

Ii

I 1

- ✗ I and some of my classmates publish a monthly magazine.
- ✓ **Some of my classmates and I publish a monthly magazine.**
Someone **and I** (NOT **I and** someone): 'My husband and I belong to a diving club.'

2

- ✗ She is one year younger than I.
- ✓ **She is one year younger than I am.**
- ✓ **She is one year younger than me.**
In comparisons use **than me/him/her/us/them** (object pronouns) or **than I am/he is/she is/we are/they are**: 'You're stronger than him.'
'You're stronger than he is.'

idea

- ✗ I had the brilliant idea to invite Sonia to my party.
- ✓ **I had the brilliant idea of inviting Sonia to my party.**
the idea of doing sth: 'She doesn't like the idea of staying in the house on her own.'
Compare: 'It was a good idea to invite Sonia to your party.'

if 1

- ✗ If it will rain, I'll come and meet you in the car.
- ✓ **If it rains, I'll come and meet you in the car.**
See Language Note at WILL

2

See WOULD

3

See DEPEND 3

4

See SO 1

ill 1

- ✗ I am being trained to look after ill children.
- ✓ **I am being trained to look after sick children.**
Ill (= sick) is usually used after a verb: 'I told the doctor that I felt ill.' 'His father is seriously ill in hospital.'
Before a noun, use **sick**: 'Your father is a very sick man.'

2

- ✗ He wanted to be with his son who was badly ill.
- ✓ **He wanted to be with his son who was seriously ill.**
seriously ill (NOT **badly**): 'So far three people have died and five more are seriously ill.'

imaginary

- ✗ People tend to become less imaginary as they grow older.
- ✓ **People tend to become less imaginative as they grow older.**
imaginary = not existing in real life but only in someone's mind: 'This new novel takes the reader on an imaginary journey into space.' 'The

little boy kept firing an imaginary gun at me.'

imaginative = having or showing a powerful imagination: 'She is one of the most imaginative designers of her generation.' 'His paintings tend to be highly imaginative.'

imitate

- ✗ I think I shall imitate my friend and join the club too.
✓ **I think I shall copy my friend and join the club too.**

imitate = do something in exactly the same way that someone else does it: 'Have you heard him trying to imitate an Englishman speaking French?' 'He walks as if he is trying to imitate Donald Duck.'

copy = do the same thing as someone else: 'As soon as I began cycling to work, people started copying me.' 'His little sister wants to copy him all the time.'

immediately

- ✗ 'Let me know immediately she will arrive,' he shouted.
✓ **'Let me know immediately she arrives,' he shouted.**

See Language Note at WILL

2

- ✗ At the airport he began immediately taking photographs.
✓ **At the airport he immediately began taking photographs.**

See Language Note at ALWAYS

immigrate

- ✗ Some of those who can't find a job decide to immigrate.
✓ **Some of those who can't find a job decide to emigrate.**
✗ We're planning to immigrate to the United States next year.
✓ **We're planning to emigrate to the United States next year.**

The verb **immigrate** (= enter a foreign country and make your home there) is seldom used. Instead people tend to use **immigrant** and **immigration** (nouns): 'When jobs became scarce, the number of new immigrants suddenly decreased.' 'Immigration has decreased in recent years.'

emigrate = leave your own country and make your home in another one: 'His parents emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1933.'

impact

- ✗ I doubt whether it will cause an impact on the readers.
✓ **I doubt whether it will have an impact on the readers.**

See Language Note at DO

important

- ✗ He said that money was not important for him.
✓ **He said that money was not important to him.**

If you care or think about something a lot, it is **important to you** (NOT **for**): 'The watch is very important to me because it belonged to my grandmother.' Compare: 'English is very important for my career.'

2

See CAUSE 4, PROBLEM 2

3

See THING 1, 2

impression

- ✗ I decided to change my impression and had all my hair cut short.
✓ **I decided to change my image and had all my hair cut short.**

impression = an opinion or feeling that you have about someone or something, especially after just a short time: 'My impression is that she would make an excellent teacher.' 'He gives the impression of being someone you can trust.'

image = the general picture that you want people to have in their minds when they think of you or your company, organization etc: 'After all the bad publicity, the company needs to improve its image.'

- 2 x My first impression about Californians was very positive.
 ✓ **My first impression of Californians was very positive.**
impression of sb/sth: 'They went back to Japan with very different impressions of what England was like.'

- 3 x He wanted to make a good impression to his girlfriend.
 ✓ **He wanted to make a good impression on his girlfriend.**
make an impression on sb: 'His first priority was to make a favourable impression on the prison warden.'

impulse

- x I hope your trip will provide impulse for the essay you will have to write when you get back.
 ✓ **I hope your trip will provide inspiration for the essay you will have to write when you get back.**

impulse = a sudden desire to do something: 'I had a sudden impulse to walk out of the classroom and never return.' 'It's unwise to act on impulse.'

inspiration = (a source of) creative energy: 'The inspiration for these early poems came from his relationship with Lucy Potter.'

in 1

- x In 1st July we went to Italy by car.
 ✓ **On 1st July we went to Italy by car.**
 x I made an appointment for the following Friday. In that day I got up early so as to have plenty of time.
 ✓ **I made an appointment for the following Friday. On that day I got up early so as to have plenty of time.**

See Language Note at TIME

2

- x I haven't seen any good films in this year.
 ✓ **I haven't seen any good films this year.**
 x There was almost a nuclear disaster in last year.
 ✓ **There was almost a nuclear disaster last year.**
 x We intend to visit the north of England in this summer.
 ✓ **We intend to visit the north of England this summer.**

See Language Note at TIME

3

- x We have 4 classes in a day.
 ✓ **We have 4 classes a day.**
 x They usually work 39 hours in a week.
 ✓ **They usually work 39 hours a week.**
 Expressions of frequency, speed, duration etc do not contain in: 'The shop is open six days a week.' 'He visits his father three times a year.' 'Bananas cost fifty pence a pound.' 'I drove to the hospital at ninety miles an hour.'

4

- x I noticed that nobody cried in the funeral.
 ✓ **I noticed that nobody cried at the funeral.**
 x I'm sorry that I can't be there in the wedding.
 ✓ **I'm sorry that I can't be there at the wedding.**
 (be) **at** an event (Such as a wedding, party, meeting etc NOT in): 'I

didn't expect to see his ex-wife at the party.' 'Will Dr Sirinanda be at the conference.'

- 5
- x I'm a student in the University of Jordan.
 - ✓ **I'm a student at the University of Jordan.**
 - x For the last year I have been studying in the British Council.
 - ✓ **For the last year I have been studying at the British Council.**
(be/study/be a student/teach etc) at (a) college/university etc (NOT in/of): 'His wife teaches chemistry at Bristol University.' 'I'm a Hotel Management student at Henley College.'

- incapable
- x Most small children are incapable to sit still for more than five minutes.
 - ✓ **Most small children are incapable of sitting still for more than five minutes.**
- incapable of doing sth:** 'James is incapable of staying awake after ten o'clock.'

- include 1
- x One of the bottles including the virus had been stolen.
 - ✓ **One of the bottles containing the virus had been stolen.**
 - x Classes should include no more than 20 students.
 - ✓ **Classes should contain no more than 20 students.**
- See Language Note on next page

- 2
- x Milk also includes vitamins.
 - ✓ **Milk also contains vitamins.**
- See Language Note on next page

- 3
- x The poem includes just two short verses.
 - ✓ **The poem consists of just two short verses.**
 - x Education in Jordan includes three stages.
 - ✓ **Education in Jordan consists of three stages.**
- See Language Note on next page

- 4
- x I am including a photograph of myself.
 - ✓ **I am enclosing a photograph of myself.**
- See Language Note on next page

- increase 1
- x I'd like to increase my English.
 - ✓ **I'd like to improve my English.**
 - x We can increase the economic situation by working harder.
 - ✓ **We can improve the economic situation by working harder.**
- increase** = become or make (something) greater in amount, number or degree: 'The government has increased taxes.' 'As their profits increase, the companies expand.' 'The number of words in the language is increasing all the time.'
- improve** = become or make (something) better: 'Efforts are being made to improve the quality of the medical services.'

- 2
- x The government is trying to increase the level of education.
 - ✓ **The government is trying to raise the level of education.**
 - x In Hong Kong the standard of living has increased sharply.
 - ✓ **In Hong Kong the standard of living has risen sharply.**

When you are talking about the **level** or **standard** of something, use **raise/rise** (NOT **increase**): 'The standard of living continues to rise.'

CONTAIN • INCLUDE • ENCLOSE • CONSIST OF • COMPRISE • BE COMPOSED OF • BE MADE UP OF

contain

Use **contain** (1) when you say what a box, bottle, bag etc has inside it: 'The bag contained some old clothes.'
(2) when you mention one or more of the things that something is made of or has in it: 'Water contains hydrogen and oxygen.' 'The film contained a number of violent scenes.'

include

If something **includes** another thing, it has it as one of its parts: 'The holiday package includes a two-day cruise along the Rhine.' 'The price includes a small charge for postage and packing.'

enclose

Use **enclose** when you tell someone what you are putting in the envelope or parcel that you are sending them: 'I'm enclosing a copy of the book review that you asked for.'

consist of comprise (formal) be composed of be made up of

When you mention all the parts that something has in it, use **consist of/comprise/be composed of/be made up of**: 'The book consists of six chapters and a brief introduction.' 'The earth's atmosphere is composed mainly of nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide.' 'The house comprises two bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, and a living room.' 'The US government is made up of two legislative assemblies.' Note that you will sometimes see **comprise** used with **of**. 'This investment scheme is comprised of two separate packages.' Most careful users consider this to be incorrect, preferring: 'This investment scheme comprises two separate packages.'

- 3 ✗ The increase of crime is accelerating.
✓ **The increase in crime is accelerating.**
✗ There has been an increase of the number of cars.
✓ **There has been an increase in the number of cars.**

increase in sth (NOT **of**): 'There's been a sudden increase in political activity.' 'We can expect further increases in the cost of living.'

indeed 1

- ✗ As for his new novel, I think it's worth reading indeed.
✓ **As for his new novel, I think it's certainly worth reading.**
✗ He claims that many young people do not want jobs but this is indeed not the case.
✓ **He claims that many young people do not want jobs but this is certainly not the case.**

Indeed is used (1) to introduce a statement that strengthens a previous point: 'We don't need any more high street banks. Indeed, there are too many already.' (2) to show that you agree with a previous statement or opinion: 'Cancer research has indeed come a long way in recent years.' To strengthen a point or opinion that has not been mentioned before, use **certainly** or **definitely**: 'He doesn't treat his staff very well but he

certainly knows how to make money.' 'The first essay is excellent but the second one definitely doesn't deserve more than a 'C' grade.'

- 2 ☐ I'm afraid that I won't be able to come to your wedding. Indeed, I'm giving a lecture on that day.
 ☒ **I'm afraid that I won't be able to come to your wedding. As it happens, I'm giving a lecture on that day.**

To show that something that you are about to mention is connected by chance with something you have mentioned before, use **as it happens** or **it so happens that**: 'We've just seen a really beautiful house and it so happens that it's for sale.'

- 3 ☐ Secondary students are under great pressure indeed.
 ☒ **Secondary students are under very great pressure indeed.**
 ☐ We all had a good time indeed.
 ☒ **We all had a very good time indeed.**

very + adjective + noun + indeed: 'I thought it was a very clever answer indeed.'

very + adjective/adverb + indeed: 'The quality of the recording is very good indeed.' 'Some of the students did very well.'

- 4 ☐ America is a paradise for young people indeed.
 ☒ **America is indeed a paradise for young people.**

See Language Note at ALWAYS

- independent** ☐ Nowadays young people want to be independent from their parents.
 ☒ **Nowadays young people want to be independent of their parents.**

independent of sb/sth (NOT from): 'Good students soon become independent of their teachers.'

- indoor** ☐ As it was raining we decided to stay indoor.
 ☒ **As it was raining we decided to stay indoors.**

Indoor (WITHOUT s) is an adjective: 'an indoor tennis court', 'indoor athletics'.

Indoors (WITH s) is an adverb: 'I don't like spending the whole day indoors.'

- indoors** ☐ Their new house even has an indoors swimming pool.
 ☒ **Their new house even has an indoor swimming pool.**

See note at INDOOR

- industrious** ☐ The South has fewer industrious areas.
 ☒ **The South has fewer industrial areas.**

industrious = hard-working: 'Neil is indeed a quiet student, but you won't find anyone more industrious.'

industrial = having or connected with major industries: 'We visited some of the country's main industrial areas.' 'The economy has been hit by a series of industrial disputes.'

- industry 1** ☐ The biggest industries in Jakobsberg are Philips and IBM.
 ☒ **The biggest companies in Jakobsberg are Philips and IBM.**
 See Language Note on next page

**COMPANY • FACTORY • INDUSTRY • MILL •
PLANT • WORKS**

company	an organization that makes or sells goods or that sells services: 'My father works for an insurance company.' 'IBM is one of the biggest companies in the electronics industry.'
factory	a place where goods such as furniture, carpets, curtains, clothes, plates, toys, bicycles, sports equipment, drinks and packaged food are produced: 'The company's UK factory produces 500 golf trolleys a week.'
industry	(1) all the people, factories, companies etc involved in a major area of production: 'the steel industry', 'the clothing industry' (2) all industries considered together as a single thing: 'Industry has developed rapidly over the years at the expense of agriculture.'
mill	(1) a place where a particular type of material is made: 'a cotton mill', 'a textile mill', 'a steel mill', 'a paper mill' (2) a place where flour is made from grain: 'a flour mill'
plant	a factory or building where vehicles, engines, weapons, heavy machinery, drugs or industrial chemicals are produced, where chemical processes are carried out, or where power is generated. 'Vauxhall-Opel's UK car plants', 'Honda's new engine plant at Microconcord, Swindon', 'a sewage plant', 'a wood treatment plant', 'ICI's £100m plant', 'the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria'
works	an industrial building where materials such as cement, steel, and bricks are produced, or where industrial processes are carried out: 'The drop in car and van sales has led to redundancies in the country's steel works.'

- 2 ☒ Many industries have been closed because of the recession.
☒ **Many factories have been closed because of the recession.**
☒ There are car industries all over the place.
☒ **There are car factories/plants all over the place.**
 See Language Note above
- 3 ☒ They are demanding that all the nuclear industries are shut down.
☒ **They are demanding that all the nuclear plants are shut down.**
 See Language Note above

- 4 X Another thing that education has changed is the industry.
 ✓ **Another thing that education has changed is industry.**
 X The industry as a whole must become more environmentally friendly.
 ✓ **Industry as a whole must become more environmentally friendly.**

When **industry** means all industries seen together as one thing, it is an uncountable noun: 'She can't decide whether she wants a career in banking or in industry.'

in fact

See Language Note at FACT

infancy

- X Mr Fox had a very difficult infancy.
 ✓ **Mr Fox had a very difficult childhood.**

Infancy (= the period when a child is very young) is used mainly in formal and technical styles: 'In those days, large numbers of children died in infancy.'

To refer to the period when someone is a child, use **childhood**: 'The old photographs brought back memories of my childhood.'

infant

- X I had to stay at home and look after my infants.
 ✓ **I had to stay at home and look after my children.**

Infant (= a baby or very young child) is used mainly in literary and technical styles: 'The infant, cradled in Mariam's arms, began to cry.'

'There are clear differences in temperament and speed of learning among infants at this early stage.'

inferior

- X They still think that women are inferior than men.
 ✓ **They still think that women are inferior to men.**

inferior/superior to (NOT than): 'To suggest that women doctors are in some way inferior to their male counterparts is scandalous.' 'Why do they think they're so superior to the rest of us?'

influence 1

- X These drugs have no influence on the virus.
 ✓ **These drugs have no effect on the virus.**
 X I asked him not to keep disturbing me, but it had no influence.
 ✓ **I asked him not to keep disturbing me, but it had no effect.**

If someone (or something) has an **influence**, they help to shape the way that someone or something develops: 'D.W. Griffith had an enormous influence on the motion picture industry.'

If something has an **effect**, it causes a change to take place in someone or something: 'The war had a disastrous effect on the economy.'

- 2 X America has given a tremendous influence to Japanese society.
 ✓ **America has had a tremendous influence on Japanese society.**

have an influence on sb/sth (NOT give ... to/in/for): 'The book attempts to demonstrate the influence of the stars on people's lives.'

- 3 X I don't think that longer prison sentences would influence on criminals.
 ✓ **I don't think that longer prison sentences would influence criminals.**

influence sb/sth (WITHOUT on): 'The revolution of 1789 influenced events far beyond France.'

Note the alternative: 'I don't think that longer prison sentences would deter criminals.'

information 1

- ✗ On Friday we'll be able to give you further information of the trip.
- ✓ **On Friday we'll be able to give you further information about the trip.**
- ✗ Can you give me any information for summer courses?
- ✓ **Can you give me any information about summer courses?**

information about/on sth (NOT off/for): 'These files contain detailed information about our overseas customers.'

2

- ✗ Would you please send me more informations about the course?
 - ✓ **Would you please send me more information about the course?**
 - ✗ Let me know if you need a further information.
 - ✓ **Let me know if you need (any) further information.**
- See Language Note at SCENERY

inhabit

- ✗ The bathroom was already inhabited.
- ✓ **The bathroom was already occupied.**

inhabit = (usually passive) live in a place or area, especially for a long time or permanently: 'The island is mainly inhabited by sheep.' 'The remoter mountain regions are still inhabited by indigenous tribes.'

occupy = use or live in a room, house or building for any length of time: 'Is that seat occupied?' 'The flat below was occupied by a young Sri Lankan couple.'

inhabitant 1 ?

- ✗ The inhabitants certainly know how to make money from tourists.
- ✓ **The local inhabitants certainly know how to make money from tourists.**

The **inhabitants** of a particular town, country or area are the people who live there, especially considered in terms of quantity or history: 'Just ten years ago the town had only 12,000 inhabitants.' 'The first inhabitants of the island planted coffee beans.'

To refer to the people living in and around a village or town, who have shared interests and activities, use **local inhabitants/local residents/local population** or (in informal styles) **locals**: 'The local residents are against the motorway proposal.'

2

- ✗ The rapid growth of the world's inhabitants has produced serious social and economic problems.
- ✓ **The rapid growth of the world's population has produced serious social and economic problems.**

To refer to all the people in the world, or all the people living in a particular country, city, town etc, use **population**: 'Half the world's population doesn't have enough to eat.' 'To make it profitable, about a third of the population of France will have to visit Eurodisney each year.' 'The town has a population of 15,000.'

injure 1

- ✗ My car was seriously injured in the accident.
- ✓ **My car was badly damaged in the accident.**
- ✗ We must all stop injuring the environment.
- ✓ **We must all stop damaging the environment.**

Injure is used only in connection with people and animals: 'Latest reports from the site of the crash indicate that three people are dead and twelve are seriously injured.'

For objects, plants and machines, use **damage**: 'Some of the equipment had been badly damaged.'

- 2 ✕ He shot dead 22 innocent people and injured 23 others.
 ✓ **He shot dead 22 innocent people and wounded 23 others.**
 wound = injure a person or animal by using a weapon such as a gun or knife: 'He is accused of wounding a fellow prisoner.' 'The sergeant had been seriously wounded and was losing blood.'
- 3 ✕ Several people injured in the accident.
 ✓ **Several people were injured in the accident.**
 ✕ Fortunately the driver was wearing his seat belt and so he did not injure.
 ✓ **Fortunately the driver was wearing his seat belt and so he wasn't injured.**
 Injure is a transitive verb: 'Gibbs won't be playing because he's injured his knee.' In passive sentences, use **be injured**: 'You're lucky you weren't injured.'
- 4 ✕ I was afraid that she might injure.
 ✓ **I was afraid that she might injure herself.**
 See Language Note at MYSELF
- 5 ✕ He fell and was injured in the leg.
 ✓ **He fell and injured his leg.**
 injure + a part of the body (WITHOUT in): 'How did you manage to injure your shoulder?'
 Compare: 'He'd been wounded in the leg and couldn't walk.'

inquiry

- ? After making several inquiries I finally discovered his address.
 ✓ **After making several enquiries, I finally discovered his address.**
 In a simple request for information, the usual word is **enquiry**: 'We've had a lot of enquiries in response to the advertisement.'
 When you mean 'a full investigation or a long serious study', the usual word is **inquiry**: 'a court of inquiry', 'There is to be an official inquiry into the cause of the crash.'

inside

- ✕ Inside of the wallet there should be £20 and my Visa Card.
 ✓ **Inside the wallet there should be £20 and my Visa Card.**
inside sth (WITHOUT of): 'Inside the box was a small silver spoon.'

insist

- ✕ The porter insisted to help us with our baggage.
 ✓ **The porter insisted on helping us with our baggage.**
 ✓ **The porter insisted that he (should) help us with our baggage.**
insist on (doing) sth: 'He insisted on paying for the meal himself.'
insist that sb (should) do sth: 'He insisted that he (should) pay for the meal himself.'

in spite of

See SPITE

instead 1

- ✗ Instead of to go to a disco, we went to the cinema.
- ✓ **Instead of going to a disco, we went to the cinema.**
- ✗ You should go out more instead to stay at home all the time.
- ✓ **You should go out more instead of staying at home all the time.**

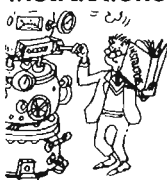
instead of (doing) sth: 'Instead of waiting for a bus, we decided that it would be quicker to walk.'

2

- ✗ We had planned to go to the museum but we went to the park instead of it.
- ✓ **We had planned to go to the museum but we went to the park instead.**

Instead means 'instead of it/that': 'Wendy said she was too tired to play badminton and so we went to the cinema instead.'

instructions



- ✗ The machine is supplied with instructions how to use it.
- ✓ **The machine is supplied with instructions on how to use it.**
- ✗ I'm here to give you some instructions to cook Bin Dae Tuck.
- ✓ **I'm here to give you some instructions on how to cook Bin Dae Tuck.**

instructions on how to do sth: 'The crew has a full set of instructions on how to launch the satellite.'

intend

- ✗ Students that are motivated intend to work harder.
- ✓ **Students that are motivated tend to work harder.**

intend = plan to do something: 'I intend to arrive early and make sure that I get a seat.'

tend = be likely or true in most cases: 'At that age, girls tend to be more mature than boys.'

intense

- ✗ The government has embarked on an intense industrialization programme.
- ✓ **The government has embarked on an intensive industrialization programme.**

intense = strong or very great; extreme: 'intense heat', 'intense pleasure', 'intense pain', 'intense competition'

intensive = concentrated: 'an intensive English course', 'a period of intensive training'

intention

- ✗ I don't have the slightest intention to accept the invitation.
- ✓ **I don't have the slightest intention of accepting the invitation.**
- ✗ We went to Stratford with the intention to see a play.
- ✓ **We went to Stratford with the intention of seeing a play.**

have no/not the slightest intention of doing sth: 'When the salesman realized that I had no intention of buying the car, he just walked off.'

with the intention of doing sth: 'I came to England with the intention of doing a PhD.'

interested 1

- ✗ It was a very interested idea.
- ✓ **It was a very interesting idea.**

See note at BORING

- 2 ✗ She is interested on learning French.
 ✓ **She is interested in learning French.**
 ✗ I am not really interested by the job.
 ✓ **I am not really interested in the job.**

interested in (doing) sth (NOT on/by/about): 'I didn't know that you were interested in yoga.' 'The only thing she is interested in is having a good time.'

- 3 ✗ At school I wasn't interested to learn English.
 ✓ **At school I wasn't interested in learning English.**

Use **be interested to hear/read/know** etc when you are talking about news or information: 'We were interested to learn that the research has been completed.' 'I'd be interested to know what you think of the idea.'
 Use **be interested in doing sth** when you are talking about someone who wants to do something: 'She's interested in setting up her own business.'

- interesting ✗ I was interesting to hear she had got married.
 ✓ **I was interested to hear she had got married.**
 ✗ I am very interesting in community work.
 ✓ **I am very interested in community work.**

See note at BORING

- interior ✗ Solutions to the country's interior problems are still a long way away.
 ✓ **Solutions to the country's internal problems are still a long way away.**

interior = on the inside of a building, room, vehicle etc: 'The interior doors are still sound but the exterior doors need replacing.'
the interior = the part of a country that is a long way from the coast: 'The convoy set off at dawn for the interior.'
internal = involving what happens within a particular country: 'Each country has the right to control its own internal affairs.'

- interrupt ✗ The noise of the traffic interrupts the local residents.
 ✓ **The noise of the traffic disturbs the local residents.**

interrupt = to stop someone while they are speaking or doing something, especially by saying something yourself: 'I'm sorry to interrupt but there's an urgent phone call for you.'
disturb = make it difficult for someone to continue what they are doing: 'Will it disturb you if I listen to the radio?' 'I think we're disturbing Martin. Let's go and talk in your office.'

- interruption ✗ Between the first two classes there is a ten minute interruption.
 ✓ **Between the first two classes there is a ten-minute break.**

interruption = something that suddenly stops you from continuing what you are doing or saying: 'To avoid further interruption, we locked the office door.'

break = a short period when students or workers are free to do what they want: 'At eleven o'clock there is a twenty-minute coffee break.'
 'During their break the boys usually kick a ball around in the playground.'

- intrude ✗ I hope I'm not intruding your privacy.
 ✓ **I hope I'm not intruding (on your privacy).**

- ✗ Reporters have no right to intrude into people's private lives.
- ✓ **Reporters have no right to intrude upon people's private lives.**

intrude (on/upon sb/sth): 'I'm not intruding, am I?' 'Governments should not intrude on the rights of the individual.'

invent 1

- ✗ It will not be long before scientists invent a cure for this terrible disease.
- ✓ **It will not be long before scientists discover a cure for this terrible disease.**

invent = create a machine, instrument, system or process which has never existed before: 'Who invented the telephone?' 'The cotton gin was invented by Eli Whitney in 1793.'

discover = find or find out something for the first time: 'Penicillin was discovered almost by accident.' 'I've just discovered a new way of cooking spaghetti.'

2

- ✗ I'm sure that your host families will invent lots of interesting things for you to do.
- ✓ **I'm sure that your host families will think of/up lots of interesting things for you to do.**

think of = produce a plan, idea or suggestion by thinking: 'Can you think of a good birthday present for David?' 'I can't think of any way of avoiding the problem.'

think up (also dream up) = produce a completely new plan, idea or suggestion by thinking hard about something: 'They've thought up a new advertising campaign.' 'Financial advisers will soon think up new ways for us to evade tax.'

3

- ✗ The word 'workaholic' was invented in America.
- ✓ **The word 'workaholic' was coined in America.**

coin a new word or expression: 'The term 'black hole' was coined in 1969 by the American scientist John Wheeler.'

invention

- ✗ Recent inventions in medicine have helped to reduce the rate of infant mortality.
- ✓ **Recent advances in medicine have helped to reduce the rate of infant mortality.**

When you are talking about the development of new ideas or techniques that have a good effect, use **advance/breakthrough/discovery**: 'This new treatment could be the breakthrough that cancer patients have been waiting for.'

invest

- ✗ Businessmen invest vast amounts on these industries.
- ✓ **Businessmen invest vast amounts in these industries.**
- ✗ We should invest more money to education.
- ✓ **We should invest more money in education.**

invest money/£1 million/time etc in sth: 'More money should be invested in local industries.' 'I've started investing in foreign currencies.'

investigate

- ✗ The Hong Kong government has already investigated into these problems.
- ✓ **The Hong Kong government has already investigated these problems.**

investigate sth (WITHOUT into): 'The cause of the accident is still being investigated.'

Compare: 'The army is conducting its own investigation into the explosion.' (noun + **into**)

invitation

- ✗ Thank you for the invitation for your wedding.
- ✓ **Thank you for the invitation to your wedding.**

invitation to a party, wedding, meeting etc: 'I've just had an invitation to a New Year's Eve party.'

Note the alternative: 'Thank you for the wedding invitation.'

invite

- ✗ We became friends and he invited me for his wedding.
- ✓ **We became friends and he invited me to his wedding.**
- ✗ I've been invited in a party on Friday.
- ✓ **I've been invited to a party on Friday.**

invite sb for a drink, meal, etc: 'She's invited us for a meal at the club.'

invite sb to dinner/lunch, a party, wedding, meeting etc: 'We don't have to invite them to dinner.' 'The President has been invited to an official reception at Buckingham Palace.'

involve

- ✗ My job involves to deal with customer complaints.
- ✓ **My job involves dealing with customer complaints.**

involve (doing) sth: 'A proper repair would involve stripping all the tiles off the roof.'

is

- ✗ Is very easy to get lost in a big city.
- ✓ **It's very easy to get lost in a big city.**

See IT 1

island 1

- ✗ I was on holiday with my parents on the island Capri.
- ✓ **I was on holiday with my parents on the island of Capri.**

the island/isle of + name: 'the holiday resort island of Langkawi', 'the Isle of Skye'

2

- ✗ Does anyone live in the island?
- ✓ **Does anyone live on the island?**
- ✗ I was born in a small village in Lantau Island.
- ✓ **I was born in a small village on Lantau Island.**

When **island** means 'a mass of land surrounded by water', or is part of a name, the usual preposition is **on** (NOT **in**): 'The prisoners were left on a small island, with neither food nor drinking water.' 'Mr Mandela was placed in a maximum security prison on Robben Island.'

When an island is considered in terms of its people, cities, schools, roads, traditions, economy etc, both **in** and **on** are used: 'There has been no serious outbreak of cholera in the island for over twenty years.' 'Elsewhere in the island most of these stone cottages have disappeared.'

it 1

- ✗ Is easy to buy exactly what you want in a big city.
- ✓ **It's easy to buy exactly what you want in a big city.**

When you comment on a situation, the subject of the sentence is usually **it**: 'It's impossible to read in the dark.' 'It was good to see you again.' 'It's hot today, isn't it?' 'It was a miracle that nobody was injured.'

Note that in this pattern **it** has no meaning. It simply fills the subject position.

2 See HAPPEN 1

3 See APPRECIATE 2, BEAR 2, FIND 2, LIKE 3

4 See NEED 1

it's

- x** The cat sat in front of the fire, cleaning it's whiskers.
- ✓** **The cat sat in front of the fire, cleaning its whiskers.**

it's (WITH an apostrophe) = 'it is' or 'it has': 'It's still raining.' 'It's been raining again.'

its (WITHOUT an apostrophe) = a possessive form like **my, his, their,** etc: 'The dog has hurt its nose again.'

its

- x** Its a nice place to have a holiday.
- ✓** **It's a nice place to have a holiday.**

See IT'S

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