

Mm

machine

- ✗ Over eighty per cent of these cars are old, and so are their machines.
- ✓ **Over eighty per cent of these cars are old, and so are their engines.**

machine = a piece of equipment which performs useful work, such as a sewing machine, washing machine or computer: 'To operate this machine, simply select the type of coffee you require and press the green button.' 'The latest machines can run both types of software.'

engine = a device which provides the power for a motor vehicle, train, aircraft etc: 'It was difficult to make yourself heard above the roar of the engines.' 'Check the tyre pressures and top up the engine oil.'

mad 1

- ✗ She began to think she was becoming mad.
- ✓ **She began to think she was going mad.**

go mad (NOT **become**): 'Eventually, rejected by Hamlet, Ophelia goes mad and drowns herself.'

2

- ✗ I've always been mad for tennis.
- ✓ **I've always been mad about tennis.**

be mad/crazy about sth (NOT **for**) (informal) = like something very much: 'Why are so many people crazy about computer games?'

made

- ✗ She claimed that the jumper was made from wool.
- ✓ **She claimed that the jumper was made of wool.**
- ✗ Many components are made by plastic.
- ✓ **Many components are made of plastic.**
- ✗ Margarine, which is made by natural ingredients, seems to be more acceptable.
- ✓ **Margarine, which is made from natural ingredients, seems to be more acceptable.**

Use **made from** when the original materials have been completely changed and cannot be recognized: 'Bread is made from flour and water.'

Use **made of** when the original materials have not been completely changed and you can still see them: 'Their dining table is made of solid oak.'

Use **made by** when you mention the name of the company or person that has made something (NOT the names of materials): 'This new razor is made by Wilkinson Sword.'

mail

- ✗ It takes seventeen trees to produce one ton of junk mails.
- ✓ **It takes seventeen trees to produce one ton of junk mail.**

Mail (= letters and parcels) is an uncountable noun: 'Has there been any mail today?'

mainly 1

- x We were attracted by the clean air, the beautiful scenery, and mainly the peace and quiet.
 - ✓ **We were attracted by the clean air, the beautiful scenery, and above all the peace and quiet.**
 - x What I like about her mainly is her sense of humour.
 - ✓ **What I like about her above all is her sense of humour.**
- To show that one particular feature or item is more important than all the others, use **above all**: 'The person we're looking for has got to be smart, intelligent and above all trustworthy.' 'Above all, the government wants to avoid an increase in inflation.'

2

- x Mainly the film is about the madness of war.
 - ✓ **The film is mainly about the madness of war.**
 - x Mainly these problems involve the definition of words.
 - ✓ **These problems mainly involve the definition of words.**
- See Language Note at ALWAYS

majority 1

- ? The majority of houses in Germany have fitted carpets.
 - ✓ **Most houses in Germany have fitted carpets.**
- The majority of** (= more than half) is usually used in formal styles: 'The majority of the government voted against the bill.'
In other styles **most** (= nearly all) usually sounds more natural: 'Most people have never even heard of him.'

2

- x The majority of motorists is opposed to the scheme.
 - ✓ **The majority of motorists are opposed to the scheme.**
- the majority** + singular/plural verb: 'The majority is/are in favour of abolishing the death penalty.'
the majority of + plural count noun + plural verb: 'The majority of voters are in favour of abolishing the death penalty.'

make 1

- x I didn't make anything in particular. I just stayed at home.
 - ✓ **I didn't do anything in particular. I just stayed at home.**
 - x In Italy we have made a great deal to prevent pollution.
 - ✓ **In Italy we have done a great deal to prevent pollution.**
 - x He looked as if he had made something wrong.
 - ✓ **He looked as if he had done something wrong.**
- For actions, the usual verb is **do** (NOT **make**): 'Governments are not doing enough to reduce unemployment.' 'I'm so worried I don't know what to do.' See Language Note at do

2

- x I made lots of fun in London.
 - ✓ **I had lots of fun in London.**
 - x On Saturday we're making a party.
 - ✓ **On Saturday we're having a party.**
- See Language Note at do

3

- x The cold water made me shivering.
 - ✓ **The cold water made me shiver.**
 - x What made you to decide to work in the theatre?
 - ✓ **What made you decide to work in the theatre?**
- make sb/sth do sth** (WITHOUT to): 'They made him take the examination again.'

Compare **be made to do sth**: 'He was made to take the examination again.'

make up

- x The company rule is that all female employees must make up their faces.
 - ✓ **The company rule is that all female employees must wear make-up.**
 - x She told me what to wear and showed me how to make up.
 - ✓ **She told me what to wear and showed me how to put on my make-up.**
- wear/use make-up**: 'Some women refuse to wear make-up.'
put on your make-up: 'I've just got to put on my make-up and I'll be ready.'

man

- x Every day the man is inventing new machines.
 - ✓ **Every day man is inventing new machines.**
- When you mean 'the human race', use **man** (WITHOUT **the**): 'I can't believe that man has actually stepped foot on the moon.'

mankind 1

- x These bombs could lead to the destruction of the mankind.
 - ✓ **These bombs could lead to the destruction of mankind.**
- mankind** (= the human race) WITHOUT **the**: 'Travelling into space was a great advance for mankind.'

2 ? The nature of mankind is very complicated.

- ✓ **Human nature is very complicated.**
- ? In art we discover the beauty of mankind's imagination.
- ✓ **In art we discover the beauty of the human imagination.**

Mankind (or **the human race**) refers to all human beings considered as a group: 'The greatest danger to mankind is not science but ignorance.'
 'These are the most devastating weapons mankind has ever devised.'
 'What is mankind's long-term role in space?'
 When you mean 'belonging to or typical of people (as opposed to God, animals, machines etc)', the usual pattern is **human** + noun: 'Greed and envy are common human failings.'
 Note that phrases such as **human nature**, **human error**, **human interest** and **human weakness** are very common.

manner 1

- x Japanese manner is based on the idea that 'you are superior to me'.
 - ✓ **Japanese manners are based on the idea that 'you are superior to me'.**
- See Language Note on next page

2 x American manner is all about freedom and equality.
 ✓ **American culture is all about freedom and equality.**
 See Language Note on next page

3 x Every society has its own laws and manners.
 ✓ **Every society has its own laws and traditions/customs.**
 See Language Note on next page

4 ? One of the biggest differences I noticed was the American manner of being polite to strangers.

- ✓ **One of the biggest differences I noticed was the American custom of being polite to strangers.**

See Language Note below

5

- ✗ We were taught how to speak in a good manner.

- ✓ **We were taught how to speak properly.**

If you do something in the right way, you do it **properly**: 'Failure to use the equipment properly may result in serious injury.' 'Since George passed away, Mavis has stopped eating properly.'

CULTURE • CUSTOM • HABIT • MANNER • MANNERS • TRADITION

culture	(1) the customs, ideas, art, etc., which are found in a particular society or group and which make it different from another society or group: 'Obeying your parents is a hallmark of Asian culture.' (2) the art, music, literature, etc., that is produced by a particular society: 'Professor Jackson is an expert on ancient Greek culture.' 'The Samba is an important part of Brazilian culture.'
custom	(1) something that the people in a particular society have done (in the same way) for a very long time, and which they consider to be normal or polite: 'One of their customs is to point with the thumb, not with index finger.' 'According to local custom, his body was carried to the top of a hill and cremated.' 'His knowledge of Malay and Indonesian customs proved invaluable when we got to Bali.' (2) something that a person usually does in a particular situation: 'His custom of making detailed preparatory drawings makes him unique amongst 18th century British painters.' 'On Wednesday evening, as was his custom, he went for a long walk.'
habit	something that a person does repeatedly, often without realizing it: 'She has a lot of little habits that I find really irritating.' 'In California I got into the habit of eating with just a fork.'
manner (singular)	the way someone behaves towards people: 'She impressed us all with her business-like manner.' 'His cheerful face and polite manner have won him a lot of friends.'
manners (plural)	the way someone behaves towards people, especially when compared with what is accepted as polite behaviour: 'The child has very good manners and always says thank you.'
tradition	a belief, custom or way of doing something that has been passed on from one generation to the next: 'The tradition was that when a man died, all his wealth and possessions would go to the eldest son.'

many 1

- ✗ One of the policemen started asking me many questions.
- ✓ **One of the policemen started asking me a lot of questions.**
- ✗ We are given many tests.
- ✓ **We are given a lot of tests.**

Many and **much** are used mainly in questions and negative sentences: 'Does he have many friends?' 'It appears that he doesn't have many friends.' In affirmative sentences, phrases such as **a lot of** and **plenty of** are used.

Note however that **many** and **much** are used in affirmative sentences after **too**, **so**, and **as** ('You ask too many questions.') and sometimes in formal styles ('Many accidents arise as a result of negligence').

2

- ✗ It's important to understand why there is so many violence in our world.
- ✓ **It's important to understand why there is so much violence in our world.**

See note at MUCH 1

3

- ✗ I had never seen so many and bright stars in the sky.
- ✓ **I had never seen so many bright stars in the sky.**
- ✗ There are not many and interesting Sunday newspapers.
- ✓ **There are not many interesting Sunday newspapers.**

many + adjective + noun (WITHOUT **and**): 'He is convinced that many serious accidents could be prevented.'

mark 1

- ✗ Her only distinguishing mark is her long blond hair.
- ✓ **Her only distinguishing feature is her long blond hair.**

A **mark** on someone's face or body is a small area of skin that is a different colour from the rest: 'You've got two dark red marks on your nose where your glasses have been.'

Things such as the colour of someone's eyes and hair, and the shape of their nose, chin and mouth are their **features**: 'As soon as he began to describe her features, I realized that he was talking about Mandy.'

2

- ✗ Before buying a cassette recorder, I asked my friend if he could recommend a good mark.
- ✓ **Before buying a cassette recorder, I asked my friend if he could recommend a good make.**
- ✗ As for cigarettes, there are many different marks.
- ✓ **As for cigarettes, there are many different brands.**

mark (also **Mk**) = a model, type or version (used mainly in trade names): 'a Mk II Jaguar'

make = a particular type of car, washing machine, camera, etc: 'If you want a really good make, go for a Nikon or a Pentax.' 'Which make of television do you prefer, Sony or Panasonic?'

brand = a particular type of soap, toothpaste, butter, cigarette, etc: 'I'm tired of being told which brand of washing powder I should use.'

market

- ✗ The magazine gives a list of all the computers in the market.
- ✓ **The magazine gives a list of all the computers on the market.**

on the market (NOT **in**) = available in shops for people to buy; for sale: 'It's not the cheapest machine on the market, but it's certainly the best.'

marriage

- x Why didn't you invite me to your marriage?
- ✓ **Why didn't you invite me to your wedding?**
- x I have just received your marriage invitation.
- ✓ **I have just received your wedding invitation.**

marriage = the ceremony of becoming husband and wife considered from a purely religious or legal point of view: 'Her parents are against the marriage.'

wedding = the occasion when this ceremony takes place and the celebrations that follow it: 'I never see most of my relatives apart from at weddings.'

married

- x She is married with a post office worker.
- ✓ **She is married to a post office worker.**

be/get married to sb (NOT with): 'How long has she been married to him?'

marry

- x He's going to ask her to marry with him.
- ✓ **He's going to ask her to marry him.**
- x His daughter is expected to marry to a viscount.
- ✓ **His daughter is expected to marry a viscount.**
- x After they get marry, they're going abroad.
- ✓ **After they get married, they're going abroad.**

marry sb (WITHOUT with/to): 'Isn't he the man who married Elizabeth Taylor?'

get married (to sb): 'I can still remember the day I got married. United were playing at Wembley.'



master

- x I have a master in Hotel Management.
- ✓ **I have a master's in Hotel Management.**

See DEGREE 1

match

- x The green jacket doesn't match to the trousers.
- ✓ **The green jacket doesn't match the trousers.**
- x We chose the sunflowers to match with the wallpaper.
- ✓ **We chose the sunflowers to match the wallpaper.**

One thing **matches/doesn't match** another thing (WITHOUT to/with): 'You can't wear that blue tie. It doesn't match your shirt.'

Compare: 'The green jacket doesn't go with the trousers.'

material

- x In today's material society, most people think only about money.
- ✓ **In today's materialistic society, most people think only about money.**

material = connected with the physical needs that people have (as opposed to spiritual or intellectual needs): 'In material terms they are very well off, but spiritually they are deprived.'

materialistic = believing that money and the things that money can buy are more important than anything else: 'Modern society is becoming increasingly materialistic.'

mathematics

- x Mathematics are my favourite subject.
- ✓ **Mathematics is my favourite subject.**

Mathematics (the subject) is an uncountable noun: 'Mathematics is compulsory. Even if you don't like it, you still have to take it.'

matter 1

- x The matter is that we won't have enough room in the car to take your mother with us.
- ✓ **The problem is that we won't have enough room in the car to take your mother with us.**

Matter is used to mean 'problem' or 'trouble' only in questions and negative sentences: 'What's the matter?' 'Is anything the matter?' 'There's nothing the matter.'

2

- x It doesn't matter the nationality of the archaeologists.
- ✓ **The nationality of the archaeologists doesn't matter.**
- x Doesn't matter the time.
- ✓ **The time doesn't matter.**

it doesn't matter + clause: 'It doesn't matter if you can't answer all the questions. Just do your best.'
subject + doesn't matter: 'The results don't matter. Just do your best.'

3

- x The flight attendant told us that there wasn't any matter; it was just a storm.
- ✓ **The flight attendant told us that nothing was the matter; it was just a storm.**

nothing/something is the matter or **there is nothing/something the matter**: 'I think there's something the matter with the central heating. It's cold in here.' 'Don't worry. Nothing's the matter. It's just a tiny cut.'

4

See FACT 3

5

See NO MATTER

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matured

- x He isn't matured enough to get married.
- ✓ **He isn't mature enough to get married.**
- x Replacing such a politically matured leader will not be easy.
- ✓ **Replacing such a politically mature leader will not be easy.**

Use **matured/mature** when you are talking about wine, cheese etc: 'The whisky is kept here until it has matured/is mature.'
 When you are talking about people, the usual word is **mature**: 'He's very mature for a boy of sixteen.'

may

- x If I hadn't seen the car coming, I may have been killed.
 - ✓ **If I hadn't seen the car coming, I might have been killed.**
- To refer to something in the past that was possible but did not actually happen, use **might have** or **could have** (NOT **may have**): 'If you had worked harder, you might have passed the exam.'
 Compare: 'I may have left it at home - I'm not sure.'

maybe 1

- x Maybe you'll find the film very boring.
 - ✓ **You may find the film very boring.**
 - x Maybe you will have problems breathing.
 - ✓ **You may have problems breathing.**
- Instead of using **maybe ... will**, use **may + infinitive**: 'They may decide that our offer is too low, of course.'

2

- ? Maybe this helps to explain why there are so many divorces.
- ✓ **Perhaps this helps to explain why there are so many divorces.**

Maybe is used mainly in informal styles: 'Maybe you should see a doctor.'

Perhaps is used in all styles: 'Perhaps he's gone home already.'
'Perhaps there are other factors that need to be considered.'

me 1

- ✗ I got me a drink and sat down on the sofa.
- ✓ **I got myself a drink and sat down on the sofa.**
- ✗ What can I tell you about me?
- ✓ **What can I tell you about myself?**

See Language Note at MYSELF

2

- ? I still remember the day me and my sister went to Buenos Aires by bus.
- ✓ **I still remember the day my sister and I went to Buenos Aires by bus.**

The pattern **me and ...** is sometimes heard in informal styles but is widely regarded as non-standard. The usual pattern is **... and I**: 'George and I have opened a joint account.'

meal 1

- ? You will be able to try some of the traditional meals.
- ✓ **You will be able to try some of the traditional dishes.**

See Language Note at PLATE

2

- ✗ We always take our meals in the canteen.
- ✓ **We always have our meals in the canteen.**

In British English the phrase **is have a meal** (NOT **take**): 'In the evening we had a three-course meal.'

In American English both **take a meal** and **have a meal** are used, although **take a meal** (more formal) is not very common.

mean

- ✗ Being a good flight attendant means to make your passengers feel relaxed.
- ✓ **Being a good flight attendant means making your passengers feel relaxed.**

mean to do sth = intend to do something: 'I've been meaning to write to you for ages.'

mean doing sth (or **mean + that clause**) = involve doing something: 'The new job will mean getting up an hour earlier in the morning.' 'The new job will mean that I have to get up'

means 1

- ✗ He was determined to get the money by all means.
- ✓ **He was determined to get the money by whatever means.**
- ✗ They intend to become famous by all means, even if they have to risk their lives.
- ✓ **They intend to become famous by whatever means, even if they have to risk their lives.**

By all means (= certainly) is used in formal spoken English to show that you are happy to accept someone's request or suggestion: 'Would you mind if I stayed a bit longer?' 'By all means.'

When you mean 'by using any method, even if it is unkind or illegal', use **by any means** or **by whatever means (are available/necessary)**: 'They are determined to get their hands on the property by whatever means are necessary.'

- 2 ☐ Learning English is a means to improve one's career prospects.
 ☒ **Learning English is a means of improving one's career prospects.**

means of (doing) sth = a way or method: 'It's time we stopped using force as a means of settling disputes.' 'There must be an easier means of gaining their confidence.'

means to do sth (or means of doing sth) = the thing that is required or necessary (to make something possible): 'These people have lost the means to support their families.' 'They would like to stop the war but lack the means to do so.'

- 3 ☐ By no means I want to suggest that people like being unemployed.
 ☒ **By no means do I want to suggest that people like being unemployed.**

See Language Note at NOT

measure- ment

- ☐ In my opinion, the authorities have to take even stricter measurements to save our archaeological treasures.
 ☒ **In my opinion, the authorities have to take even stricter measures to save our archaeological treasures.**

measurement = the length, width etc of something: 'You can't buy new curtains without knowing the window measurements.'

measure = an action intended to have a particular effect; a law or ruling: 'New measures are to be introduced in the fight against crime.'

media 1

- ☐ Television is a very powerful media.
 ☒ **Television is a very powerful medium.**
 ☐ The medias, such as radio and television, tell us what is happening in the world.
 ☒ **The media, such as radio and television, tell us what is happening in the world.**

When you are talking about television, radio and newspapers, use **medium** for singular reference: 'Children learn as much through the medium of television as they do by going to school.'

Use **media** (WITHOUT -s) for plural and group reference: 'the mass media', 'the news media'.

- 2 ? In January 1990, the international news media was excited because it appeared that Mandela might be released.
 ☒ **In January 1990, the international news media were excited because it appeared that Mandela might be released.**

The media usually takes a plural verb, especially in formal styles: 'The media have shown considerable interest in the trial.' A singular verb is sometimes heard in everyday conversation, but some careful users consider this to be incorrect.

medicine

- ☐ After drinking the medicine, I felt sleepy.
 ☒ **After taking the medicine, I felt sleepy.**
 take/have your medicine (NOT drink): 'Have you taken/had your medicine today?'

medium 1

- ☐ The medium score was about 6 out of 10.
 ☒ **The average score was about 6 out of 10.**

medium = neither large nor small, neither tall nor short, etc: 'The waiter was of medium height and walked with a slight limp.'

average = calculated by adding a set of quantities together and then dividing this total by the number of quantities in the set: 'The average age of students entering the college this year is 19.' 'Since 1991 house prices have been falling at an average annual rate of 8%.'

- 2 x My ability in English is about medium.
 ✓ **My ability in English is about average.**

If someone's level of skill or ability is neither high nor low, it is **average**: 'Elizabeth shows above average intelligence for a child of three.'

meet 1

- x Could you meet with me outside the station?
 ✓ **Could you meet me outside the station?**
 x The next time I met with her was in the supermarket.
 ✓ **The next time I met her was in the supermarket.**

meet with sb (mainly American English) = have a (previously arranged) meeting with someone: 'We met with their representatives to discuss the problem.'

meet sb (British and American English) = be in the same place as someone by chance or arrangement: 'Guess who I met on the way to the bank this morning?' 'I suggest we meet back here in an hour's time.'

- 2 x Hello John. It's good to meet you.
 ✓ **Hello John. It's good to see you.**
 x I can't wait to meet you again at Christmas.
 ✓ **I can't wait to see you again at Christmas.**

When you greet someone you know well, or talk about meeting them, use **see** (NOT **meet**): 'I hope you'll come and see us again soon.'

memorize

- x Following his death, a statue was erected to memorize him.
 ✓ **Following his death, a statue was erected in his memory.**

memorize = learn something so that you are able to repeat it exactly: 'Fortunately, I had memorized her telephone number and was able to ring her from the station.'

in memory of sb, to the memory of sb or as a memorial (to sb) = as a permanent reminder of someone after they have died: 'The charity was set up in memory of the late Lord Hinton.' 'It was built as a memorial to all those who died in the war.'

memory 1

- x Each visitor received a small gift as a memory.
 ✓ **Each visitor received a small gift as a souvenir.**
 x I bought six postcards and a few small memories.
 ✓ **I bought six postcards and a few small souvenirs.**

memory = something that you remember and see as a picture in your mind, especially an experience that you had a long time ago: 'The old teddy bear brought back vivid memories of my childhood.'

souvenir = something that you buy or obtain in a particular place (especially while on holiday) and keep to remind you of it: 'The vase is a souvenir of my week in Venice.'

- 2 x Casanova recorded his adventures in his memories.
 ✓ **Casanova recorded his adventures in his memoirs.**

To refer to someone's written account of (a period in) their life, use **memoirs** (pronounced /'memwə:z/): 'The former President's long awaited memoirs are to be published next month.'

- 3 ? You will remain in our memory and we all hope that you'll visit Greece again next summer.
 ✓ **We won't forget you and we all hope that you'll visit Greece again next summer.**
 You promise that you will **not/never forget** someone or the time you spent with them: 'I'll never forget the magic week we spent together in Rome.' The phrase **remain in one's memory** is grammatical but sounds unnatural.
- 4 x I have many happy memories about my childhood.
 ✓ **I have many happy memories of my childhood.**
memory of sth: 'He smiled to himself at the memory of his son's first day at school.' 'The order and discipline of the job brought back memories of his army days.'

menace

- x Nowadays world peace is menaced.
 ✓ **Nowadays world peace is threatened.**
Menace is usually used as a noun or adjective: 'These street gangs are a social menace.' 'He was convicted of menacing behaviour.' **Menace** is not often used as a verb. It appears mainly in formal styles and means 'make or try to make someone feel their life or safety is in great danger': 'His mighty war machine continues to menace neighbouring countries.' When you are talking about something which is a danger to peace, survival, safety, health, happiness, etc, use **threaten**: 'These poisonous liquids threaten the drinking water supply of two million people.' 'AIDS could threaten the economic well-being of Asian countries.'

mend

- ? Old cars are easier to mend.
 ✓ **Old cars are easier to repair.**
mend (or **repair**) a roof, fence, watch, radio, camera, puncture etc: 'Once you've mended the kettle, we can have a cup of tea.'
repair a vehicle or something that is wrong with a vehicle: 'How will you get to work while your car is being repaired?'

mental

- x Modern society provides us with material comforts but very few mental rewards.
 ✓ **Modern society provides us with material comforts but very few spiritual rewards.**
mental = affecting or taking place in the mind: 'People who have had mental illnesses are often unwilling to talk about them.'
spiritual = connected with the part of a person which has very deep thoughts and feelings: 'African music has a spiritual quality which is often lacking in Western music.'

mention

- x The first place that foreigners think of when I mention about Indonesia is Bali.
 ✓ **The first place that foreigners think of when I mention Indonesia is Bali.**
mention sth (WITHOUT about): 'I don't suppose she mentioned her new address?' 'They mentioned how helpful you had been.'

menu 1

- ✗ For the main menu we had fish, rice and vegetables.
 ✓ **For the main course we had fish, rice and vegetables.**
 See Language Note at PLATE

2

- ✗ My favourite menu is cheese and mushroom omelette.
 ✓ **My favourite dish is cheese and mushroom omelette.**
 See Language Note at PLATE

method 1

- ✗ We'll have to find new methods of amusing ourselves.
 ✓ **We'll have to find new ways of amusing ourselves.**
Method (of/for doing sth) is used mainly in technical styles: 'Farming methods have undergone many changes in recent years.' 'The research project aims to develop new methods for trapping solar energy.'
 In non-technical styles, use **way (of doing/to do sth)**: 'There are several ways of answering the question.' 'The best way to contact him is by fax.'

2

- ✗ Some companies are taking new methods for coping with environmental problems.
 ✓ **Some companies are adopting new methods for coping with environmental problems.**
adopt a method: 'This new method of treating the disease has been widely adopted.'

midday

- ✗ We usually eat during the midday and again in the evening.
 ✓ **We usually eat at midday and again in the evening.**
at midday (NOT **during**): 'At midday the sun is directly overhead.'
 Compare: 'During the middle of the day the sun is very hot.'

middle 1

- ✗ The girl was of middle height and was wearing a blue suit.
 ✓ **The girl was of medium height and was wearing a blue suit.**
 When you are talking about someone's height, weight, etc, use **medium** (NOT **middle**): 'The man that police wish to question is of medium height and has a small black moustache.'

2

- ✗ The wallet was middle brown and contained sixty dollars.
 ✓ **The wallet was medium brown and contained sixty dollars.**
 When you describe the colour of something, use **medium** (NOT **middle**): 'a medium grey suit' (= neither light grey nor dark grey but somewhere in between).

3

- ✗ On the middle of September she is going on maternity leave.
 ✓ **In the middle of September she is going on maternity leave.**
in the middle of (NOT **on**): 'The cat dropped the mouse right in the middle of the kitchen floor.' 'What do we do if the fire alarm starts ringing in the middle of an examination?'

Middle Age

- ✗ The history of the town dates back to the Middle Age.
 ✓ **The history of the town dates back to the Middle Ages.**
middle age = the period in a person's life between youth and old age: 'People who live this type of life are lucky if they reach middle age.'
Middle Ages = the period in European history from about 1100 to 1500 AD: 'Life in the Middle Ages was very simple.'

- middle age** *X* Sitting next to me was a middle age man, probably about forty.
✓ **Sitting next to me was a middle-aged man, probably about forty.**
X The Rolling Stones are all middle-age now.
✓ **The Rolling Stones are all middle-aged now.**
 The adjective is **middle-aged** (WITH -d): 'They would prefer a middle-aged woman to a young girl.'
- Middle East** *X* Arabic is spoken all over Middle East.
✓ **Arabic is spoken all over the Middle East.**
the Middle East, the Far East (WITH **the**): 'Bahrain is in the Middle East.'
- midnight** *X* Her plane is due to land in about midnight.
✓ **Her plane is due to land at about midnight.**
 See Language Note at **TIME**
- migrate** *X* A lot of new doctors migrate to America where they can earn more money.
✓ **A lot of new doctors emigrate to America where they can earn more money.**
migrate = (of birds, animals and people) travel from one place to spend a length of time in another, especially to find food, water, warmer weather, etc: 'How do birds know when to migrate and how do they find their way back home?'
emigrate = (of people) leave your own country and make your home in another one: 'There were no jobs back home so we decided to emigrate.'
- million 1** *X* Belgium has ten millions inhabitants.
✓ **Belgium has ten million inhabitants.**
X The paper has a circulation of approximately 3.9 millions.
✓ **The paper has a circulation of approximately 3.9 million.**
 See Language Note at **HUNDRED**
- 2** *X* We hung just over a million of little electric bulbs on the trees.
✓ **We hung just over a million little electric bulbs on the trees.**
X In the last ten years, more than two million of people have come to Milan to find work.
✓ **In the last ten years, more than two million people have come to Milan to find work.**
 See Language Note at **HUNDRED**
- 3** *X* Nearly half million people entered the country.
✓ **Nearly half a million people entered the country.**
 See Language Note at **HUNDRED**
- mind 1** *X* I don't mind to wait a bit longer.
✓ **I don't mind waiting a bit longer.**
(not) mind doing sth: 'Would you mind posting this letter for me when you go into town?'
- 2** *X* It was raining but we didn't mind it.
✓ **It was raining but we didn't mind.**

When the object of **mind** can be understood from the context, **mind** is not followed by a pronoun: 'Do you **mind** waiting a few **minutes**?' 'No, I don't **mind**.'

- 3
- ✗ The first thing that comes to my mind when I think about France is wine.
 - ✓ **The first thing that comes to mind when I think about France is wine.**

come/spring to mind (WITHOUT **my, his, their,** etc): 'When I'm planning a camping holiday, the first thing that comes to mind is the weather.'

- 4
- ✗ Having in mind that the roads will be busy, I think that we should make an early start.
 - ✓ **Bearing in mind that the roads will be busy, I think that we should make an early start.**

bear in mind (NOT **have**): 'Something else you need to bear in mind is the fact that not all countries have public transport.'

- minute 1
- ✗ The train arrived at exactly twelve past three.
 - ✓ **The train arrived at exactly twelve minutes past three.**
- When telling the time, **minutes** must be used after all numbers except **five, ten, twenty,** and **twenty-five**.
Compare: 'It's twenty (minutes) past ten.' (**minutes** can be used)
'It's twenty-three minutes past ten.' (**minutes** must be used)

- 2
- ✗ The college is a twenty minutes bus ride from my flat.
 - ✓ **The college is a twenty-minute bus ride from my flat.**
- See Language Note at HUNDRED

- mist
- ✗ Her flight was held up on account of the mist.
 - ✓ **Her flight was held up on account of the fog.**
- mist** = tiny drops of water in the air that make it difficult to see things that are far away: 'As the day wore on, the early morning mist quickly disappeared.'
fog = very thick mist: 'Traffic on several stretches of the M1 was slowed to a walking pace this morning as the result of thick fog.'

- mistake
- ✗ It doesn't matter if you do a slight mistake.
 - ✓ **It doesn't matter if you make a slight mistake.**
- make a mistake** (NOT **do**): 'It's easy to make mistakes when you're tired.' See Language Note at DO

- mister
- ✗ Dear Mister Southcroft ...
 - ✓ **Dear Mr Southcroft ...**
- Mister** is always written **Mr**: 'Mr Jones called this morning about the central heating.' See also **MR**

- moist
- ✗ Basement flats are often dark and moist.
 - ✓ **Basement flats are often dark and damp.**
- moist** = slightly wet, especially in a pleasant way: 'The bread was still nice and moist.' 'These plants prefer a warm, moist atmosphere.'
damp = slightly wet, especially in a cold and unpleasant way: 'Our hotel room felt cold and damp.' 'On damp days, we have to dry the washing indoors.'

- moment 1** *x* In that moment the door opened.
 ✓ **At that moment the door opened.**
in a moment = very soon: 'I'll have to go in a moment.'
at that moment = at that particular time: 'Just at that moment the telephone rang.'
- 2** *x* At the moment the girl opened her eyes.
 ✓ **At that moment the girl opened her eyes.**
 When you are telling a story or reporting what happened, use **at that moment**: 'At that moment the car skidded on the ice and went off the road.'
 Compare: 'At the moment I'm working in a restaurant.' (= now, at the present time)
- 3** *x* At the moment I saw him, I knew something was wrong.
 ✓ **The moment I saw him, I knew something was wrong.**
the moment (WITHOUT **at**) = as soon as: 'He fell in love with Samantha the moment he set eyes on her.'
- 4** *x* I'd like to see him in my office the moment he will arrive.
 ✓ **I'd like to see him in my office the moment he arrives.**
 See Language Note at **will**

moneySee **GAIN 1****month**See Language Note at **HUNDRED****monument**

- x* It is impossible to visit all the monuments of London in one day.
 ✓ **It is impossible to see all the sights of London in one day.**
monument = (1) a structure, usually made of stone, that is built to remind people of an important event or famous person; memorial: 'The inscription at the foot of the monument read: *To all those who gave their lives so that others could live in freedom.*'
 (2) a building or structure that is preserved because of its historical importance: 'If you are interested in ancient monuments you will find the Pyramids fascinating.'
see the sights = visit the interesting places in a city or country: 'I wanted to look round Moscow and see the sights.'

mood

- x* The mood of the castle depends on the weather.
 ✓ **The atmosphere of the castle depends on the weather.**
 ? The streets were very crowded and had a holiday mood.
 ✓ **The streets were very crowded and had a holiday atmosphere.**
 ✓ **The streets were full of people in a holiday mood.**
mood = the way someone feels at a particular time, such as happy, angry, etc: 'I'd keep clear of George this morning - he's in one of his bad moods.'
atmosphere = the general impression that a place gives you: 'Their house always has a warm, friendly atmosphere.'

more 1

- x* In Taiwan the food is more cheaper than in England.
 ✓ **In Taiwan the food is cheaper than in England.**

- ✗ These machines make farming much more easier.
- ✓ **These machines make farming much easier.**
Do not use **more** with the **-er** form of an adjective or adverb: 'Leather bags are more expensive but they tend to last longer.'

2 See MUCH 2

3 See NO MORE

- more or less**
- ✗ Some women more or less are forced to work nowadays.
 - ✓ **Some women are more or less forced to work nowadays.**
More or less is usually placed immediately in front of the word or phrase that it modifies: 'The two words have more or less the same meaning.' 'My wife and I met each other more or less by accident.' 'That's more or less everything you need to know.'
In everyday conversation **more or less** also comes at the end of a sentence: 'I guess that's everything you need to know, more or less.'

- morning**
- ✗ At morning I wake up at 6.30.
 - ✓ **In the morning I wake up at 6.30.**
 - ✗ The trains are very crowded in morning.
 - ✓ **The trains are very crowded in the morning.**
See Language Note at TIME

- most 1**
- ✗ Where I come from, the most teachers have to teach at two schools in order to learn enough.
 - ✓ **Where I come from, most teachers have to teach at two schools in order to learn enough.**
When you mean 'nearly all', use **most** (NOT the most): 'Most universities provide a wide range of courses.'
Use **the most** in comparisons: 'Which city has the most tourists?' 'Rome and Florence are indeed beautiful, but Venice is the most romantic.'

- 2
- ✗ Both girls are clever but Edna is the most intelligent.
 - ✓ **Both girls are clever but Edna is (the) more intelligent.**
Use **(the) most** when comparing one person or thing with all others: 'This is the most ridiculous excuse I've ever heard.'
When comparing just two people or things, use **(the) more**: 'Which is (the) more expensive - an ALR or an IBM?'
Note that in everyday conversation some people use **(the) most** instead of **(the) more**, but careful users consider this to be incorrect.

- mostly**
- ✗ We see each other mostly every day.
 - ✓ **We see each other almost every day.**
 - ✗ Mostly every family has a television.
 - ✓ **Nearly every family has a television.**
Use **almost/nearly** with **all/every/everyone** etc (NOT **mostly**): 'Almost everyone in the office has had a cold recently.'
Compare: 'The students here are mostly Swiss or German.' (= most of the students here ...)

- motor**
- ✗ It's an old car and the motor is very noisy.
 - ✓ **It's an old car and the engine is very noisy.**

motor = the part of a machine which turns electrical power into movement: 'My video camera isn't working. Either the battery is flat or there's something wrong with the motor.'
engine = See note at MACHINE

move

- ✗ When they saw that I couldn't move myself, they called an ambulance.
 - ✓ **When they saw that I couldn't move, they called an ambulance.**
- See Language Note at MYSELF

Mr 1

- ✗ Our English teacher is called Mr John.
 - ✓ **Our English teacher is called Mr (John) Smith.**
- Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms** (+ first name) + surname: 'Mrs Waters', 'Mr Clive Upton'

2

- ✗ Dear Mr,
- ✓ **Dear Sir,**
- ✗ Dear Mr/Mrs,
- ✓ **Dear Sir/Madam,**

When you are writing a formal letter and you know the surname of the addressee, begin **Dear Mr Smith, Dear Mrs Jones, Dear Ms Simpson** etc. When you do not know the person's surname, begin **Dear Sir, Dear Madam** or **Dear Sir/Madam**.

3

- ✗ Dear Mr Alan Jones
 - ✓ **Dear Mr Jones,**
- Dear** is followed by **Mr/Mrs/Ms** + surname only (NOT first name + surname): 'Dear Mrs Jackson'

much 1

- ✗ We don't need to hire that much employees.
- ✓ **We don't need to hire that many employees.**
- ✗ There are as much disadvantages as advantages.
- ✓ **There are as many disadvantages as advantages.**
- ✗ There are too much people in Mexico.
- ✓ **There are too many people in Mexico.**

much + uncountable noun: 'There isn't much traffic today.' 'There was too much furniture in the room.'

many + plural (countable) noun: 'There aren't many cars today.' 'There were too many chairs in the room.'

2

- ✗ Nowadays, there are much more criminals than policemen.
- ✓ **Nowadays, there are far more criminals than policemen.**
- ✗ I make much too many mistakes.
- ✓ **I make far too many mistakes.**

At the beginning of a phrase that ends with a plural (countable) noun, use **far** (NOT **much**). Compare: 'much more traffic', 'far more cars'

3

- ✗ As a doctor he earns much money.
- ✓ **As a doctor he earns a lot of money.**

See note at MANY 1

4

- ✗ British culture is much different from ours.
- ✓ **British culture is very different from ours.**

- ✗ We were much afraid that we would miss the flight.
 ✓ **We were very afraid that we would miss the flight.**

Much is used before an adjective (1) in questions and negative sentences: 'Is British culture much different from ours?' 'No, it isn't much different.' (2) before comparative forms: 'His last novel was much longer and much more interesting.' (3) before certain past participles acting as adjectives: 'Her drawings are much admired.'

5

See TOO MUCH 2

music 1

- ✗ Nowadays I prefer classical musics.
 ✓ **Nowadays I prefer classical music.**
 ✗ Are we allowed to play a pop music?
 ✓ **Are we allowed to play pop music?**

Music is an uncountable noun: 'Her hobbies are gardening and music.'

2

- ✗ After leaving school, he joined a music band.
 ✓ **After leaving school, he joined a band.**

(jazz/rock) band or (pop/rock) group (NOT music band): 'The band's new album has just been released.'

must 1

- ✗ People are not as careful as they must be and drop their litter in the streets.
 ✓ **People are not as careful as they should be and drop their litter in the streets.**

Use **must** (or **have to**) when, for example, there is a law or rule and you are not free to choose or decide for yourself: 'Candidates must answer all the questions in Part A and two questions in Part B.'

Use **should** (or **ought to**) when, for example, someone advises you to do something but you are free to choose or decide for yourself: 'At the end of the examination, you should check your answers.'

2

- ✗ The pupils mustn't go to the meeting if they don't want to.
 ✓ **The pupils needn't go to the meeting if they don't want to.**

Use **must not/never** when you mean that it is essential that someone does not do something: 'The door to the X-ray room must never be opened when the red light is on.'

When you mean that it is not necessary for someone to do something, use **needn't** or **don't need/have to**: 'You needn't pay now. You can wait until the furniture has been delivered.'

3

- ✗ You must be pleased to hear that I've already got the tickets.
 ✓ **You'll be pleased to hear that I've already got the tickets.**

When you inform someone of something, use **will be + pleased/interested + to hear/know/learn** (NOT must): 'You will be pleased to know that your old friend Peter has been promoted to Associate Professor.'

4

- ✗ If you can't find her, she must hide somewhere.
 ✓ **If you can't find her, she must be hiding somewhere.**

When you do not actually know where someone is or what they are doing, but certain facts allow you to guess, use **must be** or **must be doing**: 'If she isn't in her office, she must be in the canteen.' 'If she's in the canteen, she must be having her lunch.'

myself

See Language Note below

Using reflexive pronouns

The words listed below are called 'reflexive pronouns'.

SINGULAR

myself,
yourself
himself, herself
itself, oneself

PLURAL

ourselves (NOT **ourself/s**)
yourselves (NOT **yourself/s**)
themselves (NOT **theirself/s** or
themself/s)

- These pronouns are always written as just ONE word, e.g. **myself, ourselves** (NOT **my self, our selves**):

He managed to escape by disguising himself as a prison officer.

All the singular forms end with **-self**; all the plural forms end with **-selves**:

You mustn't blame yourself, Helen. It wasn't your fault.

I hope that you are both looking after yourselves.

- If the subject and the pronoun refer to the same person or thing, use **myself, himself, etc** (NOT **me, him**):

We found ourselves in a difficult situation. (NOT 'we found us')

She describes herself as a journalist. (NOT 'she describes her')

I stood there looking at myself in the mirror. (NOT 'looking at me')

Note however that prepositions of place are usually followed by **me, him, etc** (NOT **myself, himself**): 'I could hear footsteps behind me.' 'Do you have any money on you?' 'He'd forgotten to bring his keys with him.'

- The verbs **enjoy, amuse, hurt, injure** and **familiarize** are often used with a reflexive pronoun:

The children always enjoy themselves at the seaside.

He'd fallen down the stairs and injured himself.

Feel and **relax** are not usually used with reflexive pronouns:

He soon began to feel better. (NOT 'feel himself better.')

After a hard day's work, I like to relax. (NOT 'relax myself.')

Note however the pattern **feel yourself doing sth**: 'I felt myself getting redder and redder.'

Specialize and **concentrate** are never used with reflexive pronouns.

I want to specialize in tropical medicine. (NOT 'specialize myself')

He can't concentrate with the radio on. (NOT 'concentrate himself')

- Do not use **wash yourself, dress yourself, etc** when you mention the simple things that people do as part of their daily routine:

I always wash/have a wash before breakfast.

I wish you would hurry up and get dressed.

If you use **wash yourself, dress yourself, etc** you draw attention to the special skill or ability that the action requires: 'Not many two-year-olds are able to wash and dress themselves.'