

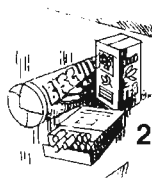
Pp

pace

- ✗ I want to learn English in my own pace.
- ✓ **I want to learn English at my own pace.**

You do something **at your own pace** (NOT in/by etc): 'With computer assisted language learning, students can work at their own pace.'

package 1



- ✗ I bought six eggs and a package of tea.
- ✓ **I bought six eggs and a packet of tea.**
- ✗ He smokes about one package a day.
- ✓ **He smokes about one packet a day.**

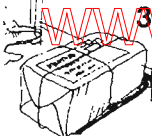
See Language Note below

2

- ✗ There are so many unnecessary packages nowadays.
- ✓ **There is so much unnecessary packaging nowadays.**

See Language Note below

3



- ✗ I enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a cheque for £5 for postage and package.
- ✓ **I enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a cheque for £5 for postage and packing.**

See Language Note below

PACKET • PACKAGE • PACKAGING • PACKING • PACK

package

a small parcel, usually sent by post: 'Sending both packages by airmail could work out very expensive.'

packet

a box, bag, container etc with a number of things or an amount of something inside, especially one that is sold in shops: 'a packet of cigarettes/biscuits/envelopes/balloons'. Another word for **packet** is **pack**, especially in American English: 'a pack of cigarettes'.

packaging

material that is put round things that are sold in shops, especially to encourage people to buy them: 'I wonder how much it would cost without all the fancy packaging.'

packing

material that is put round things to protect them, especially from getting damaged in the post: 'Please remember to add an extra £2.00 per order for postage and packing.' 'I think you should keep all the packing in case you ever want to ship the organ back to the UK one day.'

painful

- ✗ The operation was successful but I still feel very painful.
 ✓ **The operation was successful but I still feel a lot of pain.**
painful = causing pain: 'The finger I trapped in the door is still very painful.' 'The child wriggled free and gave me a painful kick on the ankle.'

pair 1

- ✗ The old pair next door have been married for 65 years.
 ✓ **The old couple next door have been married for 65 years.**
Pair usually refers to things (e.g. 'a pair of scissors/socks') or to two people who are seen (doing something) together: 'It's about time the pair of you did some work.' 'The German pair need just two more points for the match.' **Pair** also refers to two animals that stay together and produce young: 'a pair of swifts with a family to feed'.
 The usual word for a husband and wife (or two people in a similar relationship) is **couple**: 'Married couples should benefit from the new tax legislation.'

2

- ✗ Have you always worn a pair of glasses?
 ✓ **Have you always worn glasses?**
Pair of is usually used for individual reference (NOT general reference): 'I've bought two pairs of shoes for the children.'
 Compare: 'They sell shoes and handbags.' (NOT 'pairs of shoes')

paper

- ✗ Each of us was given a clean paper to write on.
 ✓ **Each of us was given a clean sheet of paper to write on.**
 When it refers to the material that you write on, **paper** is an uncountable noun: 'The printer has run out of paper.' 'On the back of the piece of paper she had written her address.'

pardon 1

- ✗ I asked the teacher if I could be pardoned for a few minutes.
 ✓ **I asked the teacher if I could be excused for a few minutes.**
pardon = (formal) forgive: 'I'm sure they will pardon the occasional mistake.'
excuse = give someone permission to stay away from school, work etc, or leave a classroom, meeting etc: 'Can I be excused from swimming today please? I've got a cold.'

2

- ✗ I beg your pardon, but I was very busy and couldn't spare the time.
 ✓ **I'm sorry, but I was very busy and couldn't spare the time.**
 ✗ I'd like to beg your pardon because I was late.
 ✓ **I'm sorry I was late.**
 ✓ **Please forgive me for being late.**

I beg your pardon is used (1) to apologize to a stranger because you have bumped into them by accident, sat in their seat by mistake, etc: 'I beg your pardon. I didn't know the table was reserved.'
 (2) to politely ask someone to repeat what they have said: 'Does this bus go to Marble Arch?' 'I beg your pardon?' 'This bus, does it go to Marble Arch?'
 (3) when someone has said something that makes you feel surprised, shocked, angry etc: 'Who's that man with the long nose?' 'I beg your pardon! That happens to be my husband.'
 Note that in formal situations you can use **excuse/forgive me** instead of **I'm sorry**: 'Please excuse me for taking so long to answer your letter.'

- parking 1** ☒ The car was parking outside the flat all night.
☒ **The car was parked outside the flat all night.**

Use **park** when you are talking about what a driver does: 'You're not allowed to park (your car) in the city centre.' 'Where've you parked (your car)?'

To talk about a vehicle that has been left somewhere and is not moving, use **parked**: 'That Ford van has been parked there for over a week.' 'The street is always full of parked cars.'

- 2** ☒ It took me an hour to find a parking.
☒ **It took me an hour to find a parking space.**
☒ What the town needs is an underground parking.
☒ **What the town needs is underground parking.**
☒ **What the town needs is an underground car park.**

a parking space/place = a place in a street, car park etc where a vehicle can be left: 'My first attempt to back into the parking space was a disaster.'

a car park (AmE **parking lot**) = a large open area or building where cars can be left: 'The supermarket has its own car park.'

parking (uncountable noun) = space(s) where vehicles can be left: 'Parking is available at Whitefriars Street.' 'There's ample parking in front of the hotel.'

- part 1** ☒ A part of the difficulty was caused by her poor English.
☒ **Part of the difficulty was caused by her poor English.**

It is unusual to use **a before part** or **unless part** of has an adjective in front of it. Compare: 'Lack of money was part of the problem.' 'Lack of money was a large part of the problem.'

- 2** ☒ The country is vast and occupies the most part of the continent.
☒ **The country is vast and occupies most of the continent.**
☒ For the most part of his life he was devoted to his work.
☒ **For most of his life he was devoted to his work.**

most of (NOT most part of): 'She spent most of the morning in bed.'

Note however the fixed phrase **for the most part** (= almost completely; mainly): 'The machines have for the most part been replaced.'

- 3** ☒ He refuses to part from his old camera.
☒ **He refuses to part with his old camera.**

part from a person: 'The two sisters were parted from each other when they were sent to different schools.'

part with a thing: 'Getting them to part with the money won't be easy.'

- 4** ☒ The annual celebration takes part in Valencia on 19th March.
☒ **The annual celebration takes place in Valencia on 19th March.**
☒ The election will take part within the next two years.
☒ **The election will take place within the next two years.**

When you **take part in** an activity, you do it together with other people: 'Altogether there are seventy-three competitors taking part in the race.' 'She's been invited to take part in a TV quiz programme.'

take place = (of a planned event) happen: 'The next meeting of the Nature Society will take place on Tuesday 3rd March.'

- 5 x Did you take part in Yolanda's party on Saturday?
 ✓ **Did you go to Yolanda's party on Saturday?**
go to a party/wedding etc (NOT take part in): 'We can't go to the party if we haven't been invited.'

- 6 x I think you ought to take part in a club.
 ✓ **I think you ought to join a club.**
join a club/society etc (NOT take part in): 'Guy is thinking about joining the drama society.'

- participate** x Teams from all Asian countries will participate the event.
 ✓ **Teams from all Asian countries will participate in the event.**
participate in sth = (formal) take part in: 'Our students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities.'

- partly** x Putting fluoride in the water may solve the problem partly.
 ✓ **Putting fluoride in the water may solve the problem to some extent.**
 ✓ **Putting fluoride in the water may partly solve the problem.**
 At the end of a clause use **to some extent/to a certain extent or to some degree/to a (certain) degree (NOT partly)**. Compare: 'I partly agree with him.' 'I agree with him to some extent.'

- party** 1 x On Christmas Day we always make a big party.
 ✓ **On Christmas Day we always have a big party.**
 x Next Saturday we're celebrating a small party at John's house.
 ✓ **Next Saturday we're having a small party at John's house.**
 x The party was being made at a friend's house.
 ✓ **The party was being held at a friend's house.**
have/hold/throw a party (NOT make/celebrate): 'Let's have a party and invite all our friends.'
celebrate Christmas, the New Year, someone's birthday, retirement, promotion etc: 'Next month we're having a party to celebrate our sixth wedding anniversary.'
 A party **is held** somewhere (NOT made/celebrated): 'Where is the garden party being held?' See Language Note at oo

- 2 See TAKE PART 5

- pass** 1 x We like to pass our holidays near the sea.
 ✓ **We like to spend our holidays near the sea.**
 x We passed the night in a cheap hotel.
 ✓ **We spent the night in a cheap hotel.**
 x I passed Christmas in London.
 ✓ **I spent Christmas in London.**
 You **spend** your holidays/a period of time somewhere (NOT pass): 'We spent a lazy afternoon down by the river.'
 When **pass** is used in connection with time, it is usually intransitive: 'Two weeks passed and there was still no reply.'

- 2 x It has passed almost a year since we first met each other.
 ✓ **It's almost a year since we first met each other.**
 ✓ **We first met each other almost a year ago.**
 ? Almost a year has passed since we first met each other.

In sentences about the passage of time, the subject of **pass** is always a time phrase: 'Another five minutes passed and the taxi still didn't appear.' Note however that this pattern is used mainly in narrative styles.

3

See EXAM/EXAMINATION 2

pass up

- ✗ The essays have to be passed up by next Monday.
- ✓ **The essays have to be handed in by next Monday.**

When you give a piece of written work to a teacher, lecturer, etc, you **hand it in**: 'All assignments have to be handed in by Monday 3rd October.'

past 1

- ✗ I was 8 years old when my father past away.
- ✓ **I was 8 years old when my father passed away.**
- ✗ Several taxis past me without stopping.
- ✓ **Several taxis passed me without stopping.**

The past tense and past participle of the verb **pass** is **passed** (NOT **past**): 'She's passed all her exams.' 'I passed him in the corridor but he didn't say anything.' 'These remedies have been passed down from one generation to the next.'

Past is (1) an adjective: 'For the past week he's been ill in bed.'

(2) a preposition: 'She walked past me very quickly.'

(3) an adverb: 'She walked past very quickly.'

(4) a noun: 'He never speaks about his past.'

Past is NOT used as a verb.

2

- ✗ It was a little past five when the game finished.
- ✓ **It was just after five when the game finished.**

Use **past** when you mention exact times: 'eight minutes past three', 'a quarter past two', 'twenty-five past seven'. Otherwise use **just after**, **shortly after**, etc: 'Her flight arrived shortly after midnight.'

pattern

- ✗ Their daily pattern doesn't include enough exercise.
- ✓ **Their daily routine doesn't include enough exercise.**

To refer to the things that you do every day, usually in the same order, use **routine**: 'The trip to Oslo was quite exhausting, but at least it provided an escape from the same old routine.'

pay 1

- ✗ 'Who paid the tickets?' I asked.
- ✓ **'Who paid for the tickets?' I asked.**

pay (an amount of money) **for sth**: 'Let me pay for the meal this time.' 'I can't afford to pay \$200 for a suit.' 'How much did she pay for the car?'

2

- ✗ Very few office workers get a good pay.
- ✓ **Very few office workers get good pay.**

Pay is an uncountable noun: 'They've given him a week's leave without pay.'

pay back

- ✗ The manager offered to pay me back the cost of the camera.
- ✓ **The manager offered to refund the cost of the camera.**
- ✓ **The manager offered me a refund of the cost of the camera.**

pay back money that was borrowed: 'He's promised to pay me back when he gets his next salary.'

refund money that was paid for something: 'If it doesn't work, bring it

back and we'll refund your money.' 'She assured me that my \$500 deposit would be refunded.'

a refund (of sth): 'You'll receive a refund of up to £50 if the concert is cancelled.' 'Season ticket holders are entitled to a full refund.'

payment 1 *x* Dr Schneider charges a high payment but he is very good.

✓ **Dr Schneider charges a high fee but he is very good.**

payment = an amount of money that is paid for something: 'I had to get rid of the car because I couldn't keep up the payments.'

fee = an amount of money paid to a doctor, lawyer, or other professional person: 'The fee for one hour's private tuition is \$60.'

2 *x* For the first month the payment by the hour is 650 yen.

✓ **For the first month the hourly rate is 650 yen.**

hourly/daily/weekly rate = the amount that someone charges or is paid for each hour/day/week that they work: 'He charges an hourly rate of \$600 plus expenses.'

3 See CHEAP 1

peculiar *x* She said she liked the jumper because the colour was very peculiar.

✓ **She said she liked the jumper because the colour was very unusual.**

peculiar = strange, especially in a surprising or unpleasant way: 'I'm not sure about this cheese. The taste is a bit peculiar.' 'Just because I don't like computers, everyone thinks I'm a bit peculiar.'

unusual = uncommon or rare: 'Where did you buy this cheese? The taste is very unusual.' 'At one time it was unusual for women to enter politics.'

people 1 *x* After a hard day, all people need to relax.

✓ **After a hard day, everyone needs to relax.**

x In Avanos every people smile at you.

✓ **In Avanos everyone smiles at you.**

everybody/everyone (NOT **all/every people**): 'Everyone needs someone to love.' See also PERSON 1

2 *x* Peoples come from all over the world to visit the city.

✓ **People come from all over the world to visit the city.**

a people (countable) = a race: 'His dream is that the peoples of the world will one day unite.'

people (plural noun) = men, women and children: 'He finds it difficult to get along with people.'

3 *x* There was few people at the funeral.

✓ **There were few people at the funeral.**

x I think people who does these things should be punished.

✓ **I think people who do these things should be punished.**

People is a plural noun and takes a plural verb: 'People have been very kind to me.'

- percentage** ✕ Only a small percentage of the windmills still works.
 ✓ **Only a small percentage of the windmills still work.**
 If the noun after **percentage of** is plural, the verb is plural: 'A high percentage of these school leavers have no qualifications.'
- perfect** ✕ I am pleased to say that the tape recorder now works perfect.
 ✓ **I am pleased to say that the tape recorder now works perfectly.**
Perfect is an adjective: 'My grandmother enjoys perfect health.'
Perfectly is an adverb: 'The baby is perfectly healthy.'
- perform** ✕ In his last film he performed a middle-aged school teacher.
 ✓ **In his last film he played a middle-aged school teacher.**
play a particular part or role in a film, play etc (NOT **perform**): 'What's the name of that good-looking American actor who played Butch Cassidy?'
 Compare: 'She has never performed in front of a live audience before.'
 'Tonight's concert will be performed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra.'
- perhaps** ? Perhaps I will even decide to get married after all.
 ✓ **I may even decide to get married after all.**
 ? Perhaps it will be a good chance for you to have a rest.
 ✓ **It may be a good chance for you to have a rest.**
May/might usually sounds more natural than **perhaps ... will**: 'My mother may need to have an operation.' 'You might feel that the course is too difficult.'
- period** ✕ These traditions took a long period of time to evolve.
 ✓ **These traditions took a long time to evolve.**
 ✕ She needs somewhere to live for a period of time.
 ✓ **She needs somewhere to live for a while.**
a (long/short) time/while (WITHOUT **period**): 'You can stay here for a while, if you like.' 'Learning a foreign language can take a very long time.'
- permission 1** ✕ To get a job in Switzerland, foreigners need a special permission.
 ✓ **To get a job in Switzerland, foreigners need special permission.**
Permission is an uncountable noun: 'If you want to put up a tent, you'll have to get the farmer's permission.' 'Nobody is allowed to leave early without permission.'
- 2** ✕ Eventually he gave me the permission to stay at home.
 ✓ **Eventually he gave me (his) permission to stay at home.**
(their/his mother's/the headmaster's) permission but NOT **the permission**: 'I'm sure that they'll let you use the library but it's better to have official permission.'
- permit** ✕ Overpopulation doesn't permit these countries to develop.
 ✓ **Overpopulation stops/prevents these countries from developing.**
Permit is used in situations where there is a rule, law or authority that controls what people can do: 'The law permits foreign investors to own up to 25% of British companies.' 'As children we were never permitted to leave the table until everyone had finished.'

- person** 1
- ✗ Very soon every person will have a portable computer.
 - ✓ **Very soon everyone will have a portable computer.**
 - ✗ Any person can vote in the election.
 - ✓ **Anyone can vote in the election.**
- everyone/anyone etc (NOT every/any person):** 'Not everyone has leadership potential.' See also PEOPLE 1
- 2
- ✗ Her husband talked so much that all the other persons in the room had to keep quiet.
 - ✓ **Her husband talked so much that all the other people in the room had to keep quiet.**
- The plural of **person** is usually **people**: 'Thousands of people had gathered outside the palace to catch a glimpse of the new princess.'
Persons is used mainly in public notices and other formal contexts: 'Seating capacity - 12 persons.'
- personal**
- ✗ The meals can be improved if the canteen personal agree to cooperate.
 - ✓ **The meals can be improved if the canteen personnel agree to cooperate.**
- See note at PERSONNEL
- personality**
- ✗ He is a man of strong personality who will fight for what is right.
 - ✓ **He is a man of strong character who will fight for what is right.**
- When talking about a person's moral quality, use **character** (NOT **personality**). Compare: 'For a career in sales, you need a forceful personality.' 'People of character and integrity never turn their backs on the truth.'
- personnel**
- ✗ Her books deal mainly with personnel relationships, especially marital problems.
 - ✓ **Her books deal mainly with personal relationships, especially marital problems.**
- personal** /'pɜːsənl/ (adjective) = concerning or belonging to one person in particular; individual or private: 'The novel is based on the author's own personal experience.' 'Our bank manager assured us that she would give the matter her personal attention.'
- personnel** /pɜːsə'nel/ (noun) = all the people employed in a company, office etc: 'In the event of a fire, all personnel must report to the reception area.' 'The personnel officer wants you to call and arrange an interview.'
- phenomena**
- ✗ This phenomena is called 'culture shock'.
 - ✓ **This phenomenon is called 'culture shock'.**
- Phenomena** is the plural of **phenomenon**: 'The breakdown of family life is a relatively recent phenomenon.' 'Mathematics explains a wide variety of natural phenomena.'
- phone** 1
- ✗ She phoned to the hospital to ask about her husband.
 - ✓ **She phoned the hospital to ask about her husband.**
 - ✗ Just phone to 555-879 and I'll come and get you.
 - ✓ **Just phone 555-879 and I'll come and get you.**
- phone/telephone/ring/call** a person/place/number (WITHOUT to): 'You must promise to phone me as soon as you get there.'
 Note that speakers of American English do not use **ring** for this meaning.

- 2
- ✗ I talked to him for a long time by phone last night.
 - ✓ **I talked to him for a long time on/over the phone last night.**
In British English the phrase is **(talk/speak to sb) on/over the phone** (NOT **by phone**): 'He didn't want to discuss it over the phone.'
Note that in American English both **by phone** and **on/over the phone** are used, although **by phone** is not common.

piano See PLAY

- picnic 1
- ✗ We decided to make a picnic in the field opposite the house.
 - ✓ **We decided to have a picnic in the field opposite the house.**
See Language Note at oo

- 2
- ✗ On our day off, we went picnic.
 - ✓ **On our day off, we went on a picnic.**
go on/for a picnic (NOT **go picnic/go to/on picnic**): 'The last time I went on a picnic I was chased by a bull.' 'Lucy loves going on picnics.'

- piece
- ✗ The pencils were free and so I took two pieces.
 - ✓ **The pencils were free and so I took two.**
Piece is NOT used with countable nouns. Compare: 'a piece of cheese', 'a piece of furniture', 'a piece of luck'.

- pillow
- ✗ The pillows had been removed from the sofa and scattered on the floor.
 - ✓ **The cushions had been removed from the sofa and scattered on the floor.**
pillow = a bag-like object filled with soft material that you rest your head on when you are in bed: 'No sooner had his head touched the pillow than he was sound asleep.'
cushion = a bag-like object filled with soft material that you put on a chair, sofa etc to make it more comfortable: 'Would you like a cushion for your back?'

- pitiful
- ✗ We both felt pitiful when we saw how lonely she was.
 - ✓ **We both felt pity for her when we saw how lonely she was.**
See PITY 1

- pity 1
- ✗ When I saw these pity children, my eyes filled with tears.
 - ✓ **When I saw these pitiful children, my eyes filled with tears.**
pity (noun) = a feeling that you have when you feel sad and sorry for someone because of their situation: 'They don't want out pity. They need our help.'
pitiful (adjective) = causing people to feel sad and sorry: 'The horses were in a pitiful condition, thin and covered with sores.'

- 2
- ✗ She expected me to feel pity on her and help her.
 - ✓ **She expected me to take pity on her and help her.**
 - ✓ **She expected me to feel pity for her and help her.**
take pity on: 'Eventually a kind motorist took pity on us and offered us a lift.'
feel pity for: 'Being a widow, she expects you to feel pity for her.'

- place** 1
- x I hope there's enough place in the wardrobe for all your clothes.
 - ✓ **I hope there's enough room in the wardrobe for all your clothes.**
- place** = an area or a particular part of an area: 'The best place to sit is right in front of the stage.'
- room** (or **space**) = an empty part of something that can be used or filled: 'There's room in the back seat for all three of you.'
- 2
- x I left the coat in my room but it may not be in that place any longer.
 - ✓ **I left the coat in my room but it may not be there any longer.**
- there** = in/to that place: 'It's a long way to New Zealand but I'd love to go there.'
- 3
- x When I lived at home, my father did not let me go to any place on my own.
 - ✓ **When I lived at home, my father did not let me go anywhere on my own.**
- anywhere** = in/to any place: 'Have you seen my comb anywhere?'
- 4
- x He was looking for a place where to spend the night.
 - ✓ **He was looking for somewhere to spend the night.**
 - x There was no place where to park.
 - ✓ **There was nowhere to park.**
- somewhere/nowhere/anywhere + to-v**: 'She needs somewhere to stay.'
- Compare**: 'He was looking for a place where he could spend the night.'
- planet**
- x I was born in a little planet in outer space.
 - ✓ **I was born on a little planet in outer space.**
- on a planet** (NOT in): 'Is there life on other planets?'
- plate**
- x You'll be able to try some of the local plates.
 - ✓ **You'll be able to try some of the local dishes.**
- See Language Note on next page
- play**
- x I've been playing piano since I was eight.
 - ✓ **I've been playing the piano since I was eight.**
- In British English the phrase is **play the piano/guitar/violin etc** (WITH the): 'She's learning to play the flute.'
- In American English **the** is sometime omitted.
- pleasant**
- x We would be very pleasant if you could attend.
 - ✓ **We would be very pleased if you could attend.**
- pleasant** = (of a person) polite and friendly: 'I've always found Bob very pleasant to work with.'
- pleased** = happy, satisfied: 'I was very pleased to hear that you're feeling better.' 'She's pleased that the exams are over.'
- please**
- x Please, if you cannot come, let me know as soon as possible.
 - ✓ **Please let me know as soon as possible if you cannot come.**
- Please** does not usually come immediately before a subordinate clause ('if you cannot come').
- Note the usual positions: 'Please let me know as soon as you can.' 'Will you please let me know as soon as you can?' 'Will you let me know as soon as you can, please?'

MEAL • MENU • COURSE • DISH • THE DISHES • PLATE

meal	A meal is the food that you eat at about the same time each day: 'After the meal we went to a discotheque.' 'We usually have our main meal in the evening.'
menu	A menu is a list of all the things that you can order in a restaurant: 'I tried to read the menu but it was all in French.' 'Is there any fish on the menu?'
course	A meal may be served in separate stages. Each stage is called a course : 'The main course was disappointing, but the dessert was excellent.' 'I'm not hungry enough to eat a three-course meal.'
dish	A dish is (1) food prepared in a particular way and served as a meal or part of a meal: 'My favourite Italian dish is lasagne.' 'For the main course there were six different meat dishes to choose from.' (2) a (usually shallow) container that food is placed in and then cooked or served: 'I hope this dish is ovenproof!'
the dishes	The dishes is a collective term for all the plates, bowls, cups, etc. that are used during a meal: 'Whose turn is it to wash the dishes tonight?'
plate	A plate is (1) a (usually round) flat object that food is placed on, especially just before it is eaten: 'All the clean plates are still in the dishwasher.' 'I'd never seen anyone put so much food on their plate.' (2) (also plateful) the amount of food on a plate: 'How can you eat two large plates of spaghetti and still feel hungry?'

pleasure 1 ✗ As mayor of this town, it gives me a great pleasure to welcome you.

✓ **As mayor of this town, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you.**

it gives sb great pleasure to do sth (WITHOUT a): 'It gives me great pleasure to introduce today's guest speaker.'
Compare: 'It is a great pleasure for me to introduce ...'

2 ✗ A lot of people work for their pleasure, not because of financial obligations.

✓ **A lot of people work for pleasure, not because of financial obligations.**

do sth for pleasure (WITHOUT his/our/their etc): 'She used to be in the national team but now she swims just for pleasure.'

3 ✗ It's the first time that I've had the pleasure to meet her.

✓ **It's the first time that I've had the pleasure of meeting her.**

be pleased to do sth BUT have the pleasure of doing sth: 'In Java I had the pleasure of attending a traditional wedding ceremony.'

p.m.

See O'CLOCK 3

point 1

- ✗ There's no point to complain about the service.
 ✓ **There's no point (in) complaining about the service.**
there is no/little point (in) doing sth (NOT to do): 'There's no point in going on Sunday - all the shops will be shut.'

2

- ✗ I had to spend forty-eight hours listening to him with a gun pointed to my head.
 ✓ **I had to spend forty-eight hours listening to him with a gun pointed at my head.**
point at = hold a weapon, camera etc so that it is in line with someone or something: 'Never point a gun at anyone.' 'With a knife pointed at my chest, I was in no position to argue.'
 Compare: '“I'd like one of those,” he said, pointing to/at a Mercedes.'

point of view 1

- ✗ From my point of view, the war is likely to continue.
 ✓ **In my opinion, the war is likely to continue.**
 Use **from ... point of view** to introduce the particular position from which a situation is seen and judged: 'From the government's point of view, a June election would make very good sense.' 'From a financial point of view, the proposal has many advantages.'
 To introduce your opinion about something, use **in my opinion**: 'In my opinion, the public isn't ready for another election.'

2

- ✗ On a cultural point of view, it is always interesting to live in a foreign country.
 ✓ **From a cultural point of view, it is always interesting to live in a foreign country.**
from a particular point of view (NOT on/in/at/to etc): 'From an environmental point of view, the battery-driven car is very attractive.'

police 1

- ✗ The police was not able to find anything.
 ✓ **The police were not able to find anything.**
Police is always used with a plural verb: 'The police have a very difficult job to do.'

2

- ✗ He was charged with shooting a police.
 ✓ **He was charged with shooting a police officer.**
the police = the police force in general: 'If you get any more of these phone calls, you should contact the police.'
policeman, policewoman, police officer = a member of the police force: 'There are two police officers outside waiting to see you.'

pollution

- ✗ The world's most serious ecological problem is the pollution.
 ✓ **The world's most serious ecological problem is pollution.**
 See THE 4

poor

- ✗ He gave all his money to the poors.
 ✓ **He gave all his money to the poor.**
the poor (WITHOUT -s) = all people that are poor: 'In a recession it is always the poor that suffer the most.'

- position**
- ✗ I should like to explain our government's position about nuclear weapons.
 - ✓ **I should like to explain our government's position on nuclear weapons.**
- position on sth (NOT about):** 'The President has made his position on taxation perfectly clear.'
- possibility 1**
- ✗ We are considering the possibility to do the job ourselves.
 - ✓ **We are considering the possibility of doing the job ourselves.**
- possibility of (doing) sth:** 'Is there any possibility of (getting) a refund?'
Compare: 'Is it possible to get a refund?'
- 2**
- ✗ My visit to Tokyo was a good possibility for me to learn some Japanese.
 - ✓ **My visit to Tokyo was a good opportunity to learn some Japanese.**
 - ✗ A person who wants to go out to work should be given the possibility to do so.
 - ✓ **A person who wants to go out to work should be given the opportunity to do so.**
- Use **possibility** when you are talking about something that may happen: 'There is also a possibility that the peacekeeping forces could themselves come under attack.'
- To refer to a situation in which it is possible for someone to do something, use **opportunity**: 'The exchange scheme provides young people with the opportunity to visit a foreign country.'
- possible 1**
- ✗ If you find my book, could you possible return it to me?
 - ✓ **If you find my book, could you possibly return it to me?**
- Possible** is an adjective: 'It's quite possible that someone picked up your bag by mistake.' 'There are several possible answers.'
- Possibly** is an adverb: 'I wonder if you could possibly send me some more information.' 'How could you possibly suspect your own brother of doing such a thing?'
- 2**
- ✗ It could be possible that I left the wallet back at the hotel.
 - ✓ **It's possible that I left the wallet back at the hotel.**
 - ✗ I was wondering whether it could be possible to arrange another meeting.
 - ✓ **I was wondering whether it might be possible to arrange another meeting.**
- Do not use **can/could** before **possible**. When you are talking about a past event, use **it is possible**: 'It's quite possible that the letter was sent to the wrong address.' When you are talking about a future event, use **it may/ might be possible**: 'She thinks that it may be possible to get the watch repaired.'
- 3**
- ✗ Is it possible that I come and see you tomorrow?
 - ✓ **Is it possible for me to come and see you tomorrow?**
 - ✗ She asked me if it was possible that you ring her back after 5 p.m.
 - ✓ **She asked me if it was possible for you to ring her back after 5 p.m.**

In enquiries and polite requests, use **possible (for sb) to do sth** (NOT **possible that**): 'Would it be possible for me to open a bank account?' Compare: 'It's quite possible that they've got stuck in a traffic jam.'

power

- x The illness has left her with no power.
- ✓ **The illness has left her with no energy.**

A person's **power** refers to their social, economic or political influence: 'The royal family has very little power these days.' 'The major investors have the power to make or break a company.'
When talking about someone's physical condition, use **energy** or **strength** (NOT **power**): 'I don't have the time or energy to go out in the evenings.' 'Her doctor has told her to take things easy until she gets her strength back.'

practice

- x I think it's a great idea and should be put in practice.
- ✓ **I think it's a great idea and should be put into practice.**

put sth into practice (NOT **in**): 'The aim of the project is to give students the opportunity to put what they have learned into practice.'

prefer 1

- x I'd prefer to staying at a different hotel this time.
 - ✓ **I'd prefer to stay at a different hotel this time.**
- prefer to do sth** (NOT **to doing**): 'They'd prefer to wait and see what happens.'

2

- x I'd prefer renting a small flat rather than live with a host family.
- ✓ **I'd prefer to rent a small flat rather than live with a host family.**

When you are talking about a future or imaginary event, use (**would**) **prefer + to do sth** (NOT **doing**): 'I think I'd prefer to wait a bit longer, just in case the others show up.'
Compare: 'I've always preferred eating at home to eating in restaurants.'

3

- x Why do you prefer the theatre than the cinema?
- ✓ **Why do you prefer the theatre to the cinema?**
- x I prefer drawing than painting.
- ✓ **I prefer drawing to painting.**

prefer (doing) sth to (doing) sth else (NOT **than**): 'He normally prefers classical music to rock.' 'Most women prefer breastfeeding to bottle feeding.'
Compare: 'I'd rather live in the North than in the South.' 'Most women would rather go out to work than stay at home all day.'

preferable 1

- x Going swimming is more preferable to playing football.
- ✓ **Going swimming is preferable to playing football.**

Do not use **more** with an adjective which contains the sense 'more' as part of its meaning. **Preferable** means 'better or more suitable': 'As far as I'm concerned, anything would be preferable to spending another night here.'

2

- x For most teenagers, living in the countryside is preferable than living in a city.
- ✓ **For most teenagers, living in the countryside is preferable to living in a city.**

One thing is **preferable** to another thing (NOT **than**): 'An old computer is preferable to no computer at all.'

- preference** x Our preferences in music are very similar.
 ✓ **Our tastes in music are very similar.**
 x I know Carlos very well and I know his preferences.
 ✓ **I know Carlos very well and so I know his tastes/what he likes.**

Preference usually refers to what someone prefers on a particular occasion: 'We could eat Chinese, Indian or Italian. Do you have any preference?' 'My own preference is for a hotel with its own swimming pool.'

When you are talking about the particular style or styles that someone (always) likes or buys, use **taste**: 'While in Italy she developed a taste for Renaissance art.' 'When it comes to clothes, he has very expensive taste.'

- prepare** x I was preparing myself to go to bed when the phone rang.
 ? **I was preparing to go to bed when the phone rang.**
 ✓ **I was getting ready to go to bed when the phone rang.**

If you **prepare yourself (for sth)**, you get yourself into a suitable mental or physical state for something that you expect to happen: 'Relatives of the victims were told to prepare themselves for a long wait.' 'The villagers are preparing themselves for further flooding.'

When you **get ready** or **prepare** to do something, you make yourself ready to do it: 'The company is preparing to expand its European network.' 'I had my breakfast and got ready to go to school.'

Note that **get ready** is very common in spoken English and is often used in connection with the simple things that people do as part of their daily routine.

- present** 1 x They decided to present a tiny kitten to their son.
 ✓ **They decided to give their son a tiny kitten.**

present (verb) = give something (to someone) during an official ceremony or meeting: 'The company's vice-president will now present the prize for the Best Salesperson of the Year.' 'Before leaving London, Mr Bush was presented with a petition from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.'

- 2 x Before leaving the examination room we had to present our answer papers.
 ✓ **Before leaving the examination room we had to hand in our answer papers.**

See note at PASS UP

- 3 x In the present she is involved in a project at the Housing Research Institute.
 ✓ **At present she is involved in a project at the Housing Research Institute.**

at present or **at the present time** (NOT **in the present**): 'I'm afraid that we're out of stock at present.'

Compare: 'In future, don't keep the customers waiting.'

- 4 ? At present I'm trying to improve my English.
 ✓ **At the moment I'm trying to improve my English.**

At present is used mainly in formal styles: 'At present there is insufficient evidence for the police to press charges.'

In other styles use **at the moment**, **just now** or **right now**: 'Alan is in bed with flu at the moment.' 'Mrs Blake is too busy to see anyone just now.'

- presently** ? Presently, nearly every machine used in the home is made of plastic.
- ✓ **At present, nearly every machine used in the home is made of plastic.**

Presently is used to mean 'soon' in both British and American English: 'The car will arrive presently to take Her Majesty back to the palace.' In American English **presently** is also used to mean 'now, at present, currently': 'The President is presently undergoing minor surgery.' The American usage is gradually becoming accepted outside the USA, but careful users of British English consider it to be non-standard.

- pressure** 1 x All these tests put an unnecessary pressure on students.
- ✓ **All these tests put unnecessary pressure on students.**

Pressure is an uncountable noun: 'To stem the flow of blood, firm pressure should be applied.' 'They will never agree to the proposal unless there is pressure from above.'

- 2 x This growing demand for housing gives pressure to the farmland and recreational areas.
- ✓ **This growing demand for housing puts pressure on the farmland and recreational areas.**

put pressure on sb/sth (NOT **give**): 'His parents are putting pressure on him to leave school and get a job.'

- pretend** 1 x The government pretends to nationalize all the major industries.
- ✓ **The government intends to nationalize all the major industries.**

pretend = behave in a way that aims to give someone a false impression: 'He got into the conference centre by pretending to be a security guard.' 'She hurried past, pretending not to see me.'

intend = be planning to do something: 'As soon as the baby can be left with someone, she intends to go back to work.'

- 2 x He pretends that he wasn't informed about the meeting.
- ✓ **He claims that he wasn't informed about the meeting.**

claim = state that something is true, especially when there is no proof or evidence that it is true: 'She claims to have been a close friend of John Lennon.'

- prevent** 1 x Stricter punishments would prevent people from doing these things.
- ✓ **Stricter punishments would deter people from doing these things.**

prevent = stop someone from doing something: 'They locked all the doors to prevent him escaping.'

deter = discourage someone from doing something: 'Tougher laws are needed to deter people from drinking and driving.'

- 2 x Stricter punishments may help to prevent society from serious crime.
- ✓ **Stricter punishments may help to protect society from serious crime.**

prevent = stop something from happening: 'Bad weather prevented the plane from taking off.' 'Good tyres help to prevent accidents.'

protect = keep someone or something safe: 'The camera comes with a free leather carrying case to protect it.' 'It is the responsibility of the police and the courts to protect us from these killers and maniacs.'

- 3 x His parents tried to prevent him to join the army.
 ✓ **His parents tried to prevent him from joining the army.**
prevent sb (from) doing sth: 'Girls should not be prevented from taking part in these sports.'

prevention x I decided to take a big stick with me, just as a prevention.
 ✓ **I decided to take a big stick with me, just as a precaution.**
prevention = the act of stopping something from happening: 'The police are also concerned with the prevention of crime.'
precaution = an action taken in an attempt to avoid possible danger, damage, injury, etc: 'Some drivers have had alarms fitted as an extra precaution.'

price 1 x The price of keeping a person in prison for a year is enormous.
 ✓ **The cost of keeping a person in prison for a year is enormous.**
 See Language Note opposite

2 See CHEAP 1

print x The magazine is printed every month.
 ✓ **The magazine is published every month.**
print = produce copies of a book, newspaper, etc. by using machines: 'Due to increased demand, another six thousand copies are to be printed.'
publish = produce and distribute (a book, magazine, newspaper, etc) for sale to the public: 'The first edition was published in 1989.' 'Amateur Photographer is published every Tuesday.'

prison x Sending people to the prison is not the way to reduce crime.
 ✓ **Sending people to prison is not the way to reduce crime.**
 See note at SCHOOL 1

probably x They probably will understand and try to help you.
 ✓ **They will probably understand and try to help you.**
 See Language Note at ALWAYS

problem 1 x I experienced problems to find the right accommodation.
 ✓ **I experienced problems in finding the right accommodation.**
have/experience a problem/problems (in) doing sth (NOT to do): 'You shouldn't have any problems in getting a visa.'

2 x Unemployment is a very important problem.
 ✓ **Unemployment is a very serious problem.**
a serious problem (NOT important): 'Teenage vandalism is a serious problem in this area.'

3 x When population growth is not controlled, serious problems can happen.

- ✓ When population growth is not controlled, serious problems can arise.

problem + arise/occur (NOT happen): 'How did the problem first arise?'

**PRICE • COST • COSTS • CHARGE • FEE • RATE
• RENTAL • FARE • RENT**

price	The price of something is the amount of money that you must pay in order to buy it: 'I'm interested in the car, but the price is too high.' 'Food prices are relatively low at present.'
cost	The cost of something is the amount of money you must pay to buy, do, make or use it: 'The cost of having the car repaired was £340.'
costs	the cost of living (fixed phrase) = the general amount that the people living in a particular area or country have to pay for necessary goods and services: 'In urban areas the cost of living tends to be higher.'
charge	Your costs are the total amount of money you spend over a period of time in order to make or produce something, or continue an activity: 'Our costs have doubled over the last five years as a result of the increase in oil prices.'
fee	A charge is the amount of money that you must pay for a service or to be allowed to use something: 'The waiter explained that the bill included a 10% service charge.' 'There is also a small charge for delivery and installation.' If you do not have to pay for something, it is provided free of charge : 'The company has offered to install the software free of charge.'
rate	A fee is 1 a charge that you must pay to be allowed to do something: 'Most art galleries charge an entrance fee.' 'Every new student has to pay a registration fee.' 2 (usually fees) a charge that you must pay for professional services such as those provided by doctors, lawyers, consultants, tutors, schools etc: 'My parents couldn't afford the school fees.' 'Last year alone, the company paid over \$12 million in legal fees.'
rental	A rate is the amount of money that you have to pay for a service or for hiring something, especially one that is calculated on an hourly, weekly or monthly basis: 'His hourly rate is £60.' 'For a five-star hotel, the rates are very reasonable.'
fare	The rental is the amount of money that you have to pay to a hire company to use something for a fixed period of time: 'The car rental is \$45 a day and you need a clean driving licence.' 'The rental on the TV doesn't include repairs.'
rent	See also CHEAP 1 a fare is the cost of a journey on a bus, train etc: 'How much is the train fare from Toronto to Montreal?' 'She spends \$20 per week on bus fares.'
	Rent is the money you pay every week or month to live in or use a place that doesn't belong to you: 'The rent is £500 inclusive of bills.'

- proceed** ✕ The main film was proceeded by a short cartoon.
 ✓ **The main film was preceded by a short cartoon.**
proceed = (begin and) continue: 'After a five-minute delay, the lecture proceeded.' 'According to latest reports, negotiations are proceeding smoothly.'
precede = come, go, or happen (immediately) before someone or something: 'Churchill was a much stronger leader than the man who preceded him.' 'The snowfall was preceded by a sudden drop in temperature.'
- process** ✕ The production of plastic paper clips has seven processes.
 ✓ **The production of plastic paper clips has seven stages.**
process = a series of actions or operations that are performed in order to make or do something: 'The process begins with the gathering of the coffee beans.'
stage = one of the actions or operations in a process: 'During the next stage in the process the beans are dried.'
- professor** ✕ He has applied for a job as a professor in a language school.
 ✓ **He has applied for a job as a teacher in a language school.**
 In Britain a **professor** is the most senior teacher in a university: 'My professor was the famous historian A.J.P. Taylor.'
 In the United States a **professor** is any university teacher who has a second degree.
- profit** ✕ The company has gained enormous profits in recent years.
 ✓ **The company has made enormous profits in recent years.**
make a profit (NOT gain): 'Derek would never sell you anything without making a good profit.' 'The company made a profit of \$53 million last year.'
- progress** ✕ We have made a great progress in the field of medicine.
 ✓ **We have made great progress in the field of medicine.**
 See Language Note at SCENERY
- prohibit** ✕ Even the teachers were prohibited to walk on the lawn.
 ✓ **Even the teachers were prohibited from walking on the lawn.**
prohibit sb from doing sth: 'The government intends to prohibit shopkeepers from selling cigarettes to children.'
- promotion** ✕ In some professions it is still difficult for women to get promotions.
 ✓ **In some professions it is still difficult for women to get promotion.**
 In phrases such as **get promotion**, **apply for promotion** and **chance/s of promotion**, the noun **promotion** is usually uncountable: 'Women should have the same chance of promotion as their male counterparts.' Compare: 'With so many staff leaving, we can expect a few more promotions.'
- proof** ✕ These bones are a proof that the animals really existed.
 ✓ **These bones are proof that the animals really existed.**

- ✗ Today we have scientific proofs that tobacco is harmful.
- ✓ **Today we have scientific proof that tobacco is harmful.**
Proof (= evidence) is usually an uncountable noun: 'Investigators now have proof of his involvement in the arms deal.'

- propaganda**
- ✗ The television company receives most of its money from propaganda.
 - ✓ **The television company receives most of its money from advertising.**
Propaganda is used in a political context: 'Roadside hoardings displayed anti-Western propaganda.' 'In times of war the public are bombarded with propaganda.'
Advertising is used in a commercial context: 'Car manufacturers spend billions of dollars a year on advertising.'

- property**
- ✗ The police eventually found most of the stolen properties.
 - ✓ **The police eventually found most of the stolen property.**
Property (= things that belong to someone) is an uncountable noun: 'Personal property should not be left unattended.'

- proportion**
- ✗ The country's small food supply is not proportion about the size of the population.
 - ✓ **The country's food supply is small in proportion to the size of the population.**
 Something is small/large etc **in proportion to/with** something else: 'Her feet are very small in proportion to the rest of her body.'

- proposal**
- ✗ The proposal of building a new motorway received little support.
 - ✓ **The proposal to build a new motorway received little support.**
proposal to do sth: 'The proposal to close the hospital was rejected.'

- propose**
- 1 ✗ I propose you to talk to John about it.
 ✓ **I suggest that you talk to John about it.**
propose = formally suggest an idea, plan or course of action, especially to an official person or group that has the power to decide: 'May I propose that we postpone further discussion of this matter until our next meeting.'
 - 2 ✗ A friend of mine has proposed me a job in his restaurant.
 ✓ **A friend of mine has offered me a job in his restaurant.**
 ✗ He proposed to put them up for a few days.
 ✓ **He offered to put them up for a few days.**
offer = (1) tell someone that they can have something if they want it: 'He offered me a cup of tea.' 'She was offered a job on a local newspaper.'
 (2) tell someone that you are willing to do something: 'He offered to drive me back to my hotel.'
 - 3 ✗ I would like to propose to double the number of computers in each office.
 ✓ **I would like to propose that the number of computers in each office is/be doubled.**
 ✓ **I would like to propose doubling the number of computers in each office.**

- ✗ I propose the library opening hours to be increased.
 ✓ **I propose that the library opening hours are/be increased.**

propose to do sth = intend: 'We would like to know what action you propose to take.'

propose that sb does/(should) do sth (or propose doing sth) = formally suggest: 'He has proposed that each existing member accept responsibility for recruiting two new members.' 'In the end it was proposed that the students concerned should be given a verbal warning.'

prospect

- ✗ There is little prospect for the situation to improve.
 ✓ **There is little prospect of the situation improving.**

prospect of doing sth/sth happening: 'With all the political unrest, there is little prospect of attracting foreign investment.'

protest

- ✗ She told the shop assistant that she wanted to protest about the cardigan she had bought.
 ✓ **She told the shop assistant that she wanted to complain about the cardigan she had bought.**

protest = say or do something to show that you strongly disagree with something: 'The crowds were protesting against the government's purchase of nuclear weapons.'

complain = say that you are annoyed or unhappy about something: 'He's always complaining about the weather.' 'If you think you've been overcharged, you should complain to the manager.'

provide 1

- ✗ My job provides me the opportunity to meet new people every day.
 ✓ **My job provides me with the opportunity to meet new people every day.**

provide sb with sth: 'Money from the aid programme will be used to provide the farmers with better tools.'

- 2 ✗ The government does not provide enough food to the population.
 ✓ **The government does not provide enough food for the population.**

✗ I was very pleased with the room you provided to me.

- ✓ **I was very pleased with the room you provided for me.**

provide sth for sb/sth: 'The hotel also provides facilities for business meetings and conferences.'

- 3 ✗ In my view, a father should provide his family.
 ✓ **In my view, a father should provide for his family.**

provide for sb = support someone by paying for all their food, clothes etc: 'How can you provide for your children when you don't have a job?'

publicity

- ✗ I think governments should ban the publicity of tobacco.
 ✓ **I think governments should ban the advertising of tobacco.**

If something is given **publicity**, there is an attempt to inform the public about it: 'Scandals involving prominent politicians always receive widespread publicity.'

Advertising is the activity of trying to persuade people to buy something: 'The big software companies spend millions each year on advertising.'

- punishment** x The police are in favour of stricter punishments.
 ✓ **The police are in favour of harsher punishments.**
severe/harsh punishment (NOT **strict/strong**): 'A prison sentence seems a very severe punishment for tax evasion.'
- pure** x We opened the window to get some pure air.
 ✓ **We opened the window to get some fresh air.**
 x I always keep a few bottles of pure water on the boat.
 ✓ **I always keep a few bottles of fresh/drinking water on the boat.**
 Use **pure** when you mean 'completely clean': 'The water in the lake is so pure that you can drink it.'
 The usual word for describing air and water is **fresh**: 'Her doctor has prescribed a good holiday and lots of fresh air.'
- purpose** x The purpose why I have come here is to improve my English.
 ✓ **The reason why I have come here is to improve my English.**
 x The purpose of staying in the United States is to complete my PhD.
 ✓ **My reason for staying in the United States is to complete my PhD.**
purpose = what you hope to achieve by doing something; aim: 'The main purpose of the trip is to see Helen's parents.' 'Their purpose in coming here is to promote Australian universities.'
reason = the thing that causes someone to do something: 'The reason why she left him was probably to do with his drinking problem.' 'Did they give you a reason for rejecting your application?'
- put off** x Once indoors, he immediately put off his wet clothes and dried himself.
 ✓ **Once indoors, he immediately took off his wet clothes and dried himself.**
 See Language Note at WEAR