

Kk

keep on

- ✗ He wants the new generation to keep on this tradition.
- ✓ **He wants the new generation to keep up this tradition.**
keep up = continue a tradition, custom, habit, relationship etc (instead of letting it come to an end); continue to use a particular skill: 'We've managed to keep up our friendship despite all the problems and misunderstandings.' 'Try to keep up your English while you're back in Italy.'

keep up

- ✗ People of normal weight should keep up eating the food they are used to.
- ✓ **People of normal weight should keep (on) eating the food they are used to.**
keep (on) doing sth (or **carry on doing sth**) = continue to do something (instead of stopping): 'Just keep (on) going till you come to a crossroads.' 'You should keep (on) taking the tablets until they're all gone.'
 Note the alternative: 'People of normal weight should just keep to their normal diet.'

key

- ✗ The key of our success is that we all worked very hard.
- ✓ **The key to our success is that we all worked very hard.**
key to a problem or situation: 'The key to inflation is control of the money supply.'

kid

- ? Films of this type are not suitable for young kids.
- ✓ **Films of this type are not suitable for young children.**
kid is used only in informal styles: 'I'll ring you back once the kids are in bed.'

kill

See Language Note on next page

kind 1

- ✗ I wonder if you would be so kind to send me further details and an application form.
- ✓ **I wonder if you would be so kind as to send me further details and an application form.**
be kind enough to do sth: 'Would you be kind enough to forward the enclosed documents to Mr Tomkin's new address?'
be so kind as to do sth: 'I wonder if you'd be so kind as to inform your colleagues of the new arrangements.'

2

- ✗ All the people he met were very kind with him.
- ✓ **All the people he met were very kind to him.**

Choosing the right word: GENERAL WORDS and EXACT WORDS

Some words have a general meaning, e.g. **big, beautiful, good, say, make, kill**. These words are useful, especially when you begin to learn English, because you can make use of them in a wide range of situations:

a big meal, a big kitchen, a big mistake, etc

For each general word, however, there is usually another word or phrase which comes closer to what you want to say, and which may also sound more natural in the context:

a substantial meal, a spacious kitchen, a serious mistake, etc

A major step towards fluency in English is getting to know plenty of exact words which can replace the more general words you have learned. Here are some words which can be used instead of the general word **kill**.

murder	To murder someone is to kill them deliberately and unlawfully: 'The key witness was murdered before he could testify.' A person who does this is a murderer .
massacre	Massacre is used when you talk about the deliberate killing of a large number of people, especially people who cannot defend themselves: 'Whole native populations were massacred when the European settlers arrived.'
slaughter	Slaughter is used when you talk about the deliberate killing of a large number of people, especially in a particularly cruel way: 'Men ran through the village burning houses and slaughtering anyone that got in their way.' To slaughter an animal is to kill it for its meat, skin, etc, or as part of a religious ceremony: 'The children couldn't understand why the cattle had to be slaughtered.'
execute	To execute someone (or put someone to death) is to kill someone as a punishment, according to the law: 'King Charles I was executed on 30th January 1639.'
assassinate	To assassinate someone is to deliberately kill a very famous or important person such as a political leader: 'President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.' A person who does this is an assassin .
commit suicide	To commit suicide (or take your own life) is to deliberately kill yourself: 'Rather than be taken prisoner, they preferred to commit suicide.'
destroy	To destroy an animal (or have it put down/to sleep) is to kill it in a way that does not cause pain, especially because it is sick or injured: 'The cat had developed cancer and had to be destroyed.'

kind to a person or animal (NOT **with**): 'She's always been kind to people less fortunate than herself.'

kind of 1

- ✗ There are many kind of job for people with qualifications.
- ✓ **There are many kinds of job for people with qualifications.**
- ✓ I enjoy all kind of sport.
- ✓ **I enjoy all kinds of sport.**

Kind, sort and type are countable nouns. After **many, all, these** and other plural meanings, use **kinds/sorts/types** (**WITH-s**): 'These kinds of fruit do not grow in cold climates.'

2

- ✗ Imprisonment is not a good way of reducing this kind of crimes.
- ✓ **Imprisonment is not a good way of reducing this kind of crime.**
- ✓ **Imprisonment is not a good way of reducing these kinds of crime/s.**

kind/sort/type of + singular form: 'this kind of envelope'

kinds/sorts/types of + singular or plural form: 'these kinds of envelope/s'

Note that after **kinds/sorts/types of** a plural form can sometimes sound awkward and careful users generally prefer a singular form.

kindly 1

- ✗ You are very kindly to spare me so much of your time.
- ✓ **You are very kind to spare me so much of your time.**
- ✗ She is always very kindly and helpful.
- ✓ **She is always very kind and helpful.**

Kindly is nearly always used as an adverb: 'They've kindly offered to lend me their car while they're away.' 'Would you kindly sit down and stop being a nuisance.'

2

- ? I wonder if you would kindly correct my mistakes.
- ✓ **I wonder if you could possibly correct my mistakes.**
- ? Would you kindly open the door?
- ✓ **Would you mind opening the door, please?**

Kindly is used to mean 'please' only in formal styles. When used inappropriately, it can sound sarcastic or even express anger: 'Would you kindly keep your hands to yourself.'

knock 1

- ✗ The woman got angry and knocked him.
- ✓ **The women got angry and hit him.**
- ✗ He thinks that someone knocked him on the head.
- ✓ **He thinks that someone hit him on the head.**

When someone tries to hurt another person, they **hit** them: 'He still had a bruise from the time she had hit him.'

2

- ✗ When Sandra knocked the door, he was washing his face.
- ✓ **When Sandra knocked on the door, he was washing his face.**

knock on/at a door, window etc: 'In future, don't come in without knocking on the door.'

know 1

- ✗ I ran downstairs to know what was happening.
- ✓ **I ran downstairs to find out what was happening.**

- ✗ Two police officers visited him to know where he had been on the night of the murder.

- ✓ **Two police officers visited him to find out where he had been on the night of the murder.**

find out = get information about something that you want to know: 'We need to find out why these cars have stopped selling.'

- 2 ✗ The best way to know the city is to visit it on foot.

- ✓ **The best way to get to know the city is to visit it on foot.**

- ✗ When a woman goes out to work, she knows other people.

- ✓ **When a woman goes out to work, she gets to know other people.**

know = be familiar with: 'I know Frankfurt very well.'

get to know = become familiar with: 'Once you get to know her, I'm sure you'll like her.' 'We got to know each other very well during the week we spent together.'

- 3 ✗ I got to know the south of London very deeply.

- ✓ **I got to know the south of London very well.**

(get to) know sb/sth very well (NOT **deeply**): 'I know Alex very well. We used to go to the same school.'

- 4 ✗ He knew well where he wanted to go.

- ✓ **He knew exactly/precisely where he wanted to go.**

know sb/sth well = be fully familiar with: 'After living in Florence for two years, I know the city very well.' Compare: 'I'm completely against the idea, as you well know.'

- knowledge 1 ✗ I don't have much knowledge about it.

- ✓ **I don't know much about it.**

- ✗ I only have a little knowledge about the United States.

- ✓ **I don't know very much about the United States.**

- ? The man had a good knowledge of car engines.

- ✓ **The man knew a lot about car engines.**

When talking informally about how much someone knows about something, use the verb **know** (NOT **have ... knowledge**): 'I don't know anything at all about computers.' 'Talk to Pam. She knows a lot about horses.'

Have ... knowledge is mainly used in formal styles when you give precise details of what someone knows: 'Tucker has an excellent knowledge of Sri Lankan tea plantations.'

- 2 ✗ I've learned a lot of knowledge during the course.

- ✓ **I've learned a lot during the course.**

- ✗ They get the knowledge of AIDS from the television.

- ✓ **They learn about AIDS from the television.**

learn a lot/a great deal (NOT **learn/get ... knowledge**): 'I've learned a lot this year.' 'She's improving but she still has a lot to learn.'

learn about sth: 'We've been learning about the American political system.'

- 3 ? I would like to get more knowledge of ancient history.

- ✓ **I would like to improve my knowledge of ancient history.**

improve/increase/further/brush up your knowledge (of sth): 'I'd like to improve my knowledge of Asian cultures.'

- 4 ✗ I am attending this course to improve my knowledges of English.
✓ **I am attending this course to improve my knowledge of English.**

Knowledge never has a plural ending: 'With all your knowledge, you should be a teacher.'

- 5 ✗ In this job you will need a good knowledge in English.
✓ **In this job you will need a good knowledge of English.**
knowledge of a subject (NOT in/on): 'She displayed an impressive knowledge of modern French literature.'

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