

# Ff

## face 1

- ✗ The house faces to a very busy road.
- ✓ **The house faces a very busy road.**
- ✗ It faces to the Gulf of Mexico.
- ✓ **It faces the Gulf of Mexico.**

**face sb/sth** (WITHOUT to): 'The apartments facing the sea are more expensive.' 'They stood facing each other, but neither of them spoke.'

## 2

- ✗ We now face with a totally different situation.
- ✓ **We now face a totally different situation.**
- ✓ **We are now faced with a totally different situation.**

**face** a fact, problem or situation (WITHOUT with/up): 'You'll have to face the problem sooner or later.' 'As a result of the drought, the people will face food shortages.' 'If found guilty, he faces life imprisonment.'

**be faced with/by**: 'As a police officer, I'm often faced with the task of breaking bad news to relatives.'

## 3

- ✗ I didn't like the silly smile in his face.
- ✓ **I didn't like the silly smile on his face.**
- ✗ She always wears a lot of make-up in her face.
- ✓ **She always wears a lot of make-up on her face.**

Someone has something **on their face** (NOT in): 'You look like a ghost with all that powder on your face.' 'I could see from the look on her face that she wasn't interested.'

## 4

- ✗ These problems are just two faces of the same coin.
- ✓ **These problems are just two sides of the same coin.**

**two sides of the same coin** (= two ways of looking at the same situation): 'Unemployment and social unrest are basically two sides of the same coin.'

## fact 1

- ✗ In my own country, Saudi Arabia, in fact the government faces many problems.
- ✓ **In my own country, Saudi Arabia, the government faces many problems.**

See Language Note opposite

## 2

- ✗ 'Is the operation really necessary?' – 'Well, in fact, if he doesn't have it, he could die.'
- ✓ **'Is the operation really necessary?' – 'Well, the fact is (that) if he doesn't have it, he could die.'**

See Language Note opposite

## 3

- ✗ These advertisements are misleading. As a matter of fact, you have to pay for everything in the end.

## IN FACT • AS A MATTER OF FACT • THE FACT IS (THAT) • ACTUALLY

- To develop a previous statement, you usually use **in fact** or **as a matter of fact**:

The winter of 1940 was very bad. In fact, most people say it was the worst winter they had ever experienced.

Martin doesn't like his new job. As a matter of fact, he's thinking of leaving.

- Do not use **in fact** or **as a matter of fact** in general or introductory statements:

In the last two decades advances in technology have changed the face of industry. (NOT 'have in fact changed')

- To correct what someone thinks or supposes, use **in fact**, **as a matter of fact** or **actually**:

'He's a friend of yours, isn't he?' 'No, he isn't. As a matter of fact, I've just met him.'

People think they've got lots of money, but in fact they're quite poor.'

'I'm sorry to have kept you waiting.' 'Well actually I've only just arrived.'

- Use **the fact is (that)** to introduce your main point, especially when this explains the real truth about a particular situation:

'I'm not surprised that he's looking worried. The fact is (that) he's been spending more than he earns.'

'We don't really want to go but the fact is (that) we don't have any choice.'

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✓ These advertisements are misleading. **The fact is (that) you have to pay for everything in the end.**

✗ Even if you feel nervous, don't show it. As a matter of fact, the horse will soon sense it if you are afraid.

✓ **Even if you feel nervous, don't show it. The fact is (that) the horse will soon sense it if you are afraid.**

See Language Note above

4

✗ On the other hand, I agree to the fact that laws are necessary.

✓ **On the other hand, I accept the fact that laws are necessary.**

✗ I agree with the fact that politics and ecology will never go hand in hand.

✓ **I accept the fact that politics and ecology will never go hand in hand.**

**accept/appreciate the fact that ... (NOT agree to/with the fact that ...):** 'I appreciate the fact that funds are limited.'

factory 1

✗ The wheat is collected and sent to the flour factory.

✓ **The wheat is collected and sent to the flour mill.**

✗ The brick factory was closed down during the recession.

✓ **The brick works was closed down during the recession.**

✗ Just outside the town there is a large chemical factory.

✓ **Just outside the town there is a large chemical plant.**

See Language Note at INDUSTRY

2

✗ They intend to build either a sports centre or a factory of shoes.

✓ **They intend to build either a sports centre or a shoe factory.**

Put **factory** after the thing that is produced: 'a bottle factory', 'a clothing factory'.

## fail

See note at EXAM/EXAMINATION 2

## faithfully

See YOURS

## fall 1

- ✕ This problem has been caused by a fall of the birth rate.  
 ✓ **This problem has been caused by a fall in the birth rate.**  
**a fall in** an amount, rate, level, standard etc: 'Sharp falls in house prices have renewed the interest of the first-time buyer.'

## 2

See GROUND 6

## fall down 1

- ✕ She looked at me with tears falling down from her eyes.  
 ✓ **She looked at me with tears falling from her eyes.**  
 ✕ We sat there watching the leaves falling down from the trees.  
 ✓ **We sat there watching the leaves falling from the trees.**

To refer to the natural downward movement of rain, snow, tears, leaves etc, use **fall** (WITHOUT **down**): 'The rain began to fall more heavily.'



- ✕ One of the horses suddenly stopped and the rider fell down.  
 ✓ **One of the horses suddenly stopped and the rider fell off.**

**fall off** a chair, ladder, bicycle, horse, etc: 'One minute she was sitting on the edge of the chair and the next minute she'd fallen off.' 'If you fall off the ladder, try not to spill the paint.'

## familiarize

- ✕ I would like to familiarize with the latest teaching methods.  
 ✓ **I would like to familiarize myself with the latest teaching methods.**

See Language Note at MYSELF

## fantastic

- ✕ The shops in London are very fantastic.  
 ✓ **The shops in London are absolutely fantastic.**

See note at VERY 2

## fantasy

- ✕ Were the voices real or just products of his fantasy?  
 ✓ **Were the voices real or just products of his imagination?**

**fantasy** = a picture in the mind produced by the imagination, especially one which is very different from reality: 'He lived in a world of fantasy.'  
**imagination** = (the part of the mind with) the ability to produce mental pictures: 'Unlike adults, young children are usually full of imagination.'  
 'His paintings show great technical skill but a lack of imagination.'

## far 1

- ✕ Singapore is far from London.  
 ✓ **Singapore is a long way from London.**  
 ✕ 'It's far to the nearest garage,' she said.  
 ✓ **'It's a long way to the nearest garage,' she said.**

**Far** is mainly used in questions and negative sentences: 'How far is it to the station?' 'Oxford isn't far from London.' 'It's not far.'

In affirmative sentences, people usually say a **long way**: 'Their house is a long way from the town centre.'

**Far** is used in affirmative sentences only when it appears in phrases such as **too far**, **quite far** or **far away**: 'I suggest you take the bus - it's too far to walk.'

- 2
- ✗ When the bomb exploded, everyone tried to get as far as possible.
  - ✓ **When the bomb exploded, everyone tried to get as far away as possible.**

A place that is a long distance from another place is **far away**: 'Her children all live far away, but they still manage to visit her.'

- 3
- ✗ My village is about 10 minutes far away from Ayia Napa.
  - ✓ **My village is about 10 minutes (away) from Ayia Napa.**

**Far** cannot be used after a unit of distance. Compare: 'The house is rather far from the school.' (WITHOUT unit of distance) 'The house is about two kilometres (away) from the school.' (WITH unit of distance)

## Far East

See MIDDLE EAST

- farm**
- ✗ I'd like to stay in a farm where you can eat homemade food.
  - ✓ **I'd like to stay on a farm where you can eat homemade food.**
- You live/work/stay **on a farm** (NOT in): 'I wouldn't like to work on a farm during the winter.'

- fascinated**
- ✗ I was very fascinated by the speed with which they worked.
  - ✓ **I was (absolutely) fascinated by the speed with which they worked.**

See note at VERY 2

- fat**
- ✗ His wife is a little bit too fat.
  - ✓ **His wife is slightly overweight.**
  - ✗ He's got very fat since we last saw each other.
  - ✓ **He's put on a lot of weight since we last saw each other.**

In western society being fat is considered to be unattractive. The word **fat** is common but it is not polite. To say the same thing in a less direct way, use words such as **overweight** (weighing more than is normal), **plump** (having a pleasantly rounded shape), **chubby** (to describe babies and children), **stout** (short and rather fat), or **large/big**: 'Large people sometimes have difficulty finding fashionable clothes to fit them.' Another way to avoid **fat** is to use a phrase such as **put on weight** or **(have) a weight problem**: 'He's worried about his weight problem.'

- fault 1**
- ✗ I apologize for our fault and will send you a full refund.
  - ✓ **I apologize for our mistake and will send you a full refund.**
  - ✗ If you have time, could you correct the faults in this letter for me?
  - ✓ **If you have time, could you correct the mistakes in this letter for me?**

Use **fault** in connection with machines, electrical equipment, and someone's character: 'It sounds like there's a fault in one of the loudspeakers.' 'The secret of a successful relationship is to accept each other's faults.'

In connection with spellings, essays, calculations, decisions, etc, use **mistake**: 'There are always a lot of mistakes in Ivan's work.' 'We all make mistakes.'

- 2
- ✗ Since we have the fault, we will not charge you for the dress.
  - ✓ **Since it is our fault, we will not charge you for the dress.**
  - ✓ **Since we are to blame, we will not charge you for the dress.**

If you are responsible for something bad that has happened, it is **your fault** or **you are to blame**: 'It's not my fault that the car ran out of petrol.' 'The inquiry will try to establish who is to blame for the disaster.'

**favour**

- X I am totally in favour with the proposal.
- ✓ **I am totally in favour of the proposal.**
- X We are going to vote in favour to its construction.
- ✓ **We are going to vote in favour of its construction.**

**in favour of**: 'Even the producer argued in favour of an 18 rating for the film.'

**favourable**

- X We are not favourable to nuclear weapons.
- ✓ **We are not in favour of nuclear weapons.**

**favourable** = expressing approval or encouragement, or saying what someone wants to hear: 'a favourable report', 'a favourable reply'

**be in favour of** = support or approve of: 'Most UN delegates are in favour of the new peace plan.'

**favourite**

- X My most favourite drink is lemonade.
- ✓ **My favourite drink is lemonade.**

An adjective which contains the sense 'most' as part of its meaning cannot be used with **most**. **Favourite** means 'most preferred'.

**fear 1**

- X Then I heard the voice again and I had fear.
- ✓ **Then I heard the voice again and I was afraid.**
- X I had fear of being alone.
- ✓ **I was afraid of being alone.**
- X She suddenly felt fear.
- ✓ **She suddenly felt afraid.**

**be/feel afraid/frightened/scared** (NOT **feel/have fear**): 'Don't be afraid. The dog won't hurt you.' 'There's nothing to be scared of.'

Compare: **have a fear of sth** (= be afraid of something for a long time or all your life): 'I've always had a fear of heights.'

**2**

- X I don't go swimming because I fear of the water.
- ✓ **I don't go swimming because I am afraid of the water.**
- ✓ **I don't go swimming because of my fear of the water.**
- X He fears to lose his job.
- ✓ **He is afraid of losing his job.**
- ✓ **His fear is that he may lose his job.**
- ✓ **He fears that he may lose his job.**

**Fear** is used mainly as a noun: 'My worst fear is that I won't be able to have children.' 'The whole of his life has been dominated by fear of failure.'

As a verb, **fear** is used mainly in formal styles to mean 'be frightened about what may happen if you do something': 'Government officials fear that if they put up taxes, they may lose the election.' 'The rescuers feared that the remains of the building might collapse on top of them.'

**3**

- X All these problems make me fear about the children's future.
- ✓ **All these problems make me fear for the children's future.**

**fear for** = be worried about the safety or well-being of someone: 'The parents of the kidnapped child did not inform the police because they feared for her safety.'

- 4 ☐ It took me a long time to overcome my fear to fly.  
☒ **It took me a long time to overcome my fear of flying.**  
**fear of (doing) sth:** 'I have never been able to get over my fear of heights.'

- fee 1** ☐ I didn't know that there would be a delivery fee.  
☒ **I didn't know that there would be a delivery charge.**  
 See Language Note at PRICE

- 2 ☐ We'd like some information about the types of room available and the hotel fees.  
☒ **We'd like some information about the types of room available and the hotel rates.**  
 See Language Note at PRICE

- 3 ☐ If you hire a television, there is a monthly fee to pay.  
☒ **If you hire a television, there is a monthly rental to pay.**  
 See Language Note at PRICE

- feel 1** ☐ He is feeling that they have made a big mistake.  
☒ **He feels that they have made a big mistake.**  
 See Language Note at CONTAIN

- 2 ☐ I woke up the next day feeling terribly.  
☒ **I woke up the next day feeling terrible.**  
**Feel** is followed by an adjective (NOT an adverb): 'Does anyone feel hungry?' 'We all felt disappointed.'  
 Other verbs that are followed by an adjective include **be, look, seem, smell, sound, taste**: 'You look cold.' 'That piano sounds terrible.'

- 3 ☐ She says that she feels herself trapped in the job.  
☒ **She says that she feels trapped in the job.**  
 See Language Note at MYSELF

- feel like 1** ☐ In some places you feel like in a jungle.  
☒ **In some places you feel like you are in a jungle.**  
**Feel like** (and **feel as if/though**) are followed by a clause: 'I felt as if everyone was staring at me.' (= It seemed as if ...)

- 2 See HOW 1

- feeling 1** ☐ The meeting provided a good opportunity for her to express her feeling.  
☒ **The meeting provided a good opportunity for her to express her feelings.**  
**feelings** (plural) = what you think or feel about something: 'My own feelings are that the marriage won't last more than a year.' 'Why does he always try to hide his feelings?'

- 2 ☐ As it got colder, my fingers lost feeling.  
☒ **As it got colder, my fingers went numb.**  
**go numb** = (of a part of your body) lose the ability to feel anything: 'While we were waiting for my jaw to go numb, the dentist told me about his holiday.'

## feet 1

- X In front of them was a six-feet wall.
  - ✓ **In front of them was a six-foot wall.**
- See Language Note at HUNDRED

## 2

- X It shouldn't take more than ten minutes by feet to reach the underground.
  - ✓ **It shouldn't take more than ten minutes on foot to reach the underground.**
- See FOOT

## fellow 1

- X That afternoon my fellows and I were at a swimming pool where there was a party going on.
- ✓ **That afternoon my friends and I were at a swimming pool where there was a party going on.**

**fellow** = (informal) a man or person: 'The new manager seems a pleasant enough sort of fellow.'

**your fellow students/workers** = the people that you study or work with: 'I soon got to know my fellow students and made one or two good friends.'

**friend** = a person that you like and enjoy being with: 'I'm having lunch with a friend of mine.'

## 2

- X My boss started to shout at me in front of all my fellows.
- ✓ **My boss started to shout at me in front of all my workmates.**

To refer to someone you know because you work at the same place, use **workmate** or (especially of people in professional jobs) **colleague**: 'The police are questioning the missing woman's relatives and workmates.' 'I'd like you to meet a colleague of mine, Jean Armstrong.'

## female

- X Most females want to continue their careers after marriage.
- ✓ **Most women want to continue their careers after marriage.**
- X In 1992 she won the female marathon in Athens.
- ✓ **In 1992 she won the women's marathon in Athens.**

**Female** is used mainly in scientific or technical styles: 'The male birds are usually more colourful than the females.' 'The female butterfly does not require additional salts.'

**Female** is sometimes used to refer to a woman or girl, but many people find this use of the word offensive.

## fetch 1

- X She has already packed all her belongings and I just have to fetch them to her new flat.
- ✓ **She has already packed all her belongings and I just have to take them to her new flat.**

See Language Note at TAKE

## 2

- X I'll come and fetch you at the airport.
- ✓ **I'll come and fetch/collect you from the airport.**
- ✓ **I'll come and pick you up at the airport.**

See Language Note at TAKE

## fever

- X I'd caught a cold and had a high fever.
- ✓ **I'd caught a cold and had a high temperature.**

When someone feels rather ill and their body is hotter than usual, they have a **(high) temperature**: 'I feel as if I've got a temperature.' 'She's in bed with a high temperature.'

A **fever** usually refers to a (dangerously) high body temperature, or the disease that produces this: 'In the steaming jungle he had contracted a fever.' 'It seemed as if the fever would shake him to pieces.'

## few 1

- ✗ With the few money he had been given, he bought an apple and some cheese.
- ✓ **With the little money he had been given, he bought an apple and some cheese.**

**Few** is used with plural countable nouns: 'very few cars'.

**Little** is used with uncountable nouns: 'very little traffic'.

Compare: 'He had very little money, just a few coins.'

## 2

- ✗ Few minutes later the sales manager arrived.
  - ✓ **A few minutes later the sales manager arrived.**
- a few = not many: 'I saw her just a few days ago.'
- few = hardly any: 'Few people die of smallpox nowadays.'

## fight

- ✗ They spent the whole night fighting against the fire.
- ✓ **They spent the whole night fighting the fire.**
- ✗ Why were the boys fighting against each other?
- ✓ **Why were the boys fighting each other?**

When you are talking about an event or something that lasts only a short time, use **fight sb/sth** (WITHOUT **against**): 'He said he would fight anyone who tried to stop him.' 'The best way to fight a cold is to get plenty of sleep.'

You can use either **fight sb/sth** or **fight against sb/sth** when you are talking about a long struggle to overcome things such as poverty, disease, injustice or oppression: 'The ANC has spent half a century fighting (against) racism.' 'The group was founded in 1983 to fight (against) the military regime.'

## fill

- ✗ You'll have to fill an application form.
- ✓ **You'll have to fill in an application form.**

**fill in/out** a form, coupon etc: 'To open a new account, you have to fill in an application form.' 'Remember to fill out the counterfoil.'

**fill in** an empty space on a form, coupon etc: 'Just fill in Section A.'

**fill in** details on a form: 'Fill in your name and address and then sign the form at the bottom.'

Note that **fill out** is more common in American English.

## filled with

- ✗ My shoes were filled with water so I took them off.
- ✓ **My shoes were full of water so I took them off.**
- ✗ The eight o'clock train is usually filled with office workers.
- ✓ **The eight o'clock train is usually full of office workers.**

**be filled with** = containing so many or so much that there is no empty space left: 'The first drawer was filled with neat piles of shirts.' 'The front page is filled with the most important news items.'

**be full of** = (1) containing a large number or amount: 'The kitchen was full of flies.' 'The essay was full of mistakes.' (2) be filled with: 'The kettle was full of boiling water.'

## finally

- ? It was difficult to understand people for a long time but finally I got used to their accent.
- ✓ **It was difficult to understand people for a long time but eventually I got used to their accent.**

See Language Note at END

## find 1

- ✗ I'd like to find why nobody likes me.
- ✓ **I'd like to find out why nobody likes me.**
- ✗ The doctors are trying to find what is wrong with him.
- ✓ **The doctors are trying to find out what is wrong with him.**

**find** = discover something by chance or by looking for it: 'Did you ever find the sunglasses you lost?' 'I can't find my comb. Have you seen it anywhere?'

**find out** = get information about something that you want to know: 'He's gone to find out which gate the plane leaves from.' 'I think we should find out exactly what's missing before we start accusing people.'

## 2

- ✗ Nurses find very difficult to start a family while they are working.
- ✓ **Nurses find it very difficult to start a family while they are working.**

**find + it + easy/difficult/impossible to do sth**: 'I find it hard to concentrate when I'm hungry.' 'You might find it interesting to spend a few hours at the museum.'

## find out

- ✗ Looking through the magazine, I found out several interesting articles.
- ✓ **Looking through the magazine, I came across several interesting articles.**
- ✗ If you find out her address, would you please send it to me?
- ✓ **If you come across her address, would you please send it to me?**

**find out** = see note at FIND 1

**come across** = find or meet someone or something by chance: 'While cleaning out the drawers I came across my old school tie.' 'You'll never guess who I came across in the high street today.'

## fine

- ✗ 'Hello, John. How are you?' 'Very fine, thank you.'
  - ✓ **'Hello, John. How are you?' 'Fine, thank you.'**
- When **fine** means 'very well', it is not used with **very** or **extremely**.  
See note at VERY 2

## fire 1

- ✗ If there is a gas leak, the house could go on fire.
- ✓ **If there is a gas leak, the house could catch fire.**
- ✗ One of the curtains became on fire.
- ✓ **One of the curtains caught fire.**

**catch fire**: 'One of the engines had overheated and caught fire.'

## 2

- ✗ Eventually, the fire went off and the room got colder.
- ✓ **Eventually, the fire went out and the room got colder.**

**go out** = (of a coal fire, cigarette, candle etc) stop burning: 'The problem with cigars is that they keep going out.'

## first

- ✗ At first, I would like to introduce myself.
  - ✓ **First of all, I would like to introduce myself.**
  - ✗ There are four points that I would like to make about the college. At first, there are not enough club activities...
  - ✓ **There are four points that I would like to make about the college. Firstly, there are not enough club activities...**
- See Language Note opposite

## FIRST • FIRST OF ALL • AT FIRST • IN/AT THE BEGINNING

### first, firstly and first of all

**first** **First**, **firstly** and **first of all** introduce the first item in a list or sequence. The next item is normally introduced by **then** or **first of all** **second/secondly**: 'First, open all the windows. Then turn off the gas and, if necessary, call an ambulance.' 'These new computers have several advantages. First of all, they're faster than the older machines. Secondly, they're far easier to use. And thirdly, they're more reliable.'  
**at first** **At first** introduces a situation which is in contrast with a later situation (after a change has taken place): 'At first I didn't like the climate, but after two years I got used to it.'

### in the beginning

Like **at first**, **in the beginning** introduces a situation which is in contrast with a later situation. However, **in the beginning** is less common and suggests that the speaker is looking a long way back into the past to the period of time immediately after something began: 'In the beginning, when the first settlers arrived, law and order didn't exist.'

### at the beginning

**At the beginning** refers to (1) the point in time when something begins: 'At the beginning of each lesson there is usually a revision exercise.'

(2) the place where something begins: 'At the beginning of the novel there is a long description of the farm where Daniel was born and grew up.'

Unlike **in the beginning**, **at the beginning** is usually followed by **of**: 'at the beginning of the week/holiday/film'.

See also Language Note at END

### firstly

- ✗ I went and sat next to him. Firstly, I didn't speak. I just sat there wondering what I could say. Then I said, 'Nice day, isn't it?'
  - ✓ **I went and sat next to him. At first, I didn't speak. I just sat there wondering what I could say. Then I said, 'Nice day, isn't it?'**
  - ✗ Firstly, I couldn't understand the local people at all.
  - ✓ **At first, I couldn't understand the local people at all.**
- See Language Note above

### fish

- ✗ I had never seen such brightly coloured fishes before.
  - ✓ **I had never seen such brightly coloured fish before.**
- The plural form of **fish** is usually **fish**: 'Did you catch any fish?' 'The fish in the market are always fresh.'
- The plural form **fishes** is used mainly in stories for small children and in scientific or technical styles (to refer to different species of fish).

### fit 1

- ✗ You should see a doctor or specialist to find out which type of diet will fit you.
- ✓ **You should see a doctor or specialist to find out which type of diet will suit you.**

- ✗ A school like Summerhill will not fit for everybody.  
 ✓ **A school like Summerhill will not suit everybody.**

**fit** = (of clothes, shoes, rings etc) be the correct size and shape for you: 'These trousers don't fit me any more.' 'The next size up should fit.'  
**suit** = be suitable: 'Try and choose a career that suits you.' 'You should buy a dictionary that suits your needs, not just any one.'

- 2 ✗ Of course you will need some old paintings to fit the furniture.  
 ✓ **Of course you will need some old paintings to match the furniture.**

**match** (or **go with**) = (of clothes, soft furnishings etc) look good when seen together: 'We chose a dark green carpet to go with our yellow curtains.' 'I can't wear blue shoes with a black skirt - they don't match.'

- 3 ✗ A little exercise will help you to keep in fit.  
 ✓ **A little exercise will help you to keep fit.**  
**keep fit** (WITHOUT in): 'She keeps fit by jogging five miles every day.'  
 Compare: 'Cycling to work helps me to keep in shape.'

- floor 1** ✗ I was just about to enter the station when someone grabbed me by the shoulders and threw me to the floor.  
 ✓ **I was just about to enter the station when someone grabbed me by the shoulders and threw me to the ground.**

See Language Note at GROUND

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- 2 ✗ The fire started at the seventh floor.  
 ✓ **The fire started on the seventh floor.**  
 ✗ Room 229 was in the second floor.  
 ✓ **Room 229 was on the second floor.**

**on the ground/first/second etc floor** (NOT in/at): 'The canteen is downstairs, on the ground floor.'

- flu** ✗ I think I have caught a flu.  
 ✓ **I think I have caught (the) flu.**  
**flu** or **the flu** (NOT a flu): 'They are both off work with flu.' 'Even our doctor is down with the flu.'

- follow** ✗ You can go in your own car or follow me.  
 ✓ **You can go in your own car or come with me.**  
**Follow** means 'move in the same direction as someone or something that is moving in front of you': 'I have a feeling that the car behind is following us.'

- food** ✗ The child was caught stealing foods.  
 ✓ **The child was caught stealing food.**  
 ✗ It is a disgrace to serve such a poor food.  
 ✓ **It is a disgrace to serve such poor food.**  
**Food** is nearly always uncountable: 'We need to go out and buy some food.' It is countable only when it refers to a particular kind of food: 'baby foods', 'health foods'.

## fool

- ✗ I was fool to believe him.
- ✓ **I was a fool to believe him.**
- ✓ **I was foolish to believe him.**

**Fool** is a countable noun and refers to a person: 'She thinks I'm a fool for lending him the money.'

The adjective is **foolish**: 'You were right. It was foolish of me to lend him the money.' 'This foolish idea could ruin everything.'

## foot

- ✗ Whenever there is a strike, we have to go to work by foot.
- ✓ **Whenever there is a strike, we have to go to work on foot.**

**go/travel** (somewhere) **by car/bus/train/air** BUT **on foot**: 'We left the car at the bridge and travelled the rest of the way on foot.'

## for 1

- ✗ I have come to London for learning English.
- ✓ **I have come to London to learn English.**

To explain 'why' someone does something, use a **to**-infinitive (NOT **for**): 'She opened the door to let the cat out.' In formal styles, **in order to** is also possible: 'UN troops have been sent to the trouble spot in order to restore peace.'

## 2

- ✗ I studied in Freiburg for to be a kindergarden teacher.
- ✓ **I studied in Freiburg to be a kindergarden teacher.**
- ✗ Being married makes it easier for to answer this question.
- ✓ **Being married makes it easier to answer this question.**

**For** never comes immediately in front of a **to**-infinitive. Compare: 'It will be difficult for John to say no.' 'The suitcase is too heavy for anyone to carry all that way.' (**for** + sb/sth + **to**-infinitive).

## 3

- ✗ Unemployment has become a serious problem for the last few years.
- ✓ **Unemployment has become a serious problem over the last few years.**

Use **for** to say 'how long': 'He was with the company for forty years.' 'He hasn't eaten anything for the last two days.'

Use **over/during/in** to say 'when', especially when this is a long period of time: 'She's been a great help to me in recent months.' 'During the next ten years he worked his way up from office boy to general manager.'

## 4

- ✗ I'm waiting here for almost an hour.
- ✓ **I've been waiting here for almost an hour.**
- ✗ I didn't do any travelling for the last two years.
- ✓ **I haven't done any travelling for the last two years.**

For actions and situations which began in the past and continue up to 'now' (the moment of speaking), use the present perfect tense: 'I've been working part-time for the last six months.' 'We haven't seen each other for the past eight months.'

Note that in informal American English the past tense is also used for this purpose.

See also **SINCE** 1

## 5

- ✗ I do badly in tests for I am lazy.
- ✓ **I do badly in tests because I am lazy.**

Do not use **for** to mean 'because'. This usage has almost disappeared and is found only in very formal styles.

## forbid 1

? The government should forbid cigarette advertising.

✓ **The government should ban cigarette advertising.**

**ban** (or **prohibit**) = forbid someone from doing something by making it illegal: 'The proposed treaty banning all nuclear testing has received widespread approval.' 'International Law prohibits the use of chemical weapons.'

2

x There should be a law which forbids to have more than two children.

✓ **There should be a law which forbids couples to have/from having more than two children.**

**forbid + sb + to do/from doing sth**: 'My parents have forbidden me to stay out after ten o'clock.' 'Her father ought to forbid her from seeing the boy again.'

## force

x We must not forget Japan's economic force.

✓ **We must not forget Japan's economic power.**

x The sovereign has very little force nowadays.

✓ **The sovereign has very little power nowadays.**

**force** = the use of power or strength: 'The demonstrators were made to leave the building by force.'

**power** = the ability to control people and events: 'I think the police have too much power.'

## foreigner

x Some foreigner students feel homesick.

✓ **Some foreign students feel homesick.**

x In my job I have to speak foreigner languages.

✓ **In my job I have to speak foreign languages.**

**Foreigner** is a noun and refers to a person: 'As a foreigner who had only just arrived in England, I found the phrase 'car boot sale' very confusing.'

The adjective is **foreign**: 'I enjoy visiting foreign countries.' 'His wife teaches English as a foreign language.'

## forever

x Nobody lives forever.

✓ **Nobody lives for ever.**

**forever** = continually; all the time: 'He is forever asking me for more pocket money.'

**for ever** = for always: 'He promised that he would love me for ever and a day.'

## forget

x Would you please check whether I have forgotten a black handbag in Room 21.

✓ **Would you please check whether I have left a black handbag in Room 21.**

If you forget to take something with you, you **leave** it somewhere. Do not use **forget** if you mention a place: 'If the keys aren't in your jacket, you must have left them in the restaurant.' 'I've left all my money at home.'

## fortune

x It was a good fortune that the driver was able to stop in time.

✓ **It was fortunate/lucky that the driver was able to stop in time.**

**Good fortune** is quite rare. It occurs mainly in the phrase **have the good fortune to do sth**: 'He had the good fortune to marry a woman who was both kind and understanding.'

## friendly 1

- ✗ I look forward to hearing from you. Friendly, Leine.  
 ✓ **I look forward to hearing from you. Yours, Leine.**  
 To end a letter to a friend, use **Yours** or **With best wishes** (NOT friendly). See also YOURS 1

2

- ✗ Although I was a stranger, they treated me very friendly.  
 ✓ **Although I was a stranger, the treatment I received was very friendly.**  
 ✓ **Although I was a stranger, they treated me in a very friendly way.**

**Friendly** is an adjective (NOT an adverb): 'Our new neighbours are very friendly.' 'She gave me a friendly smile.'

## frightened

- ✗ When I heard the thunder I frightened for a moment.  
 ✓ **When I heard the thunder I was frightened for a moment.**  
**frighten** (transitive) = make someone afraid: 'Take that silly mask off – you're frightening the baby.'  
**be frightened** = be afraid: 'Don't be frightened. It's only thunder.'

## from 1

- ✗ I have been living in England from last September.  
 ✓ **I have been living in England since last September.**  
 Use **from ... to ...** when you mean 'from one time in the past to another': 'I lived in England from 1986 to 1989.'  
 Use **since** when you mean 'from a time in the past until now': 'I've been standing here since 9 o'clock and not one bus has come along.'

2

- ✗ She asked if I'd seen any plays from Shakespeare.  
 ✓ **She asked if I'd seen any plays by Shakespeare.**  
 a play, novel, painting, etc **by** a writer or artist (NOT **from**): 'The reading passage was from a novel by Anita Brookner.'

3

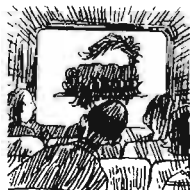
- ✗ It's a short, knee-length coat from white wool.  
 ✓ **It's a short, knee-length coat made of white wool.**  
 See note at MADE

4

See NOW 1

## front

- ✗ The bus stop is outside the post office, in front of the library.  
 ✓ **The bus stop is outside the post office, opposite the library.**  
**in front of** = in a position directly before: 'There was a bus in front of the car and a truck behind it.' 'All I could see was the enormous hat of the woman sitting in front of me.'  
**opposite** = on the other side of the street, room, etc facing: 'The police station is directly opposite the town hall.' 'He looked out of his bedroom window at the house opposite.'



## fruit

- ✗ The shop sells fruits and vegetables.  
 ✓ **The shop sells fruit and vegetables.**  
 ✗ I never buy tinned fruits.  
 ✓ **I never buy tinned fruit.**  
**Fruit** (= fruit in general) is an uncountable noun: 'We eat lots of fruit in our family.' 'Would anyone care for a piece of fruit?' (= an orange, apple, pear etc)  
**Fruits** (= particular types of fruit) is rarely used in British English.

## fully 1

- ✗ The editor said that my letter was too long to be fully published.  
 ✓ **The editor said that my letter was too long to be published in full.**

**fully** = completely: 'a fully equipped kitchen', 'a fully furnished apartment', 'The next three flights to Chicago are fully booked.'

**in full** = without any part missing or removed: 'Your \$100 deposit will be refunded in full.'

## fun 1

- ? A good novel can give you a lot of fun.  
 ✓ **A good novel can give you a lot of pleasure.**

When you are talking about something that provides intellectual or spiritual satisfaction, such as a piano concert or a visit to an art gallery, use **enjoyment/enjoyable** or **pleasure/pleasurable**: 'Reading is her one source of pleasure.' 'We spent an enjoyable afternoon at the art gallery.'

**Fun** is usually used in connection with light-hearted events and activities such as games, picnics, or children's parties: 'John's parties are always great fun.' 'Let's go to the beach and have some fun.'

## 2

- ✗ The game we played was very fun.  
 ✓ **The game we played was a lot of fun.**  
 ✗ College life is not very fun.  
 ✓ **College life is not much fun.**

**Fun** is a noun (NOT an adjective): 'a lot of fun', 'not much fun', 'great fun'

## 3

- ✗ On my birthday I had a good fun with my friends.  
 ✓ **On my birthday I had some good fun with my friends.**  
 ✗ It would be a great fun if we could go together.  
 ✓ **It would be great fun if we could go together.**

See Language Note at SCENERY

## 4

- ✗ While on holiday I made lots of fun.  
 ✓ **While on holiday I had lots of fun.**  
 ✗ I'm sure that you will get a lot of fun here.  
 ✓ **I'm sure that you will have a lot of fun here.**

**have fun**: 'Everyone needs to have a little fun now and again.'

See Language Note at do

## funny 1

- ✗ It will be more funny to go by bus.  
 ✓ **It will be more fun to go by bus.**  
 ✗ We've organized lots of funny activities, including a picnic and a trip to the zoo.

- ✓ **We've organized lots of fun activities, including a picnic and a trip to the zoo.**

Someone or something that is **funny** makes you laugh: 'I always laugh at Jenny's jokes - they're really funny.' 'The funniest part was when her father-in-law sat on the wedding cake.'

Someone or something that is **fun** gives you pleasure or enjoyment: 'The Disneyland trip sounds like a lot of fun.'

## 2

- ✗ The carnival is held once a year and everyone has a funny time.  
 ✓ **The carnival is held once a year and everyone has a good time.**

**have a good time** = enjoy yourself: 'Everyone was dancing and having a good time.'

## furniture

- ✗ The room was so full of furnitures it was difficult to move.  
 ✓ **The room was so full of furniture it was difficult to move.**  
**Furniture** is an uncountable noun: 'We need some new furniture for the lounge.' 'Our showrooms up and down the country stock the latest ideas in bedroom furniture.'

## future

- ✗ In future, when my youngest child has started school, I'd like to get a job.  
 ✓ **In the future, when my youngest child has started school, I'd like to get a job.**  
**in future** = from now on (commonly used in announcements and warnings): 'In future anyone arriving late for class will not be admitted.'  
**in the future** = at some time in the future: 'In the future it is quite possible that a new source of energy will be discovered.'

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