the more confident you will be about using it.'

2 x I began to feel more confident of myself.

✓ **I began to feel more self-confident.**

If you have confidence in your own abilities, you feel **self-confident**: 'Even as a child he was surprisingly self-confident and didn't mind being left with strangers.'

confirm x Could you please confirm me whether you have received my order.

✓ **Could you please confirm whether you have received my order.**

confirm + direct object (WITHOUT **me, us, them** etc): 'I am pleased to confirm that your application has been approved.'

confront x Almost every day we confront with some new environmental problem.

✓ **Almost every day we confront some new environmental problem.**

✓ **Almost every day we are confronted with some new environmental problem.**

confront sb/sth (WITHOUT **with**): 'Sooner or later the management will have to confront these issues.'

confront sb with sth: 'She continued to deny the charge until the prosecution finally confronted her with the evidence.'

be confronted with/by sth: 'She continued to deny the charge until she was finally confronted with the evidence.'

- congratulate** *x* First of all I'd like to congratulate you both for your wedding.
 ✓ **First of all I'd like to congratulate you both on your wedding.**
congratulate sb on (doing) sth: 'The President was among the first to congratulate the crew on the success of their mission.' 'On behalf of the school, I'd like to congratulate the first eleven on getting through to the final.'
- congratulations 1** *x* Congratulations! You must be feeling very proud.
 ✓ **Congratulations! You must be feeling very proud.**
Congratulations is a plural noun: 'Many congratulations to you both. I'm sure you'll be very happy together.' 'Give them our congratulations and say that we'll be getting in touch soon.'
- 2** *x* Congratulations for your splendid examination results!
 ✓ **Congratulations on your splendid examination results!**
congratulations on (doing) sth (NOT for): 'Congratulations on your promotion. You certainly deserve it.'
- conscious** *x* People today are more conscious about the importance of health care.
 ✓ **People today are more conscious of the importance of health care.**
be conscious of sth: 'I was very conscious of the fact that my every move was being watched.'
- consider** *x* We're considering to visit Switzerland next year.
 ✓ **We're considering visiting Switzerland next year.**
consider doing sth (= think about something that you might do in the future): 'To save money, we even considered repairing the roof ourselves.'
- consist of 1** *x* The house was consisting of three bedrooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom.
 ✓ **The house consisted of three bedrooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom.**
 See Language Note at INCLUDE
- 2** *x* The group was consisted of ten people.
 ✓ **The group consisted of ten people.**
 x An extended family is consisted of at least two generations.
 ✓ **An extended family consists of at least two generations.**
 See Language Note at INCLUDE
- 3** *x* The school consists on four large buildings.
 ✓ **The school consists of four large buildings.**
consist of (NOT on): 'Spain consists of 51 different provinces.'
- constantly** *?* He constantly got into trouble.
 ✓ **He was constantly getting into trouble.**
When constantly means 'again and again', the verb is usually a progressive form: 'The old computer was constantly breaking down.'

contact *x* You can contact with me any evening after six.

✓ **You can contact me any evening after six.**

contact sb (WITHOUT **with**): 'Unless we have an address or phone number, we can't contact them.'

Compare: 'Mrs Lewis phoned and would like you to get in touch with her.'

contain *x* The wallet was containing about \$25.

✓ **The wallet contained about \$25.**

See Language Note opposite.

content *x* The content of the latest peace talks is still a secret.

✓ **The contents of the latest peace talks are still a secret.**

x The cover page tells you about the magazine's content.

✓ **The cover page tells you about the magazine's contents.**

content (WITHOUT **s**) = the (interesting) facts, ideas or opinions expressed in a book, film, essay, speech etc: 'His letters tend to have very little content.'

contents (WITH **s**) = (1) all the (interesting and uninteresting) things that are inside something: 'The customs officer opened my suitcase and examined the contents.' (2) all the things that are written or talked about in a book, report, letter, discussion etc: 'The contents of the diary are strictly confidential.' (3) a list at the front of a book, report, thesis, etc, saying what each chapter or section is about: 'If you want to know which chapters to read, just look at the contents.'

contents *x* I didn't find the contents of the novel very interesting.

✓ **I didn't find the content of the novel very interesting.**

See note at **CONTENT**

continual *x* The canals join to form one continual waterway.

✓ **The canals join to form one continuous waterway.**

x A line of cars stretched continually down the motorway.

✓ **A line of cars stretched continuously down the motorway.**

continual = happening repeatedly over a long period of time, especially in a way that you find annoying: 'That telephone has been ringing continually.'

continuous = without any break or interruption: 'Gas central heating provides a continuous supply of hot water.'

continuous *x* I grew tired of his continuous moaning.

✓ **I grew tired of his continual moaning.**

x The meeting was continuously interrupted.

✓ **The meeting was continually interrupted.**

See note at **CONTINUAL**

contrary *x* It is impossible to tell whether a man is married or NOT. On the contrary, women usually have 'Mrs' or 'Miss' before their name.

✓ **It is impossible to tell whether a man is married or not. On the other hand, women usually have 'Mrs' or 'Miss' before their name.**

x I've never been able to cook. My sister on the contrary can bake wonderful biscuits and cakes.

✓ **I've never been able to cook. My sister on the other hand can bake wonderful biscuits and cakes.**

Using progressive tenses

- Progressive tenses are used to talk about things that are happening at a particular point in time:

Progressive tenses are NOT used to talk about states (i.e. the way things are or the way things feel):

Bill **was painting** the kitchen when I arrived.
What **are you eating**?

My brother **belongs** to a boxing club. (NOT 'is belonging')
Each envelope **contained** twenty dollars. (NOT 'was containing')
The cat **sensed** danger so it turned and ran away (NOT 'was sensing')

- Verbs with 'state' meanings which are NOT used in progressive tenses include:

LIKES and DISLIKES	admire, adore, like/dislike, love, prefer, hate
NEEDS and WANTS	need, lack, want
SENSES	feel, hear, wish, see, notice, smell, taste, sound, sense
KNOWLEDGE	forget, know, realize, remember, understand
OPINIONS	believe, doubt, feel, imagine, suppose, suspect, think
COMPOSITION	comprise, consist of, contain, include
APPEARANCE	appear, be, seem, look, resemble
POSSESSION	have, belong to, own, possess, owe
RELATIONSHIPS	come from, concern, involve, depend, fit, suit
EXISTENCE	be, exist

- Remember that many verbs have both 'action' and 'state' meanings.

Compare:

George **is having** a bath.
George **has** two sisters and one brother. (NOT 'is having')

I **'m thinking** about where to go for my next holiday.
I **think** history lessons are boring. (NOT 'am thinking')

- Remember that the progressive form of a verb (**be + -ing**) is not the same as the **-ing** form.

Compare:

- ✗ I was not having a watch and so I didn't know the time.
- ✓ I didn't **have** a watch and so I didn't know the time.
- ✓ **Not having** a watch, I didn't know the time.

When a verb is used to describe a state, the simple form and the **-ing** form may be used, but not the progressive form.

Use **on the contrary** to show that you strongly disagree with a previous statement and believe that the opposite is true: 'Your parents didn't want you to go abroad, did they?' 'On the contrary, they were all for it.'
 To introduce a statement that is in sharp contrast with a previous statement, use **on the other hand**: 'These new XJ100 computers are amazingly fast. On the other hand, they're very expensive.'

- contribute**
- x Oxfam and Save the Children have contributed a lot of money for the relief work.
 - ✓ **Oxfam and Save the Children have contributed a lot of money to the relief work.**
 - x When I return home, I hope to contribute my country's economic development.
 - ✓ **When I return home, I hope to contribute to my country's economic development.**

contribute (money or some other form of assistance) **to sth**: 'In recent years a number of major corporations have contributed large sums of money to the President's campaign funds.'

- control 1**
- x I was surprised that nobody wanted to control my luggage.
 - ✓ **I was surprised that nobody wanted to inspect my luggage.**
 - x After controlling his fingerprints, the police arrested him.
 - ✓ **After inspecting his fingerprints, the police arrested him.**
 - x At this stage in the process, every mould is controlled again.
 - ✓ **At this stage in the process, every mould is inspected again.**

control = make people or machines do what you want them to do: 'Who will control the aircraft if the pilot has a heart attack?' 'The police were unable to control the crowd.'

inspect = carefully check or examine something: 'The building is regularly inspected by fire-safety officers.' 'I got out of the car to inspect the damage.'

- 2**
- x These people want to control over our lives.
 - ✓ **These people want to control our lives.**
 - ✓ **These people want control over our lives.**

control sth (verb) **WITHOUT of/over**: 'It's usually the editor who controls what goes into a newspaper.' 'The security forces are no longer able to control the situation.'

control of/over sth (noun): 'It's usually the editor who has control over what goes into a newspaper.' 'The security forces have lost control of the situation.'

- 3**
- x My boat had lost control.
 - ✓ **My boat had gone out of control.**
 - x There was a loud bang and my car became out of control.
 - ✓ **There was a loud bang and my car went out of control.**
 - x The ferry was not under control and collided with a sampan.
 - ✓ **The ferry was out of control and collided with a sampan.**

People **lose control of** vehicles, machines etc: 'The pilot lost control of the aircraft and it plummeted to the ground.'

Vehicles and machines **are/go out of control**: 'The aircraft went out of control and plummeted to the ground.'

- 4**
- x I had lost my control and crashed into a tree.
 - ✓ **I had lost control and crashed into a tree.**

✗ He lost the control of the car and hit a wall.

✓ **He lost control of the car and hit a wall.**

lose control (of sth), WITHOUT **the, his, my**, etc: 'In 1993 Roseberg lost control of the company after a surprise takeover bid.'

convince

✗ We all tried to convince her to sing.

✓ **We all tried to persuade her to sing.**

convince = make someone feel completely certain that something is true: 'Somehow the party will have to convince the voters that it is capable of governing the country.' 'She failed to convince the jury of her innocence.'

persuade = make someone agree to do something (or believe that something is true): 'Her parents have persuaded her to stop seeing him.' 'Despite our efforts to persuade them, they still haven't signed the contract.'

cooker

✗ The cooker puts too much salt in the food.

✓ **The cook/chef puts too much salt in the food.**

cooker (AmE **stove**) = a piece of equipment that you use for cooking food: 'I've never used a gas cooker before.'

cook = a person who cooks: 'My sister is a superb cook.'

chef = a cook who works in a restaurant: 'Jean-Paul is training to be a chef.'

corner

✗ I have written my address on the top right-hand corner.

✓ **I have written my address in the top right-hand corner.**

✗ I'd rather sit on the corner, near the door.

✓ **I'd rather sit in the corner, near the door.**

in the corner of an area or room (NOT **on** or **at**): 'I suggest that we put the piano in the corner where it won't get in the way.'

Compare: 'The bank is on the corner, next to the launderette.' 'I'll meet you at the corner in half an hour.'

cost 1

✗ That shop is always empty because the costs are too high.

✓ **That shop is always empty because the prices are too high.**

See Language Note at **PRICE**

2

✗ I'll be happy to pay the costs of the postage.

✓ **I'll be happy to pay the cost of the postage.**

See Language Note at **PRICE**

3

✗ They agreed to repair the damage free of cost.

✓ **They agreed to repair the damage free of charge.**

See Language Note at **PRICE**

4

✗ In London the cost of life is very high.

✓ **In London the cost of living is very high.**

✗ The costs of living are always higher in city areas.

✓ **The cost of living is always higher in city areas.**

See Language Note at **PRICE**

5

See **VERY MUCH 2**

could 1

- x As I've already mentioned, I could learn a great deal during the two years I spent in England.
- ✓ **As I've already mentioned, I was able to learn a great deal during the two years I spent in England.**
- x By reading quickly, I could finish the book before the library closed.
- ✓ **By reading quickly, I managed to finish the book before the library closed.**

When talking about a skill or general ability in the past, use **could** or **be able to**: 'By the time she was four, she could/was able to swim the whole length of the pool.'

When talking about a single event in the past, we usually use **be able to** or **manage** (NOT **could**): 'Luckily, we managed to get there before the shops closed.' 'Were you able to start the car?'

Note however that **could** is used in negative contexts and before verbs such as **see, hear, smell** etc: 'We looked everywhere for the cassette, but we couldn't find it.' 'Couldn't you start the car?' 'From where I was standing, I could hear everything they said.' See also ABLE 2

2

SEE POSSIBLE 2

country-side

- ? Some of us did our teaching practice in the countryside.
- ✓ **Some of us did our teaching practice in rural areas.**

Use **countryside** when you are thinking about the beauty or lifestyle of this type of area: 'We have to act now to save the countryside for future generations.' 'We enjoy walking in the countryside around Bristol.'

To refer to areas that do not have cities or towns, use **rural/country areas**: 'Housing tends to be more affordable in rural areas.'

course 1

- x I'm taking an intermediate course of English.
- ✓ **I'm taking an intermediate course in English.**

a course in/on sth (NOT **of**): 'I've been attending an evening course in business studies.' 'I'm interested in doing a correspondence course in English and Maths.' 'There is also a two-day course on new technology for teachers.'

2

- x The boys and girls in my English course come from all over the world.
- ✓ **The boys and girls on my English course come from all over the world.**

In British English you say that someone is **on a course**: 'Some of the people on the course came to a few classes and then dropped out.'

Note that **in a course** is used in American English.

3

- ? We'll probably go to the cinema or to a discotheque. Of course, since Fiona is my guest, I'll let her decide.
- ✓ **We'll probably go to the cinema or to a discotheque. Naturally, since Fiona is my guest, I'll let her decide.**
- ? The construction of a new motorway is totally unnecessary and of course the local residents are completely against the idea.
- ✓ **The construction of a new motorway is totally unnecessary and, as one would expect, the local residents are completely against the idea.**

Of course is generally over-used. Common words and phrases that may be used as alternatives include: **naturally, obviously, clearly, certainly, evidently, predictably, as you/one would expect, as is to be expected, as you know, it is clear/obvious that.**

crash

- ✗ The train couldn't stop in time and crashed with the truck.
 - ✓ **The train couldn't stop in time and crashed into the truck.**
 - ✗ I lost control of the car and crashed a palm tree.
 - ✓ **I lost control of the car and crashed into a palm tree.**
- crash into sth:** 'The aircraft had crashed into the mountainside, leaving no survivors.'

crazy

See note at MAD 2

crime 1

- ✗ We need to understand why people do these crimes.
 - ✓ **We need to understand why people commit these crimes.**
 - ✗ Somehow we must stop people from making these crimes.
 - ✓ **Somehow we must stop people from committing these crimes.**
- commit a crime** (NOT do, make, perform): 'Women commit far fewer crimes than men.'

2

- ✗ All the prisoners had committed heavy crimes.
 - ✓ **All the prisoners had committed serious crimes.**
- a serious crime** (NOT heavy): 'The public are alarmed by the increase in serious crimes.'

criminal

- ✗ The criminal rate among juveniles is still increasing.
 - ✓ **The crime rate among juveniles is still increasing.**
 - ✗ What makes them choose a criminal life?
 - ✓ **What makes them choose a life of crime?**
- 'criminal activity', 'a criminal offence', 'a criminal record', 'criminal law', BUT 'crime prevention', 'the crime rate', 'crime statistics', 'a life of crime'

criteria

- ✗ These decisions should not be based on purely financial criterias.
 - ✓ **These decisions should not be based on purely financial criteria.**
- Criteria** is the plural of **criterion**: 'The company's sole criterion of success is high sales.' 'These new criteria make it easier to get a visa.'

critic

- ✗ The entertainment page usually contains one or two critics on films being shown in local cinemas.
 - ✓ **The entertainment page usually contains one or two reviews of films being shown in local cinemas.**
- critic** = a person who writes reviews of new books, films etc: 'For five years she was theatre critic for the New Yorker.'
review = a short article in a newspaper or magazine which describes the good and bad qualities of a new book, film, play etc: 'According to the reviews, the film is definitely worth seeing.'
 Compare **critique** = an article, book, speech etc which carefully explains the weaknesses of a theory, policy, philosophy etc: 'The speech was a devastating critique of Reagan's economic policy.'

critical

- ✗ The article is highly critical on the government's refugee policy.
 ✓ **The article is highly critical of the government's refugee policy.**

critical of sth: 'Miller was critical of the way in which the company conducted its business.'

criticism 1

- ✗ The writer who did that criticism was unaware of the facts.
 ✓ **The writer who made that criticism was unaware of the facts.**

make a criticism (of sth): 'The committee has made four specific criticisms of the government's transport policy.'

- 2 ✗ My criticism on this type of journalism is that it is totally irresponsible.
 ✓ **My criticism of this type of journalism is that it is totally irresponsible.**

criticism of sth: 'The most common criticism of the magazine is that it is poorly illustrated.'

cry 1

- ✗ The children got very excited and began to cry.
 ✓ **The children got very excited and began to scream.**

cry = shout something: ' "Help! Help!" she cried.'

cry out = make a sudden loud noise when you are frightened, shocked, hurt, etc: 'When they tried to move him, he cried out in pain.'

scream = make a loud, high, continuous noise, especially when you are very frightened, very excited or in great pain: 'One of the firemen thought he heard someone screaming inside the building.' 'The fans didn't stop screaming until the group had left the stage.'

- 2 ✗ Even when she is angry, she never cries.
 ✓ **Even when she is angry, she never shouts.**

shout = speak in a very loud voice, especially because you want someone to hear you or because you are angry: 'There's no need to shout. I'm not deaf, you know.' 'The demonstrators marched through the streets shouting: *No more war! No more war!*'

- 3 ? When he reached the point in his story when his friends were arrested and tortured, he began to cry.
 ✓ **When he reached the point in his story when his friends were arrested and tortured, he began to weep.**

cry = the opposite of **laugh**: 'As the child was running towards me, she fell over and began to cry.' 'Babies always cry when they're hungry.'

weep = cry quietly, usually because of great sadness. This word is mainly used in literary styles: 'He knelt down by his son's small grave and wept.'

- 4 ✗ I didn't know whether to cry or laugh.
 ✓ **I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.**

Laugh or cry is a fixed phrase: 'His jokes are so awful that you don't know whether to laugh or cry.'

culture

- ✗ The year in Boston taught me a lot about the American culture.
 ✓ **The year in Boston taught me a lot about American culture.**

American culture, British culture, etc (WITHOUT the): 'The lecture this afternoon is on the history of French culture and institutions.'

cure 1

- x The wound took several weeks to cure.
- ✓ **The wound took several weeks to heal.**

Cuts, wounds, injuries, etc **heal**: 'Cuts generally take longer to heal in humid climates.'

2

- x I was the doctor who cured your head injury.
- ✓ **I was the doctor who treated your head injury.**

Doctors and nurses **treat** an injury, disease, sick person, etc: 'Serious burns must be treated as soon as possible.' 'The usual way of treating malaria is to give the patient large doses of quinine.' 'Some hospitals refuse to treat people who don't have medical insurance.'

3

- x Those who are seriously ill take a long time to cure.
- ✓ **Those who are seriously ill take a long time to recover.**

When people who have been ill or injured return to their normal state of health, they **recover** or **get better**: 'Some of the flood victims are still recovering in hospital.' 'It takes a long time to recover from glandular fever.' 'Within a month of the heart attack, he had fully recovered.'

4

- x As yet, nobody has found a cure to AIDS or cancer.
- ✓ **As yet, nobody has found a cure for AIDS or cancer.**

- x The best cure of a cold is a good night's sleep.

- ✓ **The best cure for a cold is a good night's sleep.**

a cure for a disease: 'Is there a cure for tuberculosis?'

curiosity 1

- x It was this film that first aroused my curiosity on Korean culture.
- ✓ **It was this film that first aroused my curiosity about Korean culture.**

curiosity about sth: 'The article was inspired by her curiosity about plants and medicine.'

2

- x Several passers-by stopped to look at the strange bicycle from curiosity.

- ✓ **Several passers-by stopped to look at the strange bicycle out of curiosity.**

You do or ask something **out of curiosity** (NOT from): 'Just out of curiosity, what made you decide to marry him after all?'

curious

- x I was curious what she would look like.
- ✓ **I was curious to know what she would look like.**
- x I'm very curious of the country and its inhabitants.
- ✓ **I'm very curious about the country and its inhabitants.**

curious about/as to: 'I'm curious as to how he knows our address.'

curious to see/know etc: 'We're all curious to see what his new girlfriend is like.'

current

- x The current world encourages creativity.
- ✓ **The modern world encourages creativity.**
- x We need to know current English, not the language of Shakespeare.



- ✓ **We need to know modern English, not the language of Shakespeare.**

current = happening or existing now, but not likely to last for a long time: 'How long has she been going out with her current boyfriend?' 'The current boom in long-haul travel has led to fierce competition among the major airlines.'

modern = used or existing in the period of history that we live in now, and not in an earlier period: 'What do you think of modern architecture?' 'Even by modern standards, the pyramids are a remarkable piece of engineering.'

custom 1

- ✗ I went there hoping to learn something about Indian culture and custom.
 ✓ **I went there hoping to learn something about Indian culture and customs.**

You talk about a country's **customs** (WITH s): 'In Hong Kong I learned a lot about Chinese customs.'

See also Language Note at MANNER

- 2 ✗ He has a custom of coughing before he speaks.
 ✓ **He has a habit of coughing before he speaks.**
 ✗ It's very difficult for people to change their customs.
 ✓ **It's very difficult for people to change their habits.**

See Language Note at MANNER

- 3 ✗ Will I have to pay custom duty?

- ✓ **Will I have to pay customs duty?**

customs (WITH s) = the place where your bags are examined when you enter a country: 'We got held up at the customs while they went through our suitcases.'

customs duty (WITH s) = taxes that you have to pay to bring certain goods into a country: 'The customs duty on electrical goods is twenty percent of the retail price.'

cut 1

- ✗ He cut the strip of photographs and gave one to me.
 ✓ **He cut up the strip of photographs and gave one to me.**
 ✗ Then you cut the carrots and put them into the saucepan.
 ✓ **Then you cut up the carrots and put them into the saucepan.**

cut up = cut something into small pieces: 'Two-year-olds can't eat meat unless you cut it up for them.'

- 2 ✗ I cut the picture and stuck it on a sheet of paper.
 ✓ **I cut out the picture and stuck it on a sheet of paper.**

cut out = remove a part of something by cutting all around it: 'Each child had to draw a face and then cut it out.'

- 3 ✗ To build the motorway, they will have to cut a lot of trees.
 ✓ **To build the motorway, they will have to cut down a lot of trees.**

cut down = make something tall (such as a tree) fall down by cutting through it close to the ground: 'All the elms were diseased and had to be cut down.'

4

- ✗ In the summer I cut my hair very short.
- ✓ **In the summer I have my hair cut very short.**

have/get your hair cut: 'When was the last time you had your hair cut?'

cut down

- ✗ Through rationalization they were able to cut down the cost of production.
- ✓ **Through rationalization they were able to cut the cost of production.**

cut (WITHOUT down) = reduce the cost, price, size etc of something:
'In the last twelve months the size of the workforce has been cut by fifty percent.'

cut out

- ✗ Without a car, you are virtually cut out from society.
- ✓ **Without a car, you are virtually cut off from society.**

When you are **cut off from** a group of people, you are separated from them (and feel lonely): 'It's easy to feel cut off from your loved ones when you first go overseas.'

cutlery

- ✗ All the cutleries are in the top drawer.
- ✓ **All the cutlery is in the top drawer.**

Cutlery (= knives, forks, spoons etc) is an uncountable noun: 'You'll find some clean cutlery in the top drawer.'

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