

L

lack 1

- x At school I used to lack in confidence.
- ✓ **At school I used to lack confidence.**
- x She certainly doesn't lack of enthusiasm.
- ✓ **She certainly doesn't lack enthusiasm.**

Do not confuse **lack sth** (verb + object, WITHOUT in/of) with **be lacking in sth** and **(a) lack of sth**: 'He lacks the confidence to start his own business.' 'At school he was found to be lacking in confidence.' 'She certainly doesn't show any lack of confidence.' 'I think I'm suffering from a lack of sleep.'

2

- x The room was fine except for a total lack of radio and television.
- ✓ **The room was fine except that there was no radio or television.**
- x Someone noticed the lack of salad dressing.
- ✓ **Someone noticed that there wasn't any salad dressing.**

Lack is mainly used with abstract nouns: 'a lack of support/sympathy/freedom/sleep/energy'

Avoid using **lack** with concrete nouns: 'We don't have any envelopes.' 'We're short of envelopes.' 'There aren't enough envelopes.'

lady

- ? At the front of the queue a man and a lady were arguing with the cashier.
- ✓ **At the front of the queue a man and a woman were arguing with the cashier.**

Lady is used when you need to be polite, especially in formal styles: 'Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please?' 'Please show these ladies the way to the cloakroom.'

The usual word is **woman**: 'Isn't that the woman who teaches at the International School?'

Note however that **old lady** is generally preferred to **old woman**, which sounds impolite: 'Can you help that old lady across the road?'

landscape

- x Lots of kings chose to live here because of the beautiful landscape.
- ✓ **Lots of kings chose to live here because of the beautiful scenery.**
- x The landscape surrounding the village is really beautiful.
- ✓ **The scenery surrounding the village is really beautiful.**

landscape = (a view, painting or photograph of) a wide area of land, especially in the countryside: 'Having reached the top of the hill, we sat and admired the landscape that stretched far into the distance.' 'Constable is known for his beautiful Suffolk landscapes.'

scenery = the natural features of the countryside (hills, valleys, fields etc) considered in terms of their beauty, especially those seen from a

particular place: 'The train journey takes you through some breathtaking scenery.' 'Cycling means that you can get fit and enjoy the scenery at the same time.'

lane

- X It was so dark in the park that she kept wandering from the lane.
- ✓ **It was so dark in the park that she kept wandering from the path.**

lane = a narrow road or street: 'We rode our bikes along the little country lanes.'

path = a narrow strip of ground in a garden, park etc that is made for people to walk along: 'There used to be a path down to the stream, but it's all overgrown now.'

language

- X I speak Arabic language all the time.
- ✓ **I speak Arabic all the time.**
- X I spent the whole year learning English language.
- ✓ **I spent the whole year learning English.**
- X They know Japanese language.
- ✓ **They know Japanese.**

speak/learn/know etc + name of a language (WITHOUT language): 'She speaks fluent English and a little German.' 'Do you know any Malay?' 'I'd like to learn Mandarin.'

Note that **the Arabic/English/Japanese language** may be used when you talk about a language in terms of its history, structure, users etc: 'The English language has evolved over many centuries.'

large

- X The road wasn't large enough for two cars.
- ✓ **The road wasn't wide enough for two cars.**

When you are talking about the distance from one side to the other, use **wide** or **broad**: 'The river is much too wide to swim across.' 'How did you get such broad shoulders?'

last 1

- X Did you hear what happened on last Friday?
- ✓ **Did you hear what happened last Friday?**
- X He looks thinner than when I saw him in the last summer.
- ✓ **He looks thinner than when I saw him last summer.**
- X The last Monday was a terrible day.
- ✓ **Last Monday was a terrible day.**

See Language Note at TIME

2

- X In the last years many people have stopped smoking.
 - ✓ **In recent years many people have stopped smoking.**
- in recent weeks/months** etc (NOT last): 'In recent months this stretch of the road has seen three serious accidents.'
Compare: 'Over the last few years many people have stopped smoking.'

3

- X First we listened to the tape, then we answered some questions, and at last we wrote the story.
- ✓ **First we listened to the tape, then we answered some questions, and finally we wrote the story.**
- X We went from one restaurant to another, but all of them were full. At last we decided to buy some pizzas and take them home.
- ✓ **We went from one restaurant to another, but all of them were full. In the end we decided to buy some pizzas and take them home.**

See Language Note at END

- 4 *x* As a dress designer, I am very interested in the last fashions.
 ✓ **As a dress designer, I am very interested in the latest fashions.**

last = (the one) before this one; (the one) at the end of a list, sequence or series: 'Our last meeting was in Rome.' 'I answered all the questions except the last one.'

latest = designed/produced/published etc more recently than any other: 'Have you seen Toyota's latest models?' 'The BBC World Service always has the latest news.'

- 5 *x* At last but not least, I must mention the climate.
 ✓ **Last but not least, I must mention the climate.**
 last but not least (WITHOUT **at**): 'Last but not least, I'd like to thank our sponsors for making this evening possible.'

lastly

- x* Lastly I got bored with walking round the streets, and went back home.
 ✓ **In the end/Eventually I got bored with walking round the streets, and went back home.**

See Language Note at END

late

- x* I often watch television until late night.
 ✓ **I often watch television until late at night.**
 x Even late in the night, the roads are very busy.
 ✓ **Even late at night, the roads are very busy.**

late at night: 'Hedgehogs like to roam around late at night, when most other animals are asleep.'

lately 1

- x* Lately someone told me that the fire was caused by a cigarette.
 ✓ **Recently someone told me that the fire was caused by a cigarette.**

Both **lately** and **recently** refer to a period of time that begins in the past and continues until now (the moment of speaking): 'Just lately/recently I have been wondering whether to look for a new job.'

Recently is also used to refer to a point in time: 'Just recently she applied for a new job.'

2

- x* One of the best films that I saw lately is 'Hook'.
 ✓ **One of the best films that I've seen lately is 'Hook'.**
 x Lately I play a lot of Miles Davis tapes.
 ✓ **Lately I've been playing a lot of Miles Davis tapes.**
 x We have a lot of rain lately.
 ✓ **We've had a lot of rain lately.**

Lately is usually used with the present perfect tense: 'I haven't seen much of your sister lately. Has she gone away?'

latest

- x* The latest election was won by the socialists.
 ✓ **The last election was won by the socialists.**
 x In the latest decades of the twentieth century, the world has seen many changes.
 ✓ **In the last decades of the twentieth century, the world has seen many changes.**

See note at LAST 4

laughter

- ✗ His laughs filled the whole apartment.
 ✓ **His laughter filled the whole apartment.**

Laughter is an uncountable noun: 'There was always a lot of laughter and joking when Henry came to dinner.'

lay



- ✗ The tourists were laying in the hot sun like corpses.
 ✓ **The tourists were lying in the hot sun like corpses.**
 ✗ We broke down the door and found him laying on the carpet.
 ✓ **We broke down the door and found him lying on the carpet.**

lay (laying, laid, laid) = put something somewhere: 'She laid the money on the table in front of me.'

lie (lying, lay, lain) = be in a horizontal position (on the ground/on a bed etc): 'He was lying on his back, staring up at the sky.' 'I could lie here all day!'

lay down

- ✗ I just wanted to lay down and have a rest.
 ✓ **I just wanted to lie down and have a rest.**

lay down = put something down: 'Just lay the books down on the floor.'

lie down = put your body into a horizontal position, especially on a bed: 'I think I'll go and lie down for half an hour.'

lead

- ✗ Ali asked us if we would lead him to the theatre one night.
 ✓ **Ali asked us if we would take him to the theatre one night.**
 ✗ After breakfast I led my daughter to school as usual.
 ✓ **After breakfast I took my daughter to school as usual.**

See Language Note at TAKE

learn 1

- ✗ In the museum I learned Balinese culture.
 ✓ **In the museum I learned about Balinese culture.**

learn a foreign language: 'How long have you been learning Italian?'

learn about a subject: 'Today we've been learning about the functions of the human brain.'

2

See KNOWLEDGE 2

leave 1

- ✗ I leave from Bilbao on 12th June.
 ✓ **I leave Bilbao on 12th June.**
 ✗ I left from the shop without buying anything.
 ✓ **I left the shop without buying anything.**

leave somewhere (usually **WITHOUT from**): 'If I leave the office at six, I'm home by ten to seven.'

Use **leave from** only when you want to refer to the place where a journey, trip, excursion etc begins: 'The coach will be leaving from in front of the hotel at six o'clock sharp.'

2

- ✗ Ken's aunt left to New York on 17th April.
 ✓ **Ken's aunt left for New York on 17th April.**

leave (somewhere) **for** somewhere else (**NOT to**): 'She'll be leaving for London on the nine o'clock train.'

3

- ✗ Every woman is entitled to a maternity leave.
 ✓ **Every woman is entitled to maternity leave.**

leave (= a number of days, weeks or months when someone does not have to do their usual job) is usually an uncountable noun: 'Government

officers get six weeks' annual leave.' 'First she was on sick leave, then she took study leave, and now she's applied for maternity leave!'

lend 1

- ✗ Could I lend your pen just for a minute?
 - ✓ **Could I borrow your pen just for a minute?**
- See note at BORROW

2

- ✗ To lend a car, you have to have a driving licence.
 - ✓ **To hire/rent a car, you have to have a driving licence.**
 - ✗ We usually lend a villa so that we can cook for ourselves.
 - ✓ **We usually rent a villa so that we can cook for ourselves.**
- See note at HIRE

length 1

- ? The length of the tunnel is about two miles.
 - ✓ **The tunnel is about two miles long.**
- When you mention how long something is, a phrase ending with **long** usually sounds more natural than **the length ... is**, especially in informal styles: 'The garden is almost seventy feet long.'

2

- ? The length of the film is one and a half hours.
 - ✓ **The film lasts one and half hours.**
- last** = take (a stated length of time) from start to finish: 'Each lesson lasts fifty minutes.' 'This afternoon's exciting match on centre court lasted exactly two hours and twelve minutes.'

lengthen

- ✗ The question is whether doctors should lengthen life when there is no hope of recovery.
 - ✓ **The question is whether doctors should prolong life when there is no hope of recovery.**
- lengthen** = make something longer; become longer: 'We can use the old curtains, but they'll have to be lengthened.' 'As evening fell, the shadows lengthened.'
- prolong** = prevent a feeling, activity or life from ending: 'He asked her another question just to prolong the conversation.'

less 1

- ✗ Teachers today are less stricter than they used to be.
 - ✓ **Teachers today are less strict than they used to be.**
- The comparative ending (**-er**) is NEVER used with **less** or **more**.

2

- ✗ If there were less cars on the roads, there would be less accidents.
 - ✓ **If there were fewer cars on the roads, there would be fewer accidents.**
- Use **less** with an uncountable noun and **fewer** with the plural form of a countable noun: 'Less traffic would mean fewer accidents.'
- Note that **less** is widely used in place of **fewer** in everyday conversation, but careful users regard this usage as non-standard.

lessen

- ✗ Fortunately, my workload has been lessened.
- ✓ **Fortunately, my workload has been reduced.**
- ✗ The best solution is to lessen the amount of traffic entering the town.
- ✓ **The best solution is to reduce the amount of traffic entering the town.**

Lessen is mainly used in connection with pain and feelings: 'I'll give you an injection to lessen the pain.' 'No amount of comforting could lessen Charles' disappointment.'

When you mean 'make something smaller in amount, number, price or size', use **reduce**: 'The workforce has been reduced by 50 percent.'

lesson 1

- x I've been studying my lessons very hard.
- ✓ **I've been studying very hard.**
- x After studying my lessons, I watched T.V.
- ✓ **After doing my homework/the exercises, I watched T.V.**

When you mean 'do work that has been set by a teacher', use **study**, **do your homework** or **do an exercise** (NOT **study a lesson**): 'I spent the whole evening studying.' 'Mrs Potts gave us three exercises to do for tomorrow.'

2

- x After lunch we're doing a history lesson.
- ✓ **After lunch we're having a history lesson.**
- x I follow lessons on Thursdays and Fridays.
- ✓ **I have lessons on Thursdays and Fridays.**
- x I've started to do lessons in English and French.
- ✓ **I've started to have/take lessons in English and French.**

have a lesson (NOT **do/follow**): 'I didn't go into the classroom because the children were having a lesson.'

have/take lessons (= arrange for someone to teach you): 'If you want to improve your English, you should have/take lessons.'

let 1

- x You can travel by train or let a car.
- ✓ **You can travel by train or rent/hire a car.**

let = allow someone to live in your house, flat etc in return for money: 'During the holiday season we let the cottage to tourists.'

rent/hire = See note at HIRE

2

- x Do you think your parents will let you go to England?
- ✓ **Do you think your parents will let you go to England?**

let sb do sth (WITHOUT **to**): 'Why wouldn't Alice let you help her?'

Compare: 'Do you think your parents will allow you to go to England?'

level 1

- x These courses are taught in postgraduate level.
- ✓ **These courses are taught at postgraduate level.**
- x The volume of the radio should be kept in a low level.
- ✓ **The volume of the radio should be kept at a low level.**

at a particular level (NOT **in**) = having a particular degree of intensity, power, proficiency etc: 'Students at this level need individual tuition.'

'Talks are being held at the highest level.'

Compare: 'James likes school. He's now in Level 3.' (= in a class at Level 3)

2

- x People in developed countries have a higher level of living.
- ✓ **People in developed countries have a higher standard of living.**

When you are talking about the quality of something, the usual word is **standard**: 'All his work is of a very high standard.' 'Our company accepts only the highest standards of workmanship.'

- 3
- ✗ What will we do if the sea level continues to increase?
 - ✓ **What will we do if the sea level continues to rise?**
- See note at INCREASE 2

- lie
- ✗ I was sure the old woman was saying lies.
 - ✓ **I was sure the old woman was telling lies.**
- tell a lie (NOT say or speak):** 'I always know when he's telling lies.'

- lied
- ✗ After a while he stopped running and lied down on the ground.
 - ✓ **After a while he stopped running and lay down on the ground.**
- lie (lying, lied, lied)** = say something which is not true in an attempt to deceive: 'I wonder why he lied about his age?'
- lie (lying, lay, lain) down** = be in or get into a horizontal position: 'I lay down on the bed and fell sound asleep.'

- life 1
- ✗ The cost of life is very high in London.
 - ✓ **The cost of living is very high in London.**
 - ✗ During a recession, some people find it difficult to make a life.
 - ✓ **During a recession, some people find it difficult to make a living.**
- Phrases connected with the idea of money end with **living** (NOT **life**):
 'Salaries have not kept up with increases in the cost of living.' 'It's difficult to earn/make a living as an actress.' 'Acting is fun, but I wouldn't want to do it for a living.'

- 2
- ✗ Television has taught me a lot about the American life.
 - ✓ **Television has taught me a lot about the American way of life.**
 - ? This busy type of life allows us no time to sit down and relax.
 - ✓ **This busy lifestyle allows us no time to sit down and relax.**
- way of life** = the way that a society, group or person chooses to live: 'I found the British way of life very strange at first.' 'The computer has transformed our whole way of life.'
- lifestyle** = way of life, especially that of a particular person: 'As a photographer, she has a very hectic lifestyle.'

- 3
- ✗ The life in the countryside is quiet and relaxed.
 - ✓ **Life in the countryside is quiet and relaxed.**
 - ✗ He didn't enjoy the life in the army at all.
 - ✓ **He didn't enjoy life in the army at all.**
- When **life** means 'the way of life that is connected with a particular type of situation, group or occupation', it is usually used without **the**: 'I found city life too stressful.' 'Life in New York is full of excitement.' 'What do you think of married life?'

- 4
- ✗ He was the most attractive man that I had met in my life.
 - ✓ **He was the most attractive man that I had ever met.**
- When a superlative ('most attractive') is followed by a relative clause, use **that ... ever ...** (NOT **that ... in my/her etc life**): 'It was the best holiday we'd ever had.' 'This is the worst film I've ever seen.'

- 5 ✕ It was one of the happiest days in my life.
 ✓ **It was one of the happiest days of my life.**
 superlative ('happiest') + noun + **of your life** (NOT in): 'She refers to her childhood as the most carefree time of her life.'
 Compare: 'One of the most important things in life is good health.'

- 6 ✕ On Saturday nights there is usually life music at the club.
 ✓ **On Saturday nights there is usually live music at the club.**
live = heard or seen while it is actually being played or performed:
 'Tonight's live concert comes from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.'

lighted

- ✕ It was dark inside so I lighted a match.
 ✓ **It was dark inside so I lit a match.**
 ✕ Suddenly a wonderful smile lighted up her face.
 ✓ **Suddenly a wonderful smile lit up her face.**
 ✕ The road was poorly lighted and it was difficult to see.
 ✓ **The road was poorly lit and it was difficult to see.**

In British English the usual past tense and past participle form of **light** is **lit**. **Lighted** is usually used before a noun. Compare: 'He lit a cigarette.' 'The cigarette hadn't been lit.' 'He was holding a lighted cigarette.'

like 1

- ✕ What he likes to know is how much it will cost.
 ✓ **What he would like to know is how much it will cost.**
 ✕ Do you like me to show you where to go?
 ✓ **Would you like me to show you where to go?**

When you mean 'want', use **would like**.

Compare: 'Do you like playing the piano?' (= Do you enjoy ... ?) 'Would you like to play the piano?' (= Do you want ... ?)

- 2 ✕ She would like that you ring her back after five o'clock.
 ✓ **She would like you to ring her back after five o'clock.**
 ✕ Would you like going for a walk with me?
 ✓ **Would you like to go for a walk with me?**

would like (sb) to do sth: 'Would you like me to help you with the packing?' 'I'd like you all to listen carefully.'

- 3 ✕ I don't like that my shoes get wet.
 ✓ **I don't like my shoes getting/to get wet.**
 ✓ **I don't like it when my shoes get wet.**
 ✕ I don't like when friends of mine get married.
 ✓ **I don't like it when friends of mine get married.**

like + sb/sth + doing/to do sth (NOT that clause): 'I don't like the children staying/to stay out late.'

like + it + when/if clause: 'I don't like it when the children stay out late.'

- 4 ? Everyone arrived late like they often do when you don't want them to.
 ✓ **Everyone arrived late as they often do when you don't want them to.**

Although the use of **like** as a conjunction is becoming fairly common and appears even in formal English, it has not yet been fully accepted by careful users.

- 5
- x She spoke very loudly like I was deaf.
 - ✓ **She spoke very loudly as if I was deaf.**
- The use of **like** to mean 'as if' is very informal and is usually regarded as non-standard.

- limit**
- x One solution would be for the government to put a limit on when these programmes may be broadcast.
 - ✓ **One solution would be for the government to place restrictions on when these programmes may be broadcast.**
- When you are talking about the control of something by laws, rules etc, use **restrict/restriction**: 'The government plans to restrict the sale of guns.' 'The 1986 law imposed new financial restrictions on private companies.'

- linen**
- x We complained about the dirty bed linens.
 - ✓ **We complained about the dirty bed linen.**
- Linen** is an uncountable noun: 'The linen is changed once a week.'

- list**
- x I looked to see if my name was in the list.
 - ✓ **I looked to see if my name was on the list.**
- on a list (NOT in)**: 'If it's not on the list, we don't sell it.'

- listen**
- x My mother never listens what I say.
 - ✓ **My mother never listens to what I say.**
 - x He invited me to listen his new CD.
 - ✓ **He invited me to listen to his new CD.**
- listen to sb/sth**: 'You are listening to the BBC World Service.'

- lit**
- x All I could see in the darkness was the end of his lit cigarette.
 - ✓ **All I could see in the darkness was the end of his lighted cigarette.**
- See note at **LIGHTED**

- litter 1**
- x In the cities the streets are full of litters.
 - ✓ **In the cities the streets are full of litter.**
- Litter** is an uncountable noun: 'Wherever you find crowds, you'll find litter.'

- 2
- x Children should be taught that it is wrong to litter.
 - ✓ **Children should be taught that it is wrong to drop litter.**
 - x If someone litters the street, someone else has to clear it up.
 - ✓ **If someone drops litter in the street, someone else has to clear it up.**
- People **drop/leave litter** (= leave things such as empty packets, cans and bottles in a public place): 'There is a \$100 fine for dropping litter.' Things **litter** a floor, street, area etc: 'Discarded clothing began to litter the dance floor.'

- little 1**
- x He works in a little office building in Geneva.
 - ✓ **He works in a small office building in Geneva.**
 - x His parents died when he was still a little child.
 - ✓ **His parents died when he was still a small child.**

Little usually expresses an emotional attitude such as affection or dislike: 'We've rented a cosy little cottage in the countryside.' 'You shouldn't let that silly little man upset you.'

When you simply wish to describe the size of someone or something, use **small**: 'Their daughter is rather small for her age.' 'People are turning to smaller cars because they are cheaper to run.'

- 2
- x The police asked for a little description of the car.
 - ✓ **The police asked for a brief description of the car.**
 - x He told me that I needed a little operation.
 - ✓ **He told me that I needed a minor operation.**

See Language Note at KILL

- 3
- x Today there are too many people for too little jobs.
 - ✓ **Today there are too many people for too few jobs.**

See note at FEW 1

- a little 1
- x It was my first interview and I was nervous a little.
 - ✓ **It was my first interview and I was a little nervous.**

Put **a little** in front of the word it modifies (NOT after it): 'I felt a little sad.' 'The news was a little worrying.' Compare: 'The town had changed a little since my last visit.'

- 2
- x It was a little difficult question.
 - ✓ **It was a slightly difficult question.**

slightly + adjective + noun: 'a slightly solemn expression'

a little bit

See BIT

- live
- x Whenever we go to the seaside, we live in a hotel.
 - ✓ **Whenever we go to the seaside, we stay at a hotel.**
 - x At the hotel, we lived in room 101.
 - ✓ **At the hotel, we stayed in room 101.**

stay at/in a hotel, youth hostel, etc (NOT **live in**): 'In London we usually stay at the Savoy.'

- living 1
- x The local farmers will never change their way of living.
 - ✓ **The local farmers will never change their way of life.**
 - x We have different languages, traditions and living styles.
 - ✓ **We have different languages, traditions and life styles.**

See note at LIFE 2

- loan
- x The military government loaned millions of dollars from the world bank.
 - ✓ **The military government borrowed millions of dollars from the world bank.**

loan = (1) (noun) a sum of money that you borrow, usually from a bank: 'They are currently negotiating a \$100 million loan.'

(2) (verb) lend a painting, work of art etc to an art gallery or museum: 'The pictures have been loaned to the National Gallery for the forthcoming exhibition.'

(3) (verb; especially in American English) let someone use something; lend: 'Why don't you ask John if he'll loan you his car?'

borrow = receive money or something that a bank or person agrees to

lend you: 'By the end of the war the Canadian government had borrowed over \$5 million from its own citizens.'

long

- x I am afraid it will take long to improve my English.
 - ✓ **I am afraid it will take a long time to improve my English.**
- Use **take long** in questions and negative sentences: 'How long does it take to get to London by train?' 'It doesn't take very long.'
- Use **take a long time** in affirmative sentences: 'It might take a long time to sort out the problem.'

look 1

- x Someone should inspect the kitchen twice a week to look whether everything is nice and clean.
 - ✓ **Someone should inspect the kitchen twice a week to see whether everything is nice and clean.**
 - x Wait here and I'll look if I can find him for you.
 - ✓ **Wait here and I'll see if I can find him for you.**
- see** = find out (by checking): 'I'll go and see whether they have any rooms available.' 'While you're in the kitchen, can you see if the eggs are cooked?'
- Compare: 'I looked to see whether it was still raining.'

2

- x Then I looked the person sitting next to her.
 - ✓ **Then I looked at the person sitting next to her.**
- look at sb/sth**: 'I looked at the clock to see what time it was.' 'What are you looking at?'

3

- x The report takes a close look on meat consumption.
 - ✓ **The report takes a close look at meat consumption.**
- have/take a look at sth**: 'They're going to take a look at a new house this evening.'

4

See note at FEEL 2

look after

- x Having received news of his death, the police stopped looking after him.
 - ✓ **Having received news of his death, the police stopped looking for him.**
- look after** = take care of: 'Who will look after you if you are ill?'
- look for** = try to find: 'I wasted half the morning looking for my keys.'

look forward to 1

- x I'm looking forward the day I can go home.
 - ✓ **I'm looking forward to the day I can go home.**
 - x He said he was looking forward for his holidays.
 - ✓ **He said he was looking forward to his holidays.**
- look forward to sth (WITH to)**: 'We've only just come back from holiday but we're already looking forward to the next one.'

2

- x I'm looking forward to hear from you.
 - ✓ **I'm looking forward to hearing from you.**
- look forward to doing sth**: 'Simon is looking forward to having his own office again.'

look into

- x Have you looked into your pocket?
- ✓ **Have you looked in your pocket?**
- x I decided to look into the telephone directory.
- ✓ **I decided to look in the telephone directory.**

look in a book, container or room to find something or someone (NOT into): 'I looked in the drawer but it wasn't there.' 'Go and look in the bedroom.'

Compare: 'The police are looking into the matter.' (= are investigating)

look like 1

- x The two younger children looked like tired.
- ✓ **The two younger children looked tired.**
- x The job was not as easy as it looked like.
- ✓ **The job was not as easy as it looked.**

look like + noun phrase: 'She looks a bit like my sister.'

look + adjective (WITHOUT like): 'The man looked very suspicious.' 'His wife looks much happier these days.'

2

See HOW 1

lose 1

- x His illness has caused him to lose a lot of lessons.
- ✓ **His illness has caused him to miss a lot of lessons.**

If you do not attend a class, meeting, activity, etc, you **miss** it: 'If you don't hurry up, you'll miss your appointment.' 'I'd hate to miss one of John's parties.'

2

- x I don't care if they're lazy, as long as they don't lose my time.
- ✓ **I don't care if they're lazy, as long as they don't waste my time.**

waste your/sb's time = (cause someone to) spend an amount of time without doing anything useful: 'I wish they'd stop asking me silly questions and wasting my time.'

Compare: 'The puncture meant that we lost a lot of time.'

lost

- x This morning I noticed that my purse was lost.
- ✓ **This morning I noticed that my purse was missing.**

If something is not in the place where you left it and you cannot find it anywhere, it is **missing** (NOT lost): 'Police are still searching for the missing diamonds.' 'She was making her way towards immigration when she discovered that her passport was missing.'

Compare: 'Oh no! I've lost my passport!'

lot/lots 1

- x She makes us do a lots of homework.
- ✓ **She makes us do a lot of homework.**
- ✓ **She makes us do lots of homework.**

a lot of (WITH a): 'I bet she's got a lot of money.'

lots of (WITHOUT a): 'I bet she's got lots of money.'

2

- x Lot of people come here because it's near Morocco.
- ✓ **A lot of people come here because it's near Morocco.**
- x Groceries here are lot cheaper than in Japan.
- ✓ **Groceries here are a lot cheaper than in Japan.**

a lot, a lot of (WITH a): 'I've wasted a lot of time today.' 'He'll have to work a lot faster from now on.'

- 3
- ✗ My husband and I met each other a lot of years ago.
 - ✓ **My husband and I met each other many years ago.**
 - ✗ The problem is that for a lot of years smoking was not considered to be anti-social.
 - ✓ **The problem is that for many years smoking was not considered to be anti-social.**
- many + weeks/months/years (NOT a lot of):** 'Many years have passed since we were at school together.'
 Compare: 'During the summer we spend a lot of time in the garden.'
- 4
- ✗ There is a lot of countries in the same situation.
 - ✓ **There are a lot of countries in the same situation.**
- See note at THERE 2

love

- ✗ I'm sure that once you see Venice, you'll love it very much.
 - ✓ **I'm sure that once you see Venice, you'll love it.**
- love sb (very much):** 'I love him very much.'
love sth (WITHOUT very much): 'I love tennis.'

luck 1

- ✗ If you have luck, you'll be able to hear Carreras sing.
 - ✓ **If you're lucky, you'll be able to hear Carreras sing.**
 - ✓ **If you're in luck, you'll be able to hear Carreras sing.**
 - ✗ That afternoon she had luck and found the keys at the bottom of a drawer.
 - ✓ **That afternoon she was lucky and found the keys at the bottom of a drawer.**
 - ✓ **That afternoon she had a stroke of luck and found the keys at the bottom of a drawer.**
- be lucky, be in luck, (have) a stroke/bit of luck (NOT have luck):**
 'We're lucky the coach didn't go without us.' 'You're in luck, there are still a few tickets left.' 'I'm so pleased she got the job. It's about time she had a bit of luck.'
 Note that when **luck** is used with **have**, it is always modified: 'I've had enough bad luck to last me a lifetime.' 'Some people have all the luck.' 'He hasn't had much luck recently.'

2

- ✗ I'd just like to say goodbye and wish you a good luck.
 - ✓ **I'd just like to say goodbye and wish you good luck.**
 - ✗ What a rotten luck! There he was again, sitting right beside me.
 - ✓ **What rotten luck! There he was again, sitting right beside me.**
- Luck** is an uncountable noun: 'She's had a lot of bad luck recently.'
 'Meeting the right partner is just a matter of luck.'

luggage 1

- ✗ There was no room in the car for all our luggages.
 - ✓ **There was no room in the car for all our luggage.**
 - ✗ He had brought a heavy luggage with him.
 - ✓ **He had brought some heavy luggage with him.**
- Luggage** is an uncountable noun: 'Do you have any more luggage?'

2

- ✗ I spent the morning packing my luggage.
- ✓ **I spent the morning packing (my bags/suitcases).**

pack or pack a bag/suitcase (NOT **pack ... luggage**): 'I haven't finished packing yet.' 'That's not the way to pack a suitcase!'

lunch

See BREAKFAST

- luxurious 1**
- ✗ You could stay at one of the big luxurious hotels, but the small hotels are far more reasonable.
 - ✓ **You could stay at one of the big luxury hotels, but the small hotels are far more reasonable.**
 - ✗ Consumers are offered more and more luxurious goods.
 - ✓ **Consumers are offered more and more luxury goods.**

To refer to a type or class of hotel, apartment, furniture, services etc, use **luxury** as a modifier: 'a luxury apartment in the heart of London', 'luxury bedroom suites imported direct from Italy', 'a luxury liner'.

Use **luxurious** to describe something that is very comfortable and expensive: 'The car's soft cream leather interior was extremely luxurious.'

- 2
- ✗ Many people today do not consider a car as a luxurious thing.
 - ✓ **Many people today do not consider a car as a luxury.**
- a luxury** = something that you do not need: 'We can hardly afford to buy food, yet alone waste money on luxuries.'

- luxury 1**
- ✗ They don't have any money to spend on luxury things.
 - ✓ **They don't have any money to spend on luxuries.**
- luxuries** (plural of **luxury**), **luxury goods**, **luxury items** (but NOT **luxury things**): 'Tax on luxury goods is bound to be increased.'



- 2
- ✗ Some successful criminals enjoy a luxury life.
 - ✓ **Some successful criminals enjoy a life of luxury.**
- A life of luxury** is a fixed phrase: 'His dream is to marry a princess and live a life of luxury.'