

Dd

damage 1

- x The driver was very lucky and was only slightly damaged.
- ✓ **The driver was very lucky and was only slightly hurt.**
- x During the protests, some students were killed and others were seriously damaged.
- ✓ **During the protests, some students were killed and others were seriously injured/wounded.**

Damaged is used in connection with things or parts of your body (NOT people): 'The engine was too badly damaged to be repaired.' 'The cause of the oil leak was a damaged pipeline.'

People are **hurt** or **injured** (badly hurt) in an accident, earthquake, hurricane etc: 'The scaffolding collapsed, killing one of the construction workers and injuring two passers-by.'

Someone who is injured by a weapon, such as a gun or knife, is **wounded**: 'He is accused of wounding a fellow prisoner.' 'The wounded soldiers were sent home for medical treatment.'

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2

- x The fire caused a lot of damages.
- ✓ **The fire caused a lot of damage.**
- x The car crashed into a tree and suffered a severe damage.
- ✓ **The car crashed into a tree and suffered severe damage.**

In its usual meaning, **damage** is an uncountable noun: 'The insurance company will pay for any damage.' 'The ceiling had suffered a great deal of damage.'

damages (plural noun) = a sum of money that someone is awarded in a court of law: 'She was awarded \$3000 in damages.' 'She claimed damages of £2000 for wrongful dismissal.'

3

- x The floods made a lot of damage.
- ✓ **The floods did/caused a lot of damage.**
- x Most of the damage has been produced by acid rain.
- ✓ **Most of the damage has been caused by acid rain.**

do/cause damage (NOT **make** or **produce**): 'According to local farmers, the rabbits do a lot of damage to the crops.' 'It's the gas from fridges that causes most of the damage.'

See Language Note at oo

4

- x The bomb caused extensive damage of the surrounding buildings.
- ✓ **The bomb caused extensive damage to the surrounding buildings.**
- x We all know about the damage that smoking can do in our health.
- ✓ **We all know about the damage that smoking can do to our health.**

(cause/do) damage to sth: 'Lack of oxygen can cause serious damage to the brain.' 'The scandal did a great deal of damage to his reputation.'

damp

- x The summer in Japan is very hot and damp.
- ✓ **The summer in Japan is very hot and humid.**

damp = slightly wet, especially in a cold and unpleasant way: 'Our hotel room felt cold and damp.' 'On damp days, we have to dry the washing indoors.'

humid = warm and full of water vapour: 'The air in tropical forests is extremely humid.' 'I didn't expect Singapore to be so humid.'

dance

- x There were lots of young boys and girls dancing pop music.
- ✓ **There were lots of young boys and girls dancing to pop music.**
- x Then we danced with the music of 'Grease'.
- ✓ **Then we danced to the music of 'Grease'.**

dance to a particular type/piece of music: 'What type of music do you prefer dancing to?'

dare 1

- x I dare to say that the book is worth reading.
- ✓ **I daresay that the book is worth reading.**

I daresay (also written **I dare say**) is a fixed phrase: 'I dare say that we'll be hearing from them again.' 'The team will put up a good performance, I daresay, but I don't think they'll win.'

2

- x 'How dare you to come in without knocking!' he shouted.
- ✓ **'How dare you come in without knocking!' he shouted.**

When **dare** comes in front of the subject, use an infinitive WITHOUT **to**: 'How dare you say such a thing!' 'Dare I mention it to her? She'll be furious.'

3

- x He dares to die rather than break his promise.
- ✓ **He is prepared to die rather than break his promise.**
- x I didn't enjoy the drink but I dared to try it again.
- ✓ **I didn't enjoy the drink but I was ready to try it again.**

Dare (= have enough courage) is used mainly in negative sentences and questions: 'I wouldn't dare to take the car without permission.' 'She stood at the edge of the cliff, not daring to look down.'

In affirmative sentences, use **be ready/prepared/willing**: 'Some people are prepared to do anything for money.' 'Despite the threat on his life, he's ready to testify.'

4

- x His mother thinks that somebody must have dared him steal the bicycle.
- ✓ **His mother thinks that somebody must have dared him to steal the bicycle.**

dare sb to do sth: 'I dare you to drink it.' 'They dared me to do it again.'

daren't

- x I daren't to ask her for any more money.
- ✓ **I daren't ask her for any more money.**

daren't do sth (WITHOUT **to**): 'I daren't tell George what happened or he'll be furious.'

Compare: 'I don't dare tell/to tell George what happened ...'

dark

- X Soon it began to become dark and it was time to go home.
- ✓ **Soon it began to get dark and it was time to go home.**
- X The last candle went out and everything became dark.
- ✓ **The last candle went out and everything went dark.**

To refer to the time in the evening or at night when the daylight disappears, use **get dark** or (in formal styles) **grow dark**: 'In the winter it gets dark by five o'clock.' 'It began to grow dark and so we headed back to the shore.'

To describe what happens when all the lights in a room, building, etc suddenly go out, use **go dark** or (especially in formal styles) **be plunged into darkness**: 'During the last storm the whole town was plunged into darkness.'

date 1

- X On the date of your wedding, I shall be in England.
 - ✓ **On the day of your wedding, I shall be in England.**
 - X I have to pay the rent on the first date of the month.
 - ✓ **I have to pay the rent on the first day of the month.**
- on the day of sth (NOT on the date of)**: 'On the day of my departure, I woke up very early.'

2

- X I have an interview at the same date.
- ✓ **I have an interview on the same date/day.**

on a specific date/day (NOT at/in): 'I'm afraid we have no rooms available on that date.' See Language Note at TIME
Note, however, the phrases **at a later date** and **at some future date**:
'The rest of the money can be paid at a later date.'

3

- X Up to date, they still haven't answered our letter.
- ✓ **To date, they still haven't answered our letter.**

to date or **up to/until now (NOT up to date)**: 'To date there are no signs that the situation is likely to improve.'

4

See UP-TO-DATE

day 1

- X It was fine autumn day.
- ✓ **It was a fine autumn day.**
- X It was very long day for the children.
- ✓ **It was a very long day for the children.**

a/an + adjective + day: 'It was a perfect day for a picnic.' 'It's a beautiful day, isn't it?' 'What a terrible day I've had!'

2

- X Some people watch television all the day.
 - ✓ **Some people watch television all day.**
- all day (WITHOUT the)**: 'What have you been doing all day?'

3

- X I'm afraid that I can't come at that day.
- ✓ **I'm afraid that I can't come on that day.**
- X In the first day, my sunglasses disappeared.
- ✓ **On the first day, my sunglasses disappeared.**

See Language Note at TIME

4

- X My travel agent had arranged a 6 days coach tour.
- ✓ **My travel agent had arranged a 6-day coach tour.**

- 5
- x Day after day the world is becoming a better place.
 - ✓ **Day by day the world is becoming a better place.**
 - x Men and women have to work in overcrowded offices day by day.
 - ✓ **Men and women have to work in overcrowded offices day after day.**

day after day = repeatedly or continuously, especially in a boring or unpleasant way: 'I get fed up with listening to their complaints day after day.' 'I'm not prepared to sit here day after day doing nothing.'
day by day = gradually: 'Day by day the weather is getting warmer.'
 'Their love grew day by day.'

days 1

- x In these days many children have their own computer.
- ✓ **These days many children have their own computer.**

these days (WITHOUT **in/during** etc): 'He's very busy these days.'
 Note however: 'In those days cigarettes were much cheaper.'

2

- x In our days we know more about the causes of pollution.
- ✓ **Nowadays we know more about the causes of pollution.**

The phrase 'in our days' does not exist. For this meaning, use **nowadays**, **these days**, or **today**: 'I get the feeling that some people nowadays cannot live without television.'

3

See SOME 4

dead 1

- x My father is dead when I was still a baby.
- ✓ **My father died when I was still a baby.**
- x The doctor said that she dead because the wound became infected.
- ✓ **The doctor said that she died because the wound became infected.**

Dead is an adjective and describes a state: 'I can't tell whether that plant is dead or alive.' 'Some of the fish were dead and were floating on the surface.'

Died is the past tense and past participle of **die**: 'I think she died from a heart attack.' 'He died on the way to hospital.'

See also note at DIED

2

- x The purpose of this ceremony is to honour the dead people.
- ✓ **The purpose of this ceremony is to honour the dead.**

When you mean 'dead people', use **the dead**: 'At this time of the year the villages make offerings to the spirits of the dead.'

3

See BODY

deal 1

- x We have received a great deal of complaints.
- ✓ **We have received a large number of complaints.**
- x English contains a great deal of words.
- ✓ **English contains a great many words.**
- x A great deal of countries have already signed the agreement.
- ✓ **Many countries have already signed the agreement.**

a great/good deal of + uncountable noun: 'a great deal of money/time/pleasure'

a large number of + plural count noun: 'a large number of coins/cars/tourists'

a great/good many + plural count noun: 'This operation has already saved the lives of a great many people.'

When there is no need to emphasize the size of the number, use **many** or (especially in informal styles) **a lot of**: 'Many people have stopped smoking.'

2

- ✗ We have to find a new way of dealing crime.
- ✓ **We have to find a new way of dealing with crime.**
- ✗ I don't have enough time to deal all the questions.
- ✓ **I don't have enough time to deal with all the questions.**

deal with a problem or situation that requires action or attention: 'Customer complaints are dealt with by Mr Adams.' 'How should the government deal with the AIDS crisis?'

deal in

- ✗ The play deals in the struggle of a married couple to live their own lives.
- ✓ **The play deals with the struggle of a married couple to live their own lives.**

deal in = buy and sell: 'The company deals in textiles.' 'Her husband deals in used cars.'

deal with = (of books, articles etc) be about: 'The last chapter deals with economic issues.' 'Her first book dealt with social discrimination against women.'

deal with

- ✗ These days even young schoolchildren know how to deal with computers.
- ✓ **These days even young schoolchildren know how to use computers.**

use/operate/handle a piece of equipment that requires special skill (= make it work): 'Do you know how to operate a video camera?'

death 1

- ✗ In the United States, there were over 17000 deaths of AIDS in 1991.
- ✓ **In the United States, there were over 17000 deaths from AIDS in 1991.**

deaths from a disease: 'The increase in the number of deaths from malaria was causing concern.'

2

See THE 4

3

See SHOOT 1

deeply

See BELIEVE 3, HOPE 3, KNOW 3, RELATED 2, THINK 4, UNDERSTAND 2

defect

- ✗ Any products that are found to be defect will be replaced.
- ✓ **Any products that are found to be defective will be replaced.**

Defect is a noun: 'The test flight revealed a number of small defects in the navigation system.'

The adjective is **defective**: 'Nowadays defective software is quite unusual.'

- degree 1** ☐ I have a Master degree in international journalism.
☒ **I have a Master's degree in international journalism.**
a Master's degree (or a **Master's**), **a bachelor's degree** (WITH 's): 'I'm studying for a Master's degree in fuel science.'
- 2** ☐ I have the degree in economics.
☒ **I have a degree in economics.**
a degree (NOT **the**): 'She is studying for a postgraduate degree.'
- 3** ☐ He is studying for a degree of computer science
☒ **He is studying for a degree in computer science**
a degree in a particular subject (NOT **of**): 'a degree in law'.
 Note the alternative structure: 'a computer science degree,' 'a law degree'
- 4** ☐ ? I've come here to obtain a Master's degree in International Journalism.
☒ **I've come here to do a Master's degree in International Journalism.**
do/take/get a degree (in a particular subject area): 'I'm thinking about doing a Master's degree in business administration.'
- delighted** ☐ When they knew that they had won, they were very delighted.
☒ **When they knew that they had won, they were absolutely delighted.**
 See note at VERY 2
- delightful** ☐ I know that Dad will be delightful if you can come.
☒ **I know that Dad will be delighted if you can come.**
delightful = (fairly formal) giving great pleasure: 'Thank you for such a delightful evening. George and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.'
delighted = extremely pleased: 'I'm delighted to hear that you are feeling better.'
- demand 1** ☐ In my new job I am demanded to work overtime.
☒ **In my new job I am required to work overtime.**
 If you have to do something because of a rule, law etc, you are **required** to do it: 'Under the law the President is required to notify Congress when US troops face imminent hostilities.'
- 2** ☐ The demand of butter has decreased in recent years.
☒ **The demand for butter has decreased in recent years.**
a demand for sth (NOT **of**): 'Ford has increased production to meet the demand for its new range of cars.'
- demonstration** ☐ Many demonstrations have been made in recent years in protest against the level of pollution.
☒ **Many demonstrations have been held in recent years in protest against the level of pollution.**
hold/stage a demonstration (NOT **make**): 'In London, students and lecturers staged a mass demonstration against the proposed education cuts.'

deny 1

- ✗ He asked his parents to help him, but they denied.
 - ✓ **He asked his parents to help him, but they refused.**
 - ✗ When she denied to wear the uniform, she was dismissed.
 - ✓ **When she refused to wear the uniform, she was dismissed.**
- deny sth** = say that it is not true: 'He has been accused of stealing a car, but he denies it.' 'Both companies denied that they had been discharging toxic waste.'
- refuse (to do sth)** = say that you will not do it: 'Employers are refusing to discuss a pay settlement until the staff return to work.' 'The students were told to leave the building, but they refused.'

2

- ✗ She asked him if he had seen a little boy but he denied.
- ✓ **She asked him if he had seen a little boy but he said he hadn't.**

You **deny** an accusation or claim (NOT a question): 'The accused denied both charges.' 'He denied being anywhere near the scene of the crime.'

3

- ✗ She accused him of cheating but he denied.
- ✓ **She accused him of cheating but he denied it.**

Deny is a transitive verb: 'He denied that he forged the signature.' 'He denied having forged the signature.' 'He denied it.'

depart

- ✗ The next ferry will depart the pier at 9.30 a.m.
- ✓ **The next ferry will depart from the pier at 9.30 a.m.**

depart from a place (= leave): 'The 12.15 shuttle service to Atlanta will depart from platform seven.'

depend 1

- ✗ The number of hours he worked was depend on the number of absentees.
- ✓ **The number of hours he worked depended on the number of absentees.**
- ✗ The insurance payment is depends on the value of the goods.
- ✓ **The insurance payment depends on the value of the goods.**

Do not confuse **depend on/upon** and the more formal phrase **be dependent on/upon**. Compare: 'The speed of a car depends on the size of the engine.' 'The speed of a car is dependent on the size of the engine.'

2

- ✗ Whether or not she passes is depending upon how hard she works.
- ✓ **Whether or not she passes depends upon how hard she works.**

When **depend on/upon** means 'be shaped or determined by', it is not used in progressive tenses. See Language Note at CONTAIN

3

- ✗ It depends on if you've got enough money.
 - ✓ **It depends on whether you've got enough money.**
- it depends on whether** (NOT if): 'We don't know yet. It all depends on whether the car is fixed in time.'

describe

- ✗ He described me his sister in great detail.
- ✓ **He described his sister (to me) in great detail.**
- ✗ Let me describe you a typical day in Brazil and then you'll understand why I live here.

- ✓ **Let me describe (to you) a typical day in Brazil and then you'll understand why I live here.**
- describe sth (to sb):** 'I described my symptoms to the doctor at the hospital.'

- description**
- ✗ They needed a description about the stolen car.
 - ✓ **They needed a description of the stolen car.**
 - ✗ I'll send you some English food and a description on how to prepare it.
 - ✓ **I'll send you some English food and a description of how to prepare it.**
 - description of sb/sth:** 'The police now have a full description of the suspects.'

- desert**
- ✗ I was miles from anywhere, stuck on a desert country road.
 - ✓ **I was miles from anywhere, stuck on a deserted country road.**
 - desert** = a large area of land, where there is usually nothing but sand: 'the Sahara Desert'
 - deserted** = empty and quiet, especially because the people who are usually there have all left: 'I came back to find the house dark and deserted.' 'At night, the city streets are deserted.'

- desire 1**
- ✗ Despite all my money, I desired to live in an ordinary house.
 - ✓ **Despite all my money, I wanted to live in an ordinary house.**
 - ✗ I desire that world peace will continue for ever.
 - ✓ **I hope that world peace will continue for ever.**
 - In the meaning 'want/wish', **desire** is usually used as a noun (NOT as a verb): 'His one desire was to live to see his three grandchildren again.' 'I have no desire to go there again. Once is enough.' Note however that this usage is fairly formal.
 - As a verb meaning 'want/wish', **desire** is used mainly in literary styles: 'For the first time in her life, she had everything her heart desired.' In other styles, use verbs such as **want, would like, hope, wish, intend**, etc.

- 2**
- ✗ My desire is to become a successful business manager.
 - ✓ **My ambition is to become a successful business manager.**
 - When you are talking about something very important that you want to achieve, use **aim** or **ambition**: 'Her ambition is to represent her country in the Olympic Games.' 'Our ultimate aim is to find a cure for the disease.'

- 3**
- ✗ I have always had a strong desire of becoming somebody.
 - ✓ **I have always had a strong desire to become somebody.**
 - a desire to do sth (NOT of doing):** 'She has no desire to travel and prefers to stay at home.'

- despite 1**
- ✗ Despite the train was empty, he came and sat in front of me.
 - ✓ **Although the train was empty, he came and sat in front of me.**
 - ✓ **Despite the train being empty, he came and sat in front of me.**
 - Despite** and **in spite of** are prepositions (NOT conjunctions). Unlike **although** (a conjunction), they cannot introduce a clause that has a finite

verb ('was'). Compare: 'In spite of/Despite owning two cars, he can't drive.' 'Although he owns two cars, he can't drive.'

- 2 ☒ Despite of my qualifications, I couldn't get a job.
 ☒ **Despite my qualifications, I couldn't get a job.**
 ☒ **In spite of my qualifications, I couldn't get a job.**

despite sth (WITHOUT of): 'Despite the heat, she wouldn't take her coat off.'

in spite of sth (WITH of): 'In spite of the heat, she wouldn't take her coat off.'

- destroy 1** ☒ This unpleasant man with his endless complaints destroyed my journey.
 ☒ **This unpleasant man with his endless complaints spoilt my journey.**

When you mean 'remove the pleasure or enjoyment from', use **spoil** or **ruin** (= spoil completely): 'The trip was spoilt by bad weather.' 'I've spent weeks planning this surprise party for Dad, and now you've ruined it by telling him.'

- 2 ☒ The water had been much too hot and most of the clothes were destroyed.
 ☒ **The water had been much too hot and most of the clothes were ruined.**

When you mean 'make something less attractive, effective or useful', use **spoil** or **ruin** (= spoil completely): 'I didn't join them on their walk because I didn't want to spoil my new shoes.' 'If you open the camera, you'll ruin the film.'

- 3 ☒ The bus wasn't badly damaged, but the car was completely destroyed.
 ☒ **The bus wasn't badly damaged, but the car was a write-off.**

A vehicle that cannot be used again after being damaged in a road accident is **wrecked** or (especially in spoken English) is a **write-off**: 'I was stupid enough to lend him my car, and now it's a write-off!' 'Wrecked vehicles lay abandoned along the roadside.'

- detail** ☒ With a zoom lens, I can study the image in details.
 ☒ **With a zoom lens, I can study the image in detail.**

in (great/more/some) detail (WITHOUT -s): 'The victim was able to describe her attacker in detail.' 'Having actually stayed at the hotel, he was able to describe it in greater detail.'

- deter** ☒ How can we deter our leaders to use the atomic bomb?
 ☒ **How can we deter our leaders from using the atomic bomb?**
deter sb (from doing sth) = persuade them not to do it: 'The common assumption is that imprisonment deters them from returning to a life of crime.'

- die** ☒ People say she died with pneumonia.
 ☒ **People say she died of pneumonia.**

die of/from a disease, heart attack, hunger etc (NOT with): 'Of these, one in ten will die of lung cancer.' 'Her husband died of a heart attack.' 'Each year over a million children die from diarrhoea.'

die of shame/embarrassment/grief/despair/shock etc: 'When he told

me the price, I nearly died of shock.' 'The poor girl almost died of fright.'
die from the effects of violence, pollution etc: 'He died from a bullet wound in the chest.' 'Police predict that more people will die from their injuries.'

died

- x Her husband was died two years earlier.
- ✓ **Her husband had died two years earlier.**

When you are talking about an event, use **die (dying, died, died)**.
 When you are talking about a state, use **be dead**. Compare: 'He died in an ambulance on the way to hospital.' 'By the time the ambulance reached the hospital, he was dead.'
 See also note at DEAD 1

difference 1

- x You have to make a difference between women who have to work and women who choose to work.
- ✓ **You have to make a distinction between women who have to work and women who choose to work.**

make/draw a distinction (between A and B) = not regard or treat A and B in the same way: 'Sometimes it is difficult to make a clear distinction between qualifications and experience.' 'Most societies draw a distinction between the status of an unmarried woman and a married one.'

- 2 x As soon as I arrived in the USA, I noticed a big difference of social behaviour.
- ✓ **As soon as I arrived in the USA, I noticed a big difference in social behaviour.**

difference in a particular shared feature, practice or quality: 'Since there was very little difference in price, we bought the large packet.'
 'Differences in eating habits can cause considerable embarrassment.'

different 1

- x London is different of Hong Kong.
- ✓ **London is different from/to Hong Kong.**
- x In Argentina, Christmas celebrations are completely different as the ones in England.
- ✓ **In Argentina, Christmas celebrations are completely different from/to the ones in England.**

A is **different from/to** B: 'Alex was different from all the other boys she knew.' Note that most teachers and careful users prefer **from**.

- 2 ? My new school is very different than the old one.
- ✓ **My new school is very different from/to the old one.**

Different than is used in American English but is rarely used in British English.

difficulty 1

- x She had a difficulty in obtaining a visa.
- ✓ **She had difficulty (in) obtaining a visa.**
- have difficulty/difficulties (in) doing sth (NOT a difficulty):**
 'Sometimes he has difficulty in making himself understood.'

- 2 x I have great difficulty to understand him.
- ✓ **I have great difficulty (in) understanding him.**

have difficulty/difficulties (in) doing sth (NOT to do): 'You should have no difficulty in passing the exam.'

dinner

See BREAKFAST

disagree 1

- ✗ Those who disagreed to join the army were put in prison.
 ✓ **Those who refused to join the army were put in prison.**
disagree = not have the same opinion: 'He disagreed with nearly everything I said.' 'Why did she disagree with you?' 'We tended to disagree about politics, but we were still good friends.'
refuse (to do sth) = say that you will not do something that someone has asked you to do: 'The students were asked to leave the building but they refused.' 'If anyone refuses to pay their bill, send for the manager.'

2

- ? As a conservationist, I strongly disagree with the removal of these trees.
 ✓ **As a conservationist, I strongly object to the removal of these trees.**
object (to sth) = say that you are against something 'No member of the Council has ever objected to this principle.' 'He objects to being treated like a child.'

3

- ✗ She disagreed totally to what I said.
 ✓ **She disagreed totally with what I said.**
 ✗ Some people disagree to the death penalty.
 ✓ **Some people disagree with the death penalty.**
disagree with sb/sth: 'I disagreed with their interpretation of the statistics.'

4

- ? I disagree that heart transplants should be stopped.
 ✓ **I don't agree that heart transplants should be stopped.**
 When the subject is a particular person, use **not agree** to introduce a **that** clause: 'I don't agree that the people there are repressed.' 'She cannot agree that farmers should be an exception.'
 In more general statements, **disagree** is usually used with **not, nobody etc** before a **that** clause, to give an affirmative meaning: 'No one can disagree that these crimes must be stopped.' (=everyone must agree that ...) 'Few would disagree that she has served her country well.' (=most would agree that ...)

5

- ✗ I am disagree with the statement.
 ✓ **I disagree with the statement.**
Disagree is used only as a verb (NOT as an adjective): 'She always disagrees with me.'

disappeared

- ✗ The next morning, the snowman was disappeared.
 ✓ **The next morning, the snowman had disappeared.**
 ✗ One day these problems will be disappeared.
 ✓ **One day these problems will disappear.**
Disappeared (from the verb **disappear**) is not used like an adjective: 'His wife has disappeared with the children.' 'Suddenly, the pain in my back just disappeared.'
 Compare: 'The next morning, the snowman was gone.' Unlike **disappeared**, **gone** (from the verb **go**) may be used like an adjective.

discourage

- ✗ Somehow we have to discourage people to commit crimes.
 ✓ **Somehow we have to discourage people from committing crimes.**

discourage sb from doing sth: 'We always leave the lights on at night to discourage people from breaking in.'
Compare: 'You should try and encourage her to take more exercise.'

- discriminate** x Society discriminates old people by denying them the chance to work.
✓ **Society discriminates against old people by denying them the chance to work.**
x Women have been discriminated for far too long.
✓ **Women have been discriminated against for far too long.**
discriminate against a group of people: 'The court has ruled that UK employment laws discriminate against part-time workers.'

- discrimination** x It is time that sexual discrimination on women was eliminated.
✓ **It is time that sexual discrimination against women was eliminated.**
discrimination against a group of people (NOT **on/about/for** etc): 'Feminist groups see this practice as a form of discrimination against women.'

- discuss** 1 x When I discuss with them, I cannot say the things that I want to say because of my English.
✓ **When I talk to them, I cannot say the things that I want to say because of my English.**
x Some people were discussing; some listening to the radio.
✓ **Some people were talking; some listening to the radio.**
Discuss is a transitive verb and needs an object: 'I'd like to discuss my homework with you.' 'The two sides will discuss further arms reductions.'

- 2 x They'd like to discuss about what to do next.
✓ **They'd like to discuss what to do next.**
discuss sth (WITHOUT **about/on**): 'He simply refuses to discuss the matter.' 'There is nothing to discuss.'
Compare **talk about, a discussion about/on**: 'They want to talk about what to do next.' 'They want a discussion about/on what to do next.'

- discussion** x He ran away from home after a discussion with his father.
✓ **He ran away from home after an argument with his father.**
x They had a discussion and Dusty killed him.
✓ **They had an argument and Dusty killed him.**
discussion = a talk about something, especially one which allows different points of view to be expressed: 'After further discussion, the government has decided to reject the American offer.'
argument = a quarrel or disagreement: 'The couple next door are always having arguments.' 'I hate arguments. They upset me.'

- disguise** x To get into the building, I'll disguise as a reporter.
✓ **To get into the building, I'll disguise myself as a reporter.**
See Language Note at MYSELF

- dish** 1 x Dinner usually consists of three dishes.
✓ **Dinner usually consists of three courses.**
x The main dish was roast beef with fresh vegetables.

102 dispose

- ✓ **The main course was roast beef with fresh vegetables.**
See Language Note at PLATE

2

- ✗ Some children have to prepare their own dishes.
- ✓ **Some children have to prepare their own meals.**
- ✗ Dinner is the main dish of the day.
- ✓ **Dinner is the main meal of the day.**

See Language Note at PLATE

dispose

- ✗ Jumble sales provide people with a good opportunity to dispose all their unwanted goods.
- ✓ **Jumble sales provide people with a good opportunity to dispose of all their unwanted goods.**
dispose of sth (= get rid of): 'The quickest way to dispose of the rubbish is to burn it.'

distance 1

- ✗ It was a long distance between the hotel and the beach.
- ✓ **It was a long way from the hotel to the beach.**

When you want to say that two places are far apart, use **a long way** (NOT **a long distance**): 'My flat is quite a long way from the university.' 'We're nearly half-way there, but there's still a long way to go.' Compare: 'I hate driving long distances.' 'Computers can talk to each other, even over long distances.' 'Trains are excellent for long distance travel.'

2

- ✗ The nearest town is in a distance of ten miles.
- ✓ **The nearest town is ten miles away.**

One place is a number of miles/kilometres/yards etc **away** from another place: 'She was offered a job in Sheffield, about thirty miles away.' 'The secondary school is about five miles away.'

district

- ✗ We will be touring the famous fruit-growing districts.
- ✓ **We will be touring the famous fruit-growing regions.**
- ✗ The original inhabitants of the district were probably Chinese.
- ✓ **The original inhabitants of the region/area were probably Chinese.**

district = (1) one of the official divisions of a city or country: 'the London postal district', 'the South Cambridgeshire District', 'the Liverpool 8 district of Merseyside', 'Last winter several London health districts faced a cash crisis.' (2) an area in a city (or sometimes in a country) that has a particular quality or feature: 'a very wealthy district', 'one of the most deprived districts in the inner city', 'an old slum district where the gangs operate'.

A **region** is usually a large area of a country and has no official boundaries: 'The President has declared the region a disaster area.' 'Such expansion would most likely occur in the Amazon region.' 'The people who live in this region have a strong accent.' When you are unsure about which word to choose, use **area**. An **area** can be large or small and has a very general meaning.

divide

- ✗ For lunch and dinner we were divided in groups of ten.
- ✓ **For lunch and dinner we were divided into groups of ten.**
- ✗ The university is divided in five different faculties.
- ✓ **The university is divided into five different faculties.**

divide sth into two or more parts (NOT in): 'Some of these big old houses have been divided into separate apartments.'

divorce 1

- ✗ Sally told me she was going to divorce.
- ✓ **Sally told me she was going to get a divorce.**
- ✗ When there are children involved, it is difficult to divorce.
- ✓ **When there are children involved, it is difficult to get divorced.**

get a divorce or **get divorced** (= end one's marriage by taking legal action): 'I had just turned ten when my parents got divorced.' 'It took my sister almost a year to get a divorce.'

- 2
- ✗ It's bad enough when you get divorce, but far worse when you lose your children as well.
 - ✓ **It's bad enough when you get divorced, but far worse when you lose your children as well.**
 - ✗ If we were divorce, who would look after the children?
 - ✓ **If we were divorced, who would look after the children?**

be/get divorced (WITH 'd'): 'They got divorced in 1993, just twelve months after they were married.' 'It seems as if getting divorced has become fashionable nowadays.'

- 3
- ✗ The fact that your wife crashed the Ferrari is not a good reason to divorce to her.
 - ✓ **The fact that your wife crashed the Ferrari is not a good reason to divorce her.**
 - ✗ For some reason, she didn't want to divorce with him.
 - ✓ **For some reason, she didn't want to divorce him.**

divorce sb (WITHOUT to/with): 'She'd divorced her husband six months before and had gone back to live with her parents.'

Note that **get divorced** is far more common than **divorce** someone: 'For some reason, she didn't want to get divorced.'

do 1

See Language Note on next page

2

See THAT 8

doubt 1

- ✗ Whenever I doubt about the meaning of a word, I look in my dictionary.
- ✓ **Whenever I am in doubt about the meaning of a word, I look in my dictionary.**
- ✗ If ever you have any kind of doubt, come and see me or one of the other teachers.
- ✓ **If ever you are in any doubt about anything, come and see me or one of the other teachers.**

(be) in doubt about sth (= feel unsure): 'Is anyone in doubt about what they're supposed to be doing?' 'If you're in any doubt about your child's safety, talk to your doctor.'

Note that this meaning is more commonly expressed by **be unsure/uncertain** (or **not be sure/certain**): 'Whenever I'm not sure about the meaning of a word, I look in my dictionary.'

Verb + Noun Combinations: DO • HAVE • MAKE • TAKE

Many phrases begin with a very common verb such as **do, make, have or take**:

'I felt very nervous about **taking** the **test** but, after **having** a long **talk** with Mrs Fisher, I decided I would just **do my best** and try not to **make** too many silly **mistakes**.'

These verbs can be combined with some nouns but not with others and since they do not have a clear meaning of their own, choosing the right combination can be a problem. Phrases which tend to cause difficulty are shown in the table below.

HAVE

have a **bath** (or esp. AmE **take**)

have (your) **breakfast**

have (your) **dinner**

have a **drink**

have (an) **experience**

have **fun**

have a **holiday**

have an **interview**

have a **lesson**

have (your) **lunch**

have an **operation**

have a **party**

have a **picnic**

have a **shower**

TAKE

take/do an **examination**

take (your) **medicine**

take a **pill**

take/do a **test**

MAKE

make an **effort**

make a **journey**

make a **mistake**

make a **noise**

make **progress**

DO

do your **best**

do (or cause) **damage**

do an **exercise**

do an **experiment**

do (sb) **good**

do **harm**

do your **homework**

do a **job**

do the/some **shopping**

do **research**

do **things**

do your **training**

'She's probably upstairs having a bath.'

'We usually have breakfast in the kitchen.'

'We had dinner and then went for a walk.'

'I'll collapse if I don't have a drink soon.'

'He has no experience of running a large company.'

'You can't stop people from having fun.'

'It's almost a year since we had a real holiday.'

'I've had six interviews but no one has offered me a job.'

'Every morning we have three fifty-minute lessons.'

'Isn't it about time we had lunch?'

'Before I had the operation I could hardly walk.'

'On Saturday we're having a party.'

'If it's sunny we could have a picnic.'

(or esp. AmE **take**) 'It only takes me a minute to have a shower.'

'Why do we have to take so many tests?'

'Don't forget to take your medicine.'

'He refuses to take sleeping pills.'

'The last test I took was a disaster.'

'I had to make a big effort not to laugh.'

'It was the first journey he'd made all on his own.'

'He has made a serious mistake.'

'How can one small child make so much noise?'

'I made very little progress at the start of the course.'

'Don't worry, Tim. Just do your best.'

'The storm did a lot of damage to the crops.'

'Have you done your exercises today?'

'To do this experiment, you'll need two eggs.'

'The holiday has done him a lot of good.'

'A scandal would do his reputation a lot of harm.'

'Have you done your homework yet?'

'I've got one or two jobs to do this evening.'

'Jake has gone into town to do some shopping.'

'We need to do a lot more research.'

'We've done lots of different things today.'

'Where did you do your training?'

Note also: **do something/anything** etc. 'I can't come now – I'm doing something.' 'He hasn't done anything wrong.'

- 2 ✕ That is why we still doubt about beings existing in outer space.
 ✓ **That is why we still have doubts about beings existing in outer space.**

have (your) doubts about (doing) sth = feel unsure whether something is true or the right thing to do: 'We have our doubts about sending Kevin to a boarding school.' 'Any doubts she'd had about marrying him soon disappeared.'

- 3 ? I doubt that she is telling the truth.
 ✓ **I doubt whether she is telling the truth.**

When **doubt** is used to express certainty or near certainty, it is usually followed by a **that**-clause: 'There's no doubt that he's innocent.' 'I've no doubt that he's innocent.' 'I'm in little doubt that he's innocent.' 'I don't doubt that he's innocent.' In this meaning, **doubt** is used with a negative word, e.g. **not/no/little/not much**.

When **doubt** means 'think that something is unlikely', it is usually followed by **if/whether**: 'I doubt whether he's innocent.' (= I think that he is probably guilty) 'She doubts whether she'll be able to come on Sunday.'

Note that some people may also say 'I doubt that he's innocent', but careful users regard this as incorrect.

- 4 ? There is no doubt that she doesn't want the job.

 ✓ **She obviously doesn't want the job.**

 ? There is no doubt that most parents are willing to spend a lot of money on their child's education.

 ✓ **Most parents are willing to spend a lot of money on their child's education.**

There is no doubt that is usually used in formal styles when you want to persuade someone that what you are saying is true: 'There is no doubt that the present government has lost a great deal of support.'

This phrase is sometimes used when a 'lighter' expression (e.g. **of course, obviously, clearly, certainly, needless to say**) or nothing at all would be more natural.

- 5 ✕ It is no doubt that the rich have a great advantage.

 ✓ **There is no doubt that the rich have a great advantage.**

there is no doubt that (NOT it is ...): 'There is no doubt that the number of casualties would have escalated had it not been for UN intervention.'

- 6 ✕ Without doubt you're tired after your journey.

 ✓ **No doubt you're tired after your journey.**

 ✕ The recovery of the Mary Rose is, no doubt, a great scientific achievement.

 ✓ **The recovery of the Mary Rose is, without doubt, a great scientific achievement.**

without doubt = 'I firmly believe this to be true': 'He is without doubt one of the greatest composers the world has ever known.'

no doubt = 'I expect' or 'I suppose': 'No doubt you could do with a drink.' 'They will no doubt be writing to us again.'

- 7 ✕ Another reason for getting married is without doubt to have children.

- ✓ **Another reason for getting married of course is to have children.**

Use **without doubt** with opinions and judgements: 'She is without doubt one of the kindest women you'll ever meet.'

When you mention a fact or something that is generally agreed, use **of course**: 'Mrs Thatcher is no longer in charge, of course.'

- downstairs** x I ran to downstairs and picked up the telephone.
 ✓ **I ran downstairs and picked up the telephone.**
 x The dining room and kitchen are in the downstairs.
 ✓ **The dining room and kitchen are downstairs.**

Downstairs and **upstairs** are usually adverbs and are not used with **to/in/at** etc: 'The bathroom is upstairs.' 'I ran upstairs to see what all the noise was about.'

dozen See Language Note at **HUNDRED**

- drama** x After the meal, we went to see a drama at the Cambridge Theatre.
 ✓ **After the meal, we went to see a play at the Cambridge Theatre.**

drama (uncountable) = a type of literature consisting of plays in general, or a particular group of plays: 'She has always been interested in music and drama.' 'Elizabethan drama is too bloodthirsty for my liking.'

play (countable) = a dramatic performance by actors in a theatre or on the radio/television; a piece of literature that has been written for actors to perform in a theatre etc: 'The film is a clever adaptation of Alan Ayckbourn's popular play.' 'The critics have generally been surprised by this play, which was written to be performed without props or scenery.'

Note that **drama** is sometimes used as a countable noun to refer to a specific type of play: 'We were expecting to see a comedy, not a serious drama.' When you simply mean 'a dramatic performance' (as opposed to a musical/ballet/opera etc), use **play**.

- dream** x I have always dreamed to visit America.
 ✓ **I have always dreamed of visiting America.**

dream of doing sth = think about something pleasant that you would like to happen: 'As a child, I used to dream of becoming a famous actress and living in a big house in Hollywood.'

- dress 1** x It took me half an hour to dress the kimono.
 ✓ **It took me half an hour to put on the kimono.**
 See Language Note at **WEAR**

- 2** x I had a shower and began to dress myself.
 ✓ **I had a shower and began to get dressed.**
 See Language Note at **WEAR**

- 3** x At work I have to dress a dark blue suit.
 ✓ **At work I have to wear a dark blue suit.**
 See Language Note at **WEAR**

- 4** x You should see the children's faces when we dress ourselves as clowns.

- ✓ **You should see the children's faces when we dress up as clowns.**

See Language Note at WEAR

- 5
- ✗ She was dressed with a white blouse and blue skirt.
 - ✓ **She was dressed in a white blouse and blue skirt.**
 - ✗ Everybody was dressed with their smartest clothes.
 - ✓ **Everybody was (dressed) in their smartest clothes.**

See Language Note at WEAR

- dress up 1**
- ✗ I dressed up quickly and rushed out of the house.
 - ✓ **I got dressed quickly and rushed out of the house.**

See Language Note at WEAR

- 2
- ✗ Even though they don't have much money, their children are always dressed up smartly.
 - ✓ **Even though they don't have much money, their children are always smartly dressed.**

See Language Note at WEAR

drive

See AGAINST

- drown 1**
- ✗ Nobody knows why the ship drowned.
 - ✓ **Nobody know why the ship sank.**

See note at SINK

- 2
- ✗ The boy was nearly drown.
 - ✓ **The boy was drowning.**
 - ✗ A man jumped into the river to save her from being drown.
 - ✓ **A man jumped into the river to save her from drowning.**

drown (verb) = die by being under the water and unable to breathe: 'Help him! He's drowning!' 'The lifeguard got to him too late. He had already drowned.' 'She keeps away from the water because she's afraid of drowning.'

drunken

- ✗ The man was obviously drunken.
- ✓ **The man was obviously drunk.**
- ✗ One of the two drunken men shouted at me.
- ✓ **One of the two drunks shouted at me.**

Drunken is rarely used to describe a person. It usually describes an action or event: 'drunken driving', 'drunken laughter', 'a drunken brawl', 'a drunken orgy'. The exception is 'drunken drivers' (usually **drunk drivers** in AmE). **Drunken** always comes before a noun.

To describe a person, use **drunk** (NOT **drunken**): 'I think he wanted to get us all drunk.' 'One of the students was always getting drunk.' **Drunk** is not used before a noun.

When you mean 'a person who is drunk', use **a drunk**: 'A couple of drunks were causing a disturbance.'

dull

- ✗ If I did the same thing every day, I would be dull.
- ✓ **If I did the same thing every day, I would be bored.**
- ? It was such a dull job that I decided to leave.
- ✓ **It was such a boring job that I decided to leave.**

When **dull** is used to describe a person, it means 'slow to learn or understand': 'He was one of the dullest students I'd ever taught.'
Both **dull** and **boring** can mean 'uninteresting' but in this sense **dull** usually describes a lecture, book, film etc: 'The lecture was so dull that some of the students got up and left.'

bored = tired and uninterested: 'bored students'

boring = causing someone to be tired and uninterested: 'a boring lesson'

during 1

- x After the accident, I had to stay in hospital during three months.
- ✓ **After the accident, I had to stay in hospital for three months.**
- x It is difficult to concentrate during such a long time.
- ✓ **It is difficult to concentrate for such a long time.**

During answers the question 'When?': 'During her stay here, she made a lot of good friends.'

For answers the question 'How long?': 'I've been learning English for two years.' 'We've been waiting here for almost an hour.'

2

- x My uncle has known me during all my life.
- ✓ **My uncle has known me all my life.**
- x The baby cried during all night long.
- ✓ **The baby cried all night long.**

When a phrase saying 'how long' begins with **all**, there is no preposition: 'It rained all night.' 'He's been in bed all day.'

3

- x During waiting for the train, I met an old friend of mine.
- ✓ **While waiting for the train, I met an old friend of mine.**
- x This was my biggest problem during I was living in the United States.
- ✓ **This was my biggest problem while I was living in the United States.**

See note at WHILE 1

dust

- x People eventually get ill from breathing in all the dusts and smoke.
- ✓ **People eventually get ill from breathing in all the dust and smoke.**

Dust is an uncountable noun: 'The house hadn't been lived in for a long time and the furniture was covered in dust.'