

Ss

's/s' 1

- X The shopkeeper said the fault was the manufacturers responsibility.
- ✓ **The shopkeeper said the fault was the manufacturer's responsibility.**

When talking about something which is possessed by or connected with someone, use 's/s': 'Tim's new car', 'one of Sandra's friends', 'her parents' bedroom', 'our children's education'.

2

- X The children were playing marbles on the kitchen's floor.
- ✓ **The children were playing marbles on the floor of the kitchen.**
- ✓ **The children were playing marbles on the kitchen floor.**
- X Some of the tree's leaves had fallen on top of the car.
- ✓ **Some of the leaves (of the tree) had fallen on top of the car.**

The possessive 's/s' is used mainly with nouns that refer to people and animals. Compare: 'All her father's tools were missing.' (NOT 'tools of her father') 'The handles of the tools were all made of wood' (NOT 'tools' handles')

Note also that some nouns can be used like adjectives (WITHOUT 's/s'): 'the *kitchen* floor', 'a *garden* shed', 'a *pencil* sharpener'.

3

- X These vitamin pills are always available at the chemist.
- ✓ **These vitamin pills are always available at the chemist's.**

The word for the shop ends in 's': 'You can buy them at the greengrocer's in the high street.' 'I'll stop off at the butcher's on the way home.'

sack



- X When I took the two oranges out of the sack, I discovered that one of them was bad.
- ✓ **When I took the two oranges out of the bag, I discovered that one of them was bad.**

sack = a very large strong bag: 'He's hurt his back trying to lift a sack of potatoes.'

bag = a container made of cloth, paper, leather etc: 'Somewhere in this shopping bag there's a bag of sweets.'



safety

- X In Japan even the big cities are very safety.
- ✓ **In Japan even the big cities are very safe.**
- X She doesn't feel safety when she is on her own.
- ✓ **She doesn't feel safe when she is on her own.**
- X Promise that you will drive safety.
- ✓ **Promise that you will drive safely.**

Safety is a noun (NOT an adjective/adverb): 'The boy has been missing for six days, and there are fears for his safety.' 'The firefighters rescued the children and carried them to safety.'

sake

- ✗ I came here for my children sake.
- ✓ **I came here for my children's sake.**

for ... 's/-s' sake: 'For Wendy's sake, we've postponed the wedding until the first week in April. She'll be back from Italy by then.'

salary

- ✗ The salary is 800 yen an hour.
- ✓ **The pay/wage is 800 yen an hour.**
- ✗ The basic salary is £60 per week.
- ✓ **The basic pay/wage is £60 per week.**

A **salary** is the amount of money that someone earns for a year's work, usually paid once a month directly into their bank account: 'I'll pay you back at the end of the month when I get my salary.' 'She's on a salary of £23,000 a year.'

If someone is paid once a week, they receive **wages**. In the past, **wages** were always paid in cash: 'He opened the envelope and counted his wages.' When you are thinking about rates or levels of payment (rather than actual coins and bank notes), use **wage**: 'She earns a pretty good wage.' 'They're demanding a 20 per cent wage increase.' 'They've raised the minimum wage from \$4.25 an hour to \$5.50.'

Pay is a general word for the (amount of) money people get for the work they do: 'He's lost a month's pay.' 'They've been given a pay rise of £20 a week.'

Note that in informal styles these words are often used with the same meaning.

sale 1

- ✗ This company prefers to employ girls to sale their products.
 - ✓ **This company prefers to employ girls to sell their products.**
- Sale** /seɪ/ is a noun: 'This new law makes the sale of pirated video tapes a criminal offence.' 'Are you sure the house is for sale?'
The verb is **sell** /seɪ/: 'They were selling all the shoes half-price.'

2

- ✗ I bought both pairs of shoes on a sale.
- ✓ **I bought both pairs of shoes in a sale.**

You buy something **in a sale** (NOT on): 'I got the shoes half-price in a sale.'

Compare: 'Shiseido moisturizing cream is on sale in most department stores, priced £4.99.'

salute

- ✗ A group of officials were at the airport to salute the visitors.
- ✓ **A group of officials were at the airport to welcome the visitors.**

salute (of members of the armed forces) make a formal sign of respect, especially by raising the right arm: 'Always salute a superior officer.'

welcome = meet someone when they arrive and show that you are pleased that they have come: 'The visitors were welcomed at reception and shown where to go.'

same 1

- ✗ Paris has the same level of pollution with Los Angeles.
- ✓ **Paris has the same level of pollution as Los Angeles.**
- ✗ The belt is made of the same material like the coat.
- ✓ **The belt is made of the same material as the coat.**
- ✗ There were thousands of girls in the same situation than me.
- ✓ **There were thousands of girls in the same situation as me.**

the same ... as (NOT with/like/than): 'She goes to the same school as my sister.' 'Women have the same abilities as men.'

- 2 ☐ The breakfast was same as usual.
 ☒ **The breakfast was the same as usual.**
 ☐ The milk cartons are same as in Japan.
 ☒ **The milk cartons are the same as in Japan.**
 the same as (WITH the): 'Her car is the same as mine.'
- 3 ☐ I'd like to visit Vietnam and Malaysia one day, as same as you.
 ☒ **I'd like to visit Vietnam and Malaysia one day, the same as you.**
 ☒ **I'd like to visit Vietnam and Malaysia one day, (just) like you.**
 ☐ She had a face as same as a beauty queen's.
 ☒ **She had a face (just) like a beauty queen's.**
 the same as or (just) like (NOT as same as): 'New York was not the same as I'd imagined. It was worse.'

satisfactory

- ☐ For many people, a part-time job can be very satisfactory.
☒ **For many people, a part-time job can be very satisfying.**
satisfactory = good enough to be acceptable: 'Students are asked to leave the college if their work is not satisfactory.'
satisfying = giving pleasure or contentment: 'There's something very satisfying about baking your own bread.'

satisfied 1

- ☐ The salary they offered was more than satisfied.
☒ **The salary they offered was more than satisfactory.**
☐ Her examination results were not satisfied.
☒ **Her examination results were not satisfactory.**
satisfied = (of a person) feeling pleased or content: 'Despite the team's convincing 3-0 victory, the manager wasn't satisfied.'

- 2 ☐ I was completely satisfied of the quality of her work.
 ☒ **I was completely satisfied with the quality of her work.**
 ☐ He seemed quite satisfied from my progress.
 ☒ **He seemed quite satisfied with my progress.**

satisfied with sb/sth (NOT of/from): 'I wasn't at all satisfied with the quality of the workmanship.'

satisfying

- ☐ The service in the hotel was not at all satisfying.
☒ **The service in the hotel was not at all satisfactory.**
 See note at SATISFACTORY

save

- ☐ The police telephoned his parents to tell them that he was save.
☒ **The police telephoned his parents to tell them that he was safe.**
Save /seɪv/ is a verb: 'This new drug is likely to save hundreds of lives.'
 'Thanks to the local fire brigade, all three children were saved.'
 The adjective is **safe /seɪf/**: 'Since the break-in, I never feel safe in the house.'
 'You should keep your passport somewhere safe.'

say 1

- ☐ The policeman said me to go with him to the police station.
☒ **The policeman told me to go with him to the police station.**

- X She said to me to ask you to phone her.
 ✓ **She told me to ask you to phone her.**
tell sb to do sth (NOT say): 'I told them to wait for you outside.'

- 2 X When he arrived, they said him that his friend had died.
 ✓ **When he arrived, they told him that his friend had died.**
 ✓ **When he arrived, they said that his friend had died.**
say that: 'She said that she might be late.'
tell sb that: 'She told me that she might be late.'

- 3 X He was tired of people saying him what to do.
 ✓ **He was tired of people telling him what to do.**
say sth: 'I forgot to say goodbye.'
tell sb sth: 'Eventually he told me the truth.'

- 4 X In our next class we're going to say about pollution.
 ✓ **In our next class we're going to talk about pollution.**
 X The magazine also says about English football.
 ✓ **The magazine also talks about English football.**
talk about a particular topic (NOT **say about**): 'He refuses to talk about politics.' 'She's always talking about her father's health.'

- 5 See JOKE, LIE

- scarce** X If you are interested in scarce birds, you should visit the bird garden.
 ✓ **If you are interested in rare birds, you should visit the bird garden.**
 X Chocolate was very rare during the war.
 ✓ **Chocolate was very scarce during the war.**
 See note at RARE 1

- scarcely** X He sends them money but scarcely goes to see them.
 ✓ **He sends them money but rarely goes to see them.**
When you are talking about frequency, use rarely (= almost never):
 'Since she moved to Glasgow, we rarely see each other.'

- scene** 1 X From the window, there was a beautiful scene of the lake.
 ✓ **From the window, there was a beautiful view of the lake.**
scene = what you see when you are in a particular place, especially something that is unusual, shocking etc: 'Some of the scenes inside the concentration camp were too horrific to describe.' 'The President arrived by helicopter to witness a scene of total chaos.'
view = the whole area that you can see from somewhere, especially when you can see a long way into the distance: 'Remember to book a room with a view of the sea.'

- 2 X The driver stopped now and again so that we could enjoy the scene.
 ✓ **The driver stopped now and again so that we could enjoy the scenery.**
scenery = the natural features of the countryside, especially when seen from a particular place: 'The Lake District is famous for its magnificent scenery.'

scenery

- ✗ What a beautiful scenery!
 - ✓ **What beautiful scenery!**
 - ✗ You'll be very impressed by the beautiful sceneries.
 - ✓ **You'll be very impressed by the beautiful scenery.**
- Scenery** is an uncountable noun: 'Some of the scenery is quite spectacular.'
See Language Note below.

Using uncountable nouns

- Uncountable nouns do NOT have a plural form:
Where can we put all the furniture? (NOT 'furnitures')
 - Uncountable nouns are NOT used with **a/an** or words which have a singular or plural meaning (e.g. **another, these, many, two**):
She needs some information. (NOT 'an information')
Who'd like some more bread? (NOT 'another bread')
 - To refer to a specific amount, use **piece of, bit of, slice of, cup of, etc**:
Sometimes it may be possible to use a countable noun instead. Compare:
They gave her two pieces of useful information.
For breakfast I had three pieces of toast and two cups of tea.
 - After an uncountable noun, the verb is singular:
The traffic seems to get worse every day. (NOT 'seem')
New equipment is urgently needed. (NOT 'are')
 - Remember that nouns can have both countable and uncountable meanings. Compare:
Are the lenses made of glass or plastic? (uncountable)
Would you like a glass or a cup? (countable)
- The government spends a great deal on education. (uncountable)
want their daughter to have a good education. (countable)

See also THE 4

school 1

- ✗ Her daughter wants to leave the school and get married.
 - ✓ **Her daughter wants to leave school and get married.**
 - ✗ He still isn't old enough to go to a school.
 - ✓ **He still isn't old enough to go to school.**
- Use **the/a/my** etc only when you are talking about a particular school: 'She goes to a very good school.' 'Our two boys go to the same school.'
When you refer to school as a type of place or activity, use **leave school, start school, go to school, etc** (WITHOUT **the/a/my** etc):
'Most children go to primary school at the age of five.'
The same rule applies to **kindergarten, college, university, church, prison, jail** and (in British English but not American English) **hospital**.
Compare: 'They deserve to be put in prison.' 'The new prison has a special security wing for dangerous criminals.'
See also CINEMA

- 2 ✕ Most Norwegians speak English quite well because everybody has to learn it in school.
 ✓ **Most Norwegians speak English quite well because everybody has to learn it at school.**

In British English the phrase is **at school** (NOT in): 'What did you do at school today?'

Note that in American English both **in school** and **at school** are used.

- 3 See VISIT 3

scientific

- ✕ I'm studying for a scientific degree.
 ✓ **I'm studying for a science degree.**
 ✕ He's good at scientific subjects.
 ✓ **He's good at science subjects.**
 ✕ The Scientific Centre is next to the History Museum.
 ✓ **The Science Centre is next to the History Museum.**

Scientific is mainly used to describe something that is done or produced by scientists: 'We still don't have a scientific explanation for these mysterious events.' 'Many scientific research projects are funded by the private sector.'

When you mean 'used for, devoted to, based on or specializing in science', use **science** + noun: 'a new science laboratory', 'a science lesson', 'science fiction'.

scissors

- ✕ First you cut along the dotted line with a scissors.
 ✓ **First you cut along the dotted line with some scissors.**

Scissors is a plural noun: 'Do we have any sharp scissors?' 'I could do with a new pair of scissors.'

sea

- ✕ Every day Kino went out to the sea to look for the pearl.
 ✓ **Every day Kino went out to sea to look for the pearl.**

go/head/swim/drift etc **out to sea** (WITHOUT the): 'Just ten minutes after getting on board, we were heading out to sea.'

search 1



- ✕ Rescue teams are still searching survivors.
 ✓ **Rescue teams are still searching for survivors.**
 ✕ I searched my passport everywhere but couldn't find it.
 ✓ **I searched for my passport everywhere but couldn't find it.**



search = (1) examine someone's clothing or pockets to discover whether they are carrying a gun, drugs, stolen goods etc: 'They searched him twice but didn't find anything.' (2) examine an area/house/cupboard etc carefully to try to find someone or something: 'I've searched the whole house from top to bottom.'

search for = try to find someone or something, especially by looking everywhere very carefully: 'We spent the whole morning searching for the ring.' 'At this time of the year, thousands of school leavers are searching for jobs.'



2

- ✕ I decided to search for another hotel further down the road.
 ✓ **I decided to look for another hotel further down the road.**

Use **search for** (and **seek**) only when someone or something is very difficult to find: 'Investigators are still searching for clues as to the cause of the crash.'

Otherwise, use **look for**: 'I'll stay here with the bags while you go and look for a taxi.' 'If you're looking for some new shoes, you should try Clinkard's.'

seat

- ✗ Let's go and seat out in the garden.
- ✓ **Let's go and sit out in the garden.**

seat /si:t/ is a noun: 'You should book your seat two weeks in advance.'

sit /sɪt/ is a verb: 'My legs were aching but there was nowhere to sit.'

seaweed

- ✗ The first diver reappeared covered in seaweeds.
- ✓ **The first diver reappeared covered in seaweed.**

seaweed is an uncountable noun: 'Can you really eat seaweed?'

see 1

- ✗ He sat there all morning seeing the planes taking off.
- ✓ **He sat there all morning watching the planes taking off.**
- ✗ The teacher told us to see what he was doing.
- ✓ **The teacher told us to watch what he was doing.**

see = notice something with your eyes, especially without concentrating or paying attention: 'Did you see anyone go out?' 'Turn the light on if you can't see.'

watch = look at someone or something and pay careful attention, especially for a long time: 'She watched the man with interest as he made his way through the crowd.' 'After dinner we usually sit down and watch the news.'

2

- ✗ I'm sending you the magazine so you can see by yourself how beautiful the country is.
- ✓ **I'm sending you the magazine so you can see for yourself how beautiful the country is.**

see sth for yourself (NOT by) = check that something is really true, correct, as described etc by seeing it with your own eyes: 'If you think I'm exaggerating, come and see for yourself.'

seek 1

- ? I'm seeking someone to play squash with.
- ✓ **I'm looking for someone to play squash with.**

Seek is used mainly in formal styles: 'The aim of the hostel is to give help to those seeking friendship or simply shelter for the night.'

See also note at SEARCH 2

2

- ✗ He sat nearer the tree, seeking for protection.
- ✓ **He sat nearer the tree, seeking protection.**

seek sb/sth (WITHOUT for): 'Economics graduate, aged 25, seeks interesting part-time work in the West London area.'

seem 1

- ? Even the teacher seemed to be unable to answer the question.
- ✓ **Even the teacher seemed unable to answer the question.**
- ? She seemed to be sorry for causing so much trouble.
- ✓ **She seemed sorry for causing so much trouble.**

When **seem** is followed by an adjective, **to be** is usually avoided: 'After the guests had gone home, the room seemed empty.' 'It seems strange that she didn't say goodbye.'

Compare: 'There seems to be a problem with the carburettor.'

- 2 ? 'Steel Magnolias' seemed to be a comedy at first.
 ✓ **'Steel Magnolias' seemed like a comedy at first.**
 ? This kind of diet seems to be a punishment.
 ✓ **This kind of diet seems like a punishment.**
 When you are making a comparison, use **seem like**: 'Suddenly she seemed like a complete stranger.' 'The last few days had seemed like a dream.'

seldom See Language Note at NOT

- selling** 1 x They make all their money from the selling of vegetables.
 ✓ **They make all their money from the sale of vegetables.**
 To refer to the act of selling something, use **the sale of**: 'The money that comes from the sale of these drugs is used to buy weapons.'
- 2 x The first proposal would reduce the selling figures of the local shops.
 ✓ **The first proposal would reduce the sales figures of the local shops.**
sales = the number of things that are sold by a company: 'They've recruited a top advertising agency to help boost sales.' 'Last month's sales figures are very pleasing.'

- send** 1 x Could you send me to the airport on Saturday?
 ✓ **Could you take me to the airport on Saturday?**
 x The ministry's policy is for ambulances to send patients to designated hospitals within their zones.
 ✓ **The ministry's policy is for ambulances to take patients to designated hospitals within their zones.**
 See Language Note at TAKE

- 2 x I will send to you a cheque for the full amount.
 ✓ **I will send you a cheque for the full amount.**
send sb sth (WITHOUT to): 'Don't forget to send me a postcard.'

- sensibility** x I felt terribly annoyed by his lack of sensibility.
 ✓ **I felt terribly annoyed by his lack of sensitivity.**
 To refer to the ability to understand other people's feelings and problems, use **sensitivity**: 'To teach young children, you need lots of sensitivity and imagination.'

- sensible** x Children are very sensible; they all need love and attention.
 ✓ **Children are very sensitive; they all need love and attention.**
 Use **sensible** to describe someone who makes good decisions based on reason, and never behaves in a stupid or dangerous way: 'I'm glad to see that she was sensible enough to bring some warm clothes.' 'Be sensible - you can't wear high heels to a garden party.'
 Use **sensitive** to describe someone who is easily upset or offended: 'He's very sensitive about his weight, so try not to mention it.' 'Don't be so sensitive - he was only joking.'

- separate** ? Americans can be separated into a number of ethnic groups.
 ✓ **Americans can be divided into a number of ethnic groups.**

- ? England was separated into 650 constituencies.
 ✓ **England was divided into 650 constituencies.**

separate = place or keep (people or things) apart from one another:

'Break an egg into a bowl and separate the white from the yolk.'

divide = cause something to consist of (or be seen as) a number of parts, groups, sections etc: 'The manufacturing process is divided into three stages.'

several

- X The phrase 'the role of women' appeared just several years ago.
 ✓ **The phrase 'the role of women' appeared just a few years ago.**
 X Try to forget your work for several hours and relax.
 ✓ **Try to forget your work for a few hours and relax.**

Several means 'some but not many': 'Chicken will keep for several days in a refrigerator.'

When you are talking about a very small number, use **a few**: 'He was here just a few minutes ago so he can't be far away.'

severe 1

- ? My parents weren't at all severe with me. In fact, I was allowed to do what I liked.
 ✓ **My parents weren't at all strict with me. In fact, I was allowed to do what I liked.**

severe = not kind or friendly; showing no humour or sympathy: 'Mr Cameron's angry voice and severe expression used to frighten the children.'

strict = demanding that rules or laws are always obeyed: 'Teachers have to be strict or the children take advantage of them.' 'The company is very strict about employees getting to work on time.'

2

- X There are severe rules as to what you can wear to school.
 ✓ **There are strict rules as to what you can wear to school.**

When **severe** refers to punishment, criticism, damage etc, it means 'harsh': 'Driving while drunk could endanger other people's lives, so penalties are severe.' 'This non-intervention policy has attracted severe criticism.'

To describe a rule or law that must always be obeyed, use **strict**: 'The deer and other animals in the park are protected by strict laws.'

shade

- X I thought I saw someone's shade go past the window.
 ✓ **I thought I saw someone's shadow go past the window.**

See note at **SHADOW**



shadow

- X I sat down in the shadow of a huge eucalyptus tree.
 ✓ **I sat down in the shade of a huge eucalyptus tree.**



shade = sheltered from the sun: 'It's too hot here. Let's go and find some shade.' 'The branches provided plenty of shade.'

shadow = a dark shape that you see on a wall or surface when a light shines behind someone or something: 'The setting sun cast long shadows down the beach.'

shall 1

- X The next meeting shall take place in Vienna.
 ✓ **The next meeting will take place in Vienna.**

For future reference, use **will** with the second and third person: 'I'm confident you will not be disappointed.' 'If we don't hurry, the match will

have started.' Use **will/shall** with the first person (**I/we**): 'This time next week I **will/shall** be in Florence.' 'I'm sure we **will/shall** be seeing each other again.'

2

See Language Note at **WILL**

shame

- ✗ When I speak English I sometimes feel shame.
- ✓ **When I speak English I sometimes feel embarrassed.**
- ✗ The Chinese feel shame when they see people kissing in public.
- ✓ **The Chinese feel embarrassed when they see people kissing in public.**

See **ASHAMED**

she, s/he

See Language Note at **HE**

sheep

- ✗ A lot of cows and sheeps died because of the polluted water.
 - ✓ **A lot of cows and sheep died because of the polluted water.**
- The plural form of **sheep** is the same as the singular form: 'one sheep', 'two sheep'.

shoot 1

- ✗ The day after his 35th birthday, he shot 22 innocent people to death.
 - ✓ **The day after his 35th birthday, he shot dead 22 innocent people.**
 - ✗ The prisoners were either hanged or shot to death.
 - ✓ **The prisoners were either hanged or shot.**
- beat/hack/stab sb to death BUT shoot sb dead or shoot and kill sb** (NOT **shoot sb to death**): 'Hector Petersen was shot dead by South African police in June 1976.'
- Note that **shoot** by itself can mean 'shoot and kill': 'After shooting his victims, he buried the bodies in a nearby field.'

2

- ✗ Someone in the crowd ran up and shot a gun to the president.
- ✓ **Someone in the crowd ran up and fired a gun at the president.**

fire a gun (at sb), NOT **shoot a gun**: 'As part of the celebration they drove through the streets firing guns in the air.'

Note the alternative: 'Someone in the crowd ran up and fired at the president.'

shopping

- ✗ In the afternoon we went for shopping.
 - ✓ **In the afternoon we went shopping.**
 - ✗ I go to shopping twice a week.
 - ✓ **I go shopping twice a week.**
- go shopping (WITHOUT to/for)**: 'Some people fly to London just to go shopping.'
- Compare: 'We'd thought we'd go to the shops this afternoon.'

shortly

- ✗ She spoke very shortly about how they had lived during the war.
- ✓ **She spoke very briefly about how they had lived during the war.**

shortly = (1) impatiently; not politely: 'He answered rather shortly that he was NOT the slightest bit interested.' (2) very soon: 'The accident happened shortly after they moved into their new house.'

briefly = for a short time: 'We talked briefly about the financial side of the agreement and then moved on to other matters.'

- should** 1 ☒ I have friends who should love to stay at home, but they have to go to work.
☒ **I have friends who would love to stay at home, but they have to go to work.**

When talking about an imaginary situation, use **should/would** in the main clause after a first person subject: 'I should/would accept the job if I were you.'

After a second or third person subject, use **would** in the main clause (NOT **should**): 'He would accept the job if the salary were better.'

2 See BETTER 2

- shout** ☒ She made me so annoyed I felt like shouting to her.
☒ **She made me so annoyed I felt like shouting at her.**
 When you speak to someone in a loud voice because you are angry, you **shout at** them: 'I can't stand it when the children start fighting and shouting at each other.'

- side** 1 ☒ On the other side, I can understand why she feels disappointed.
☒ **On the other hand, I can understand why she feels disappointed.**

on the one hand ... on the other hand (NOT **side**): 'On the one hand, the airline has an excellent safety record.'

- 2 ☒ It shows us what is happening in the other side of the world.
☒ **It shows us what is happening on the other side of the world.**

on the other side of sth (NOT **in**): 'The bank is on the other side of the road.' 'What's on the other side?'

- *sightsee** ☒ You will be able to sightsee the volcanoes.
☒ **You will be able to see/visit the volcanoes.**
☒ I enjoy sightseeing new places when I'm abroad.
☒ **I enjoy seeing/visiting new places when I'm abroad.**

The verb **sightsee** does not exist.

- sight-seeing** 1 ☒ After lunch we went for sightseeing.
☒ **After lunch we went sightseeing.**
☒ They wanted me to take them for sightseeing.
☒ **They wanted me to take them sightseeing.**
go sightseeing, take sb sightseeing, etc (WITHOUT **for**): 'Today we're just relaxing by the pool and tomorrow we're going sightseeing.'

- 2 ☒ We're going to do a sightseeing tomorrow.
☒ **We're going (to do some) sightseeing tomorrow.**

Sightseeing is an uncountable noun: 'Some people aren't interested in sightseeing.'

- 3 ☒ We visited all the famous sightseeing places.
☒ **We saw all the famous sights.**

- ✗ Nagasaki is famous for its sightseeing spots.
- ✓ **Nagasaki is famous for its tourist attractions.**

To refer to places that tourists like to visit, use **sights** (plural) or **tourist attraction/spot** (NOT **sightseeing place/spot**): 'I've always wanted to see the sights of London.'

signature

- ✗ The signature of the new protocol took place in Rio de Janeiro.
- ✓ **The signing of the new protocol took place in Rio de Janeiro.**

signature = your name, written in the way that you usually write it on a cheque, business letter etc: 'These letters need your signature, Mr Ross.' 'You can tell by the signature if the painting is genuine.'

To refer to the event at which two or more people sign a legal or formal agreement, use **signing**: 'The signing of the peace agreement is scheduled to take place in Zurich at the end of the month.'

silent

- ? After a hard day's work, I like to be silent.
- ✓ **After a hard day's work, I like to be quiet.**

silent = without any sound at all: 'Apart from the regular ticking of the clock, the room was completely silent.'

quiet = without unwanted noise or activity; peaceful: 'After a few quiet days in the countryside, we felt ready to face London again.'

since 1

- ✗ I am studying law since 1992.
- ✓ **I have been studying law since 1992.**

✗ Since that journey, I never sailed again.

✓ **Since that journey, I have never sailed again.**

When you talk about an action or situation which began in the past and continues into the present, use a present perfect tense: 'I've been waiting here since 9 o'clock.'

In informal American English, the past tense is also used for this purpose.

See also FOR 4

2

- ✗ I have been living in London since four weeks now.
- ✓ **I have been living in London for four weeks now.**
- ✗ I've been working in a bank since two years ago.
- ✓ **I've been working in a bank for (the last) two years.**

since + beginning of period: 'since 3 p.m.'

for + length of period: 'for two and a half hours'

Compare: 'I have been living in London for almost two years, since October 1994.'

3

- ✗ Since the last few years, unemployment has been increasing.
- ✓ **Over/during the last few years, unemployment has been increasing.**

since + beginning of period: 'I've been living in Paris since July.'

over/during + the period of time within which something happens or develops: 'Over the last eighteen months there have been three tax increases.'

4

- ✗ I stayed at your hotel for three nights, since 23rd November to 26th November.
- ✓ **I stayed at your hotel for three nights, from 23rd November to 26th November.**

from ... to ... : 'from Monday to Wednesday', 'from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.', 'from 1947 to 1966'

- 5
- x Bring Eva with you. It's ages since I haven't seen her.
 - ✓ **Bring Eva with you. It's ages since I (last) saw her.**
 - x It's a long time since I haven't seen you last.
 - ✓ **It's a long time since I saw you last.**

it's ages/a long time /two weeks (etc) since + past tense (NOT present perfect; WITHOUT not): 'It's almost a year since I arrived.' 'It must be ages since we last had a meal together.'

- 6 See so 1

sincerely

See YOURS 1

sink

- x I knew that if I fell into the sea, I would sink.
- ✓ **I knew that if I fell into the sea, I would drown.**

Sink is used in connection with ships, boats and objects which go down and disappear beneath the surface of water: 'The ship had been holed in the collision and was beginning to sink.'

Drown is used in connection with someone who dies because water stops them from breathing: 'One of the boys had fallen into the river and drowned.'

sit

See ARMCHAIR

- size
- 1 x I'm afraid that the pullover you sent me has the wrong size.
 - ✓ **I'm afraid that the pullover you sent me is the wrong size.**
- be a certain size (NOT have):** 'If the boots are size 43, they should fit me.'



- 2
- x As far as I remember, you both have the same size.
 - ✓ **As far as I remember, you both take the same size.**
 - ✓ **As far as I remember, you are both the same size.**

be/take a certain size (NOT have): 'What size are you?' 'Before the baby was born, I used to take a size 12.'

skilful

- x 'You're lucky to have such skilful children,' she said.
- ✓ **'You're lucky to have such talented children,' she said.**

skilful = having or showing skill (gained from instruction and practice): 'Although he lacked Tyson's knock-out punch, he was the more skilful of the two boxers.'

talented = having or showing a natural ability to do something well: 'This talented young musician gave his first public performance at the age of five.'

sleep 1

- x I slept at ten o'clock last night.
- ✓ **I went to bed at ten o'clock last night.**

sleep = be asleep: 'Nurse Burnley works all night and sleeps all day.'
go to bed = get into bed at the end of the day: 'After dinner I had a hot bath and then went to bed.'

- 2
- x I started sleeping and didn't wake up till the next morning.
 - ✓ **I fell asleep and didn't wake up till the next morning.**

- ✗ After showing the conductor my ticket, I started sleeping again.
- ✓ **After showing the conductor my ticket, I went back to sleep.**
go to sleep or fall asleep = enter a state of unconsciousness, especially so that your mind and body can rest: 'As soon as I started to read her a story, she went to sleep.'
go back to sleep or fall asleep again = go to sleep again: 'The alarm clock rang at 7.45 but I just turned over and went back to sleep.'

smell 1

- ✗ You can feel the smell of the fish a mile away.
- ✓ **You can smell the fish a mile away.**
- ✗ I could feel the smell of his cigar all over the house.
- ✓ **I could smell his cigar all over the house.**

smell sth (NOT **feel the smell of**): 'I can smell something burning.'
 Compare: 'The whole house smelled of his cigar.'

2

See note at FEEL 2

smile

- ✗ She smiled to me as if she knew me.
- ✓ **She smiled at me as if she knew me.**

smile at sb (NOT **to**): 'For many parents the biggest thrill is when their baby first smiles at them.'

smoke

- ✗ People eventually get ill from inhaling the smokes.
- ✓ **People eventually get ill from inhaling the smoke.**

Smoke is an uncountable noun: 'The room was full of smoke.'

snack

- ✗ She usually has lunch at a snack in Barceloneta Square.
- ✓ **She usually has lunch at a snack bar in Barceloneta Square.**

snack = a light meal or something that you eat between meals: 'Instead of going out to lunch, I usually have a quick snack in my office.'

snack bar = a café or similar place where you can buy a light meal: 'The snack bar gets very busy at lunchtime.'

so 1

- ✗ Since it's his birthday on Monday, so he's having a party.
- ✓ **Since it's his birthday on Monday, he's having a party.**
- ✓ **It's his birthday on Monday, so he's having a party.**
- ✗ If you're a naughty boy, so the big crocodile will come and eat you.
- ✓ **If you're a naughty boy, the big crocodile will come and eat you.**

If the first clause begins with **if**, **since**, **as** or **because**, do NOT begin the second clause with **so** (or **that's why**). See also BUT

2

- ✗ During the summer all the hotels are so busy.
- ✓ **During the summer all the hotels are very busy.**

Use **so** + adjective (1) to mean 'to such a high degree or great extent': 'I was so tired that I fell asleep on the train.' 'I didn't expect the hotels to be so busy.'

(2) to express strong personal emotion: 'It was very kind of you to help me. I'm so grateful.'

Otherwise, use **very/extremely** + adjective: 'She was very tired and found it difficult to stay awake.'

- 3 ☐ My English is so poor so my wife has to translate everything.

☒ **My English is so poor that my wife has to translate everything.**

so + adjective/adverb + **that** clause: 'She was so clever that all the universities wanted her.' 'The pianist played so badly that the audience walked out.'

Compare: 'My English is very poor so my wife has to translate everything.'

- 4 ☐ We were not prepared for so cold weather.

☒ **We were not prepared for such cold weather.**

☐ I was annoyed with myself for being so fool.

☒ **I was annoyed with myself for being such a fool.**

A phrase that ends with a noun ('weather', 'fool') usually begins with **such** (NOT **so**): 'We hadn't expected such a warm welcome.' 'You're lucky to have such delightful children.'

Compare: 'Why is it always so cold in here?' 'The food was so bad that nobody could eat it.'

- 5 See **THAT** 4

so that

☐ He hadn't taken any warm clothes with him so that he felt cold.

☒ **He hadn't taken any warm clothes with him so he felt cold.**

So that is used to express the purpose of an action: 'We took our umbrellas so that we wouldn't get wet.'

So is used to express the result of an action: 'I'd forgotten to take my umbrella so I got wet.'

so-called

☐ Most of these drugs come from the so-called Golden Triangle.

☒ **Most of these drugs come from what is called the Golden Triangle.**

☐ During the so-called denitrification process, bacteria convert fixed nitrogen into molecular nitrogen.

☒ **During what is known as the denitrification process, bacteria convert fixed nitrogen into molecular nitrogen.**

Use **so-called** when you want to suggest that the name that has been given to something is incorrect or not suitable: 'I went to see the playwright's so-called masterpiece and was very disappointed by it.'

To introduce the name by which something is generally known, use **be known as**, **be referred to as** or **be called**: 'The distance that light travels in a year is called a light year.' 'Zaire was formerly known as the Congo.'

social

- 1 ☐ The next election was won by the Social Party.

☒ **The next election was won by the Socialist Party.**

social = connected with (life in a) society: 'Government attempts to tackle two of today's most serious social problems - crime and unemployment - have had no effect.'

socialist = connected with socialism (the political system that favours equality of opportunity and public as opposed to private ownership): 'Why is it that so many of these so-called socialists send their children to fee-paying schools?'

- 2 ☐ Our new neighbours are not very social.

☒ **Our new neighbours are not very sociable.**

A person who enjoys meeting and being with other people is **sociable**:
'You'll like John - he's very sociable and easy to get on with.'

society

- ✗ I was asked to give a talk about women and their role in the society.
✓ **I was asked to give a talk about women and their role in society.**

When it means 'the general system which helps people to live together in an organized way', **society** is uncountable and is used without **the**:
'People who drink and drive are a danger to society.'
Compare: 'Britain is a multi-racial society.'

solution

- ✗ Let us hope that there will be a peaceful solution of these problems.
✓ **Let us hope that there will be a peaceful solution to these problems.**

solution to a problem or difficult situation (NOT **of**): 'Divorce is not necessarily the best solution to an unhappy marriage, especially when there are children involved.'

some 1

- ✗ The refugees don't have some rights at all.
✓ **The refugees don't have any rights at all.**
See Language Note at NOT

2

- ? Do you have some questions?

- ✓ **Do you have any questions?**

Use **some, something etc** in offers, requests, and questions that expect or hope for a 'yes' answer: 'Who'd like something to eat?' 'Could you give me some help, please?' 'Aren't there some letters to be posted?' In other questions, use **any, anything etc**: 'Did you get any letters today?' 'Have you seen any good films recently?'

3

- ✗ I'm not sure if she has some brothers or sisters.
✓ **I'm not sure if she has any brothers or sisters.**

When talking about something unknown or uncertain (e.g. after **if/whether**), use **any, anyone etc**: 'I doubt whether anyone will object.' 'I'm not sure if I've got any envelopes that size.'

4

- ✗ On Tuesday we're going to London for some days.
✓ **On Tuesday we're going to London for a few days.**

To refer to a very small number or amount, use **a few** (+ plural count noun) or **a little** (+ uncountable noun). Compare:
Tina: 'I need some washing powder.'
Alex: 'How much?'
Tina: 'Oh, just a little.'

**somebody/
someone** 1

- ✗ She hadn't seen somebody for over a week.
✓ **She hadn't seen anybody for over a week.**
✗ Somehow he had to get on the train without someone seeing him.
✓ **Somehow he had to get on the train without anyone seeing him.**

See Language Note at NOT

- 2 x I ran over to the car to see if someone was injured.
 ✓ **I ran over to the car to see if anyone was injured.**
 See note at SOME 3

- something 1 x At first we couldn't see something suspicious.
 ✓ **At first we couldn't see anything suspicious.**
 x By six o'clock I am too tired to do something else.
 ✓ **By six o'clock I am too tired to do anything else.**
 See Language Note at NOT

- 2 x Does your country export something?
 ✓ **Does your country export anything?**
 See note at SOME 2

- 3 x If the drawer is stuck, you'll have to use a knife or something like that.
 ✓ **If the drawer is stuck, you'll have to use a knife or something.**
 x They never complain because they are afraid or something like that.
 ✓ **They never complain because they are afraid or something.**
 x We could go shopping or something else.
 ✓ **We could go shopping or something.**

In informal styles use ... **or something** (NOT ... **or something else/like that**): 'Why don't you buy her a book or something?' 'We could stay here and play cards or something.'

- some-where 1 x The poor bus service makes it difficult to get somewhere.
 ✓ **The poor bus service makes it difficult to get anywhere.**
 See Language Note at NOT

- 2 x Let's go to somewhere different for a change.
 ✓ **Let's go somewhere different for a change.**
 The prepositions **in**, **at**, and **to** are usually omitted in front of **somewhere/anywhere**. 'He wants you to give him a lift somewhere.'
 Compare: 'He wants you to give him a lift to the station.'

- soon 1 x As it soon will be Christmas I'm anxious to get the television repaired as quickly as possible.
 ✓ **As it will soon be Christmas, I'm anxious to get the television repaired as quickly as possible.**
 See Language Note at ALWAYS

- 2 x I'll phone you as soon as I'll arrive.
 ✓ **I'll phone you as soon as I arrive.**
 See Language Note at WILL

- sorry x I'm sorry for my terrible handwriting.
 ✓ **I'm sorry about my terrible handwriting.**
 x Unfortunately I can't come to your wedding because my exams begin on that day. I'm sorry for that.
 ✓ **Unfortunately I can't come to your wedding because my exams begin on that day. I'm sorry about that.**

be sorry about + noun/pronoun: 'I'm terribly sorry about your camera - I didn't mean to drop it.' 'I'm so sorry about all the mistakes.'
be sorry about/for + doing sth: 'I'm sorry about/for taking so long to answer your letter.'

- sort of** 1 ☒ These sort of activities help students to become independent.
☒ **These sorts of activities help students to become independent.**
 See note at KIND OF 1

- 2 ☒ I hate people who ask that sort of questions.
☒ **I hate people who ask that sort of question.**
☒ **I hate people who ask those sorts of question/s.**
 See note at KIND OF 2

- sound** 1 ☒ The engine was old and was making a lot of sound.
☒ **The engine was old and was making a lot of noise.**
 See note at NOISE 1

- 2 ☒ Her voice sounded more seriously than before.
☒ **Her voice sounded more serious than before.**
 See note at FEEL 4

South See NORTH

- space** ☒ There are hundreds of millions of stars in the space.
☒ **There are hundreds of millions of stars in space.**
 When you mean 'everything beyond the Earth's atmosphere', use **space** (WITHOUT **the**): 'He was the first German astronaut to travel in space.'

- speak** 1 ☒ We hadn't seen each other for a year and so we spent the whole night speaking.
☒ **We hadn't seen each other for a year and so we spent the whole night talking.**
 ? We spoke about where we would go for our next holiday.
☒ **We talked about where we would go for our next holiday.**

When just one person does all or most of the talking, either **speak** or **talk** may be used: 'He spoke/talked about his years in the army.'
 When two or more people have a conversation, the usual word is **talk** (NOT **speak**): 'We must have been talking for hours.' 'If someone brings me a problem, we just sit down and talk about it.'

- 2 ☒ Neither of my parents speaks in English.
☒ **Neither of my parents speaks English.**
speak in (English) = use (English) on a particular occasion: 'My grandparents won't understand a thing if the priest speaks in French.'
speak (English) = know (English) and use it habitually: 'Do you speak German?' 'We'll have to find someone who speaks English.'

- 3 ☒ We were shown how to speak with customers and handle complaints.
☒ **We were shown how to speak to customers and handle complaints.**

In British English the usual phrase is **speak to** someone: 'If you need any more information, you should **speak to** Mrs Hall.'
Note that in American English both **speak to** and **speak with** are used.

- specialize** x I intend to specialize myself in French literature.
✓ **I intend to specialize in French literature.**
See Language Note at MYSELF

- specially** 1 x Ordering a meal can be very difficult, specially when there is no menu.
✓ **Ordering a meal can be very difficult, especially when there is no menu.**
x They should not drop bombs on innocent people, specially children.
✓ **They should not drop bombs on innocent people, especially children.**
x I also enjoy water sports and I am specially interested in sailing.
✓ **I also enjoy water sports and I am especially interested in sailing.**

Use **specially** when you mean that something is done or made for a particular purpose: 'We've come all the way from Frankfurt specially to see you.' 'The stamps were specially designed to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.'

For all other meanings, use **especially**: 'Paris is always full of tourists, especially during the summer months.' 'Middle-aged men, especially those who are overweight, are susceptible to heart-attacks.'

- 2 x To live in Britain you need a lot of money. Specially London is very expensive.
✓ **To live in Britain you need a lot of money. London especially is very expensive.**

To draw attention to the situation in which your statement is particularly true, use **especially**. See note at ESPECIALLY 2

- spectator** x The spectators laughed at every joke.
✓ **The audience laughed at every joke.**

spectator = a person who goes to watch a sporting event such as a football match: 'The new stadium can hold up to 60,000 spectators.'

'The police should stop spectators from running onto the pitch.'

audience = see note at AUDIENCE

- speech** 1 x I was invited to make a speech on the radio.
✓ **I was invited to give a talk on the radio.**

A **speech** is usually made by a politician or by an important person at a meeting, social occasion, or dinner: 'The Prime Minister's speech included a fierce attack on the unions.'

A **talk** is usually informative and is often given by a lecturer: 'The title of Dr Chase's talk is "Solar Energy and the Nuclear Debate".'

- 2 x I was asked to do a speech welcoming the new students.
✓ **I was asked to give a speech welcoming the new students.**
give/make a speech (NOT do): 'After the meal the bride's father stood up and made a short speech.'

- speed 1**
- ✗ I jumped in and swam towards the child at my fastest speed.
 - ✓ **I jumped in and swam towards the child as fast as I could.**
 - ✗ The world's population has increased at a very rapid speed.
 - ✓ **The world's population has increased very rapidly.**

Phases with **speed** are usually used in connection with vehicles and machines: 'At the time of the crash, the train was travelling at full speed. 'These cars are capable of very high speeds.'

- 2**
- ✗ These new trains can travel in very high speeds.
 - ✓ **These new trains can travel at very high speeds.**
 - ✗ The car in front of ours continued with the same speed.
 - ✓ **The car in front of ours continued at the same speed.**

at a particular **speed** (NOT with/in) 'If we continue at this speed, we'll be there in an hour.' 'According to the police report, the car had been travelling at a speed of 110 miles per hour.'

- 3**
- ? He always drives at a very fast speed.
 - ✓ **He always drives at top speed.**

at **great/high/top/full/breakneck speed**: 'He jumped into the car and drove off at great speed.'

- spend 1**
- ✗ They don't have any money to spend for luxuries.
 - ✓ **They don't have any money to spend on luxuries.**
 - ✗ He spends everything he earns for his children.
 - ✓ **He spends everything he earns on his children.**

www.ELTS4U.blogspot.com
 spend your time/money/\$12/£5 etc + on sb/sth (NOT for): 'I spend about half my salary on food.' 'You should spend more time on your homework.'

- 2**
- ✗ Parents should spend more time to look after their children.
 - ✓ **Parents should spend more time looking after their children.**
 - ✗ I never spend more than an hour a day for studying.
 - ✓ **I never spend more than an hour a day studying.**
 - ✗ She spends most of her free time on reading.
 - ✓ **She spends most of her free time reading.**

spend your time/five minutes/two days etc + doing sth: 'She spends all her time working on her thesis.'

- 3** See TIME 8, 9

- spite 1**
- ✗ I believe that every criminal, in spite of the circumstances, should be severely punished.
 - ✓ **I believe that every criminal, regardless of the circumstances, should be severely punished.**

Use **in spite of** to introduce a fact that is in sharp contrast with another fact: 'In spite of all their money, they still aren't happy.'
 Use **regardless of** to emphasize that a particular fact does not change a course of action, even though it may be a difficulty: 'We're determined to have a holiday this year, regardless of how much it costs.'

- 2**
- ✗ In spite of staying at home, I decided to continue my studies in the United States.
 - ✓ **Instead of staying at home, I decided to continue my studies in the United States.**

When the situation involves a choice between two actions or things, use **instead of** (NOT in spite of): 'Instead of building more roads, we should be investing in the railway.'

- 3 ✕ They refused to play in the rain in spite of the crowd protested.
 ✓ **They refused to play in the rain in spite of the crowd's protests.**

See note at DESPITE 1

sport 1

- ✕ Sports help us to keep fit.
 ✓ **Sport helps us to keep fit.**

a **sport** (countable) = a particular type of sport: 'Cricket is a very popular sport in Yorkshire.'

sport (uncountable) = sport in general: 'She writes articles on sport and travel.' 'I'm not very good at sport.'

- 2 ✕ I need some new sport shoes.
 ✓ **I need some new sports shoes.**
 ✕ She bought a bright red sport car.
 ✓ **She bought a bright red sports car.**

Use **sports** in front of a noun (NOT **sport**): 'a sports centre', 'a sports club', 'sports equipment', 'sports injuries'.

- 3 ✕ He makes all types of sport.
 ✓ **He does all types of sport.**

I **do sport** (NOT make). 'Do you do any sport at school?'

spread

- ✕ Rumours spread out very quickly.
 ✓ **Rumours spread very quickly.**
 ✕ The computer mania is still spreading out.
 ✓ **The computer mania is still spreading.**

When you mean 'grow, develop or become increasingly common' use **spread** (WITHOUT out): 'They couldn't stop the fire from spreading.' 'Dissatisfaction with the present government seems to be spreading.' Compare: 'The search party spread out across the field.' 'Her clothes were all spread out on the bed, ready to be packed.'

squeeze

- ✕ The train was so full that I was frightened of getting squeezed.
 ✓ **The train was so full that I was frightened of getting squashed.**

squeeze = (1) press something firmly, especially by closing your hand round it: 'She squeezed my arm and told me not to worry.'

(2) get liquid, cream, paste etc from something by pressing it firmly:

'Squeeze the lemons and then pour the juice into a jug.'

(3) force someone or something into a small space: 'Somehow we managed to squeeze everyone into the car.'

squash (or **crush**) = press something, usually with great force, so that it becomes flat or broken: 'Mind you don't squash the tomatoes.'

staff

- ✕ The assembly and packing department has 50 staffs.
 ✓ **The assembly and packing department has 50 staff.**
 ✓ **The assembly and packing department has a staff of 50.**

The noun **staff** refers to a whole group of people, (NOT a single person):
 '(The) staff at the Central Hospital have rejected the new pay offer.'
 'Several senior members of staff have opted for early retirement.'

statistic

- x This view is supported by statistic published in 1985.
 ✓ **This view is supported by statistics published in 1985.**

statistic (singular) refers to one piece of data: 'This terrible crime will soon become nothing more than a statistic in police records.'

statistics (plural) refers to a set of data: 'Statistics show that the population has almost doubled in the last twenty years.'

stay

- x He's invited us to stay a few days with him.
 ✓ **He's invited us to spend a few days with him.**

spend a period of time somewhere (NOT **stay**): 'We spent the afternoon at John's house.' 'Where are you going to spend Christmas?'

Note the alternative: 'He's invited us to stay with him for a few days.'

steal 1

- x The bank in our town has been stolen twice this year.
 ✓ **The bank in our town has been robbed twice this year.**

rob a bank, post office etc (NOT **steal**): 'Apart from the two cashiers, nobody realized that the bank was being robbed.'

2

- x If you look wealthy, you are likely to be stolen.
 ✓ **If you look wealthy, you are likely to be robbed.**

See note at **ROB**

3

- x After ten years he discovered that his partner had been stealing him.
 ✓ **After ten years he discovered that his partner had been stealing from him.**

steal from sb (WITH **from**): 'She was found guilty of stealing from her previous employer.'

still 1

- x I enjoy this type of music still now.
 ✓ **I still enjoy this type of music.**
 x The accident happened over ten years ago but still now I get upset when I think about it.
 ✓ **The accident happened over ten years ago but I still get upset when I think about it.**

still (NOT **still now**): 'My sister still believes in Santa Claus but I don't.'

2

- x It is my first time abroad and so I feel still excited and confused.
 ✓ **It is my first time abroad and so I still feel excited and confused.**
 x My country still is not very rich, but at least everyone has enough food to eat.
 ✓ **My country is still not very rich, but at least everyone has enough food to eat.**

See Language Note at **ALWAYS**

stimulant

- x Political stability acts as a stimulant for foreign investment.
 ✓ **Political stability acts as a stimulus for foreign investment.**
 A **stimulant** is a drug, medicine etc, which makes the mind or body more

active: 'The caffeine in coffee acts as a stimulant.'

When you are not talking about a drug or medicine, use **stimulus** (= something which causes activity, growth, or greater effort): 'The new textbook provided a good stimulus for both teachers and students.'

stimulus

See note at STIMULANT

stop 1

- ✗ This policy is supposed to stop people to buy foreign cars.
- ✓ **This policy is supposed to stop people from buying foreign cars.**

stop sb/sth (from) doing sth (NOT to do), = prevent someone (from) doing something or something from happening: 'Her parents tried to stop her from going abroad.'

2

- ✗ The child couldn't stop from talking.
- ✓ **The child couldn't stop talking.**

stop doing sth (WITHOUT from) = cease an activity: 'It's actually stopped raining at last.'
Compare: 'The rain stopped us from going out.'

3

- ✗ I stopped to play the piano at the age of eight.
- ✓ **I stopped playing the piano at the age of eight.**
- ✗ He loved toys and couldn't stop to look at them.
- ✓ **He loved toys and couldn't stop looking at them.**

stop doing sth = cease or discontinue an activity: 'I stopped reading and turned out the light.'
stop to do sth = halt or pause (in order to do something): 'Although I was in a hurry, I stopped to talk to him.'

storey

- ✗ They live on the second storey.
- ✓ **They live on the second floor.**

Storey is usually used to describe the structure of a building: 'These office blocks are usually three or four storeys high.' 'a multi-storey car park', 'a detached two-storey house'.
When you are talking about where someone lives/works/goes etc, use **floor**: 'My flat is on the seventh floor.' 'We took the lift up to the third floor.'

strange

- ✗ The children were told not to talk to strange people.
- ✓ **The children were told not to talk to strangers.**

A **strange** person is someone who behaves in a way that other people find disturbing or difficult to understand: 'I find Barbara a bit strange. She won't look at you even when you speak to her.'

A **stranger** is someone you have never met before: 'We've told our children not to accept sweets from strangers.'

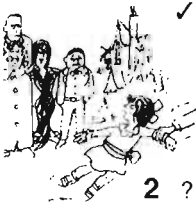
2 ?

- ✗ When I arrived in England, I felt strange.
- ✓ **When I arrived in England, everything seemed strange.**

When you are talking about how you feel when you first arrive in a new country, city or situation, it is more usual to say that the country seems strange rather than 'I feel strange': 'Things are bound to seem a bit strange for the first few days.'

3

- ✗ LA seemed very strange for me at first.
- ✓ **LA seemed very strange to me at first.**



Something unfamiliar is **strange to you** (NOT **for**): 'These customs can seem very strange to non-Westerners.'

stranger

- ✗ There are a lot of strangers visiting England.
 ✓ **There are a lot of foreigners visiting England.**

stranger = a person you have never met before: 'Although he was a total stranger, he started asking me for money!'

foreigner = a person from another country: 'Foreigners need a visa to enter the country.'

strict

See PUNISHMENT

strike

- ✗ The whole workforce is threatening to go on a strike.
 ✓ **The whole workforce is threatening to go on strike.**

go/be on strike (WITHOUT **a**): 'Transport workers have gone on strike for better pay and shorter hours.' 'The miners are still on strike.'

Note however: 'Some of the prisoners have gone on (a) hunger strike.'

strong

See note at PUNISHMENT

strongly

- ✗ When the plane took off, she held my hand strongly.
 ✓ **When the plane took off, she held my hand tightly.**

Strongly is used with verbs such as **suggest, advise, recommend, agree/disagree, believe, feel etc** (NOT with verbs that refer to actions): 'I would strongly advise you to think again.'

student

- ✗ I'm a student of Goldsmith's College.
 ✓ **I'm a student at Goldsmith's College.**

See IN 5

study 1

- ✗ Next July I'm going to the USA to continue my study.
 ✓ **Next July I'm going to the USA to continue my studies.**

To refer to the work that a student does at a college or university, use **studies**: 'After the war he resumed his studies at the University of Turin.' Compare: 'They are conducting a study of sex education in local secondary schools.'

2

- ✗ She's studying history in Oxford University.
 ✓ **She's studying history at Oxford University.**

See IN 5

stuff

- ✗ He'd left all his tennis stuffs at home.
 ✓ **He'd left all his tennis stuff at home.**

Stuff is an uncountable noun: 'He asked if he could bring his stuff over to my place.'

style

- ? I'd like to live abroad and have a different style of life.
 ✓ **I'd like to live abroad and have a different lifestyle.**
 ? I find this living style very attractive.
 ✓ **I find this lifestyle very attractive.**

See note at LIFE 2

**subcon-
scious**

- ✗ The driver of the car was taken to hospital subconscious.
 ✓ **The driver of the car was taken to hospital unconscious.**
subconscious = (of a thought or desire) existing or occurring in the mind without the person being aware of it: 'His dream about crossing the ocean single-handed probably arose from a subconscious desire for fame.'
unconscious = (of a person) in a sleep-like state, especially because you are ill or have been hit on the head: 'The cleaner found him lying unconscious on the bathroom floor.'

subject

- ✗ The subject of my thesis is about women in the popular press.
 ✓ **The subject of my thesis is women in the popular press.**
Subject is not followed by **about**. Note the alternative: 'My thesis is about women in the popular press.'

succeed

- ✗ Not many of us succeed to achieve our ambitions.
 ✓ **Not many of us succeed in achieving our ambitions.**
succeed in doing sth (NOT to do sth): 'Having finally succeeded in mounting the horse, I was determined to stay on it.'

such

- ✗ She was always a such intelligent woman.
 ✓ **She was always such an intelligent woman.**
Such always comes at the beginning of a noun phrase: 'It's such a good film that I'd like to see it again.'

suddenly

- ✗ Late one evening, as I was getting into the bath, suddenly I heard a strange noise.
 ✓ **Late one evening, as I was getting into the bath, I suddenly heard a strange noise.**
 See Language Note at ALWAYS

suffer 1

- ✗ The woman was so unpleasant that none of us could suffer her.
 ✓ **The woman was so unpleasant that none of us could tolerate her.**
 See note at SUPPORT

2

- ✗ The other passenger suffered from serious leg injuries.
 ✓ **The other passenger suffered serious leg injuries.**
 ✗ Most of the carriers suffer hemophilia.
 ✓ **Most of the carriers suffer from hemophilia.**
suffer an injury, pain, loss, defeat etc (WITHOUT from): 'She can walk again, but she still suffers a lot of pain.' 'The party suffered yet another humiliating defeat in the recent by-election.'
suffer from a disease, poverty, starvation etc: 'A lot of the children we saw were suffering from malnutrition.' 'Aunt Linda suffers from arthritis.'

suggest 1

- ✗ I suggest you to take more exercise.
 ✓ **I suggest (that) you take more exercise.**
suggest (that) sb (should) do sth: 'I suggest you try the chemist's in the high street.' 'The chairman suggested that the two sides should meet again the following day.'

- 2 ✗ She suggested to go to the zoo.
 ✓ **She suggested going to the zoo.**

suggest doing sth (NOT to do): 'He suggested meeting us for a drink after the concert.'

- suit 1 ✗ Short hair suits to her.
 ✓ **Short hair suits her.**

If something looks good on someone, it **suits** them (WITHOUT to): 'Do you think this colour suits me?' 'That blouse doesn't suit you.'

- 2 ✗ Red wine doesn't suit fish.
 ✓ **Red wine doesn't go with fish.**

When you are talking about the effect of having two different things together, use **go with** (NOT **suit**): 'I like the wallpaper, but it doesn't go with the carpet.' 'This jacket will go really well with your grey trousers.'

- suitable 1 ✗ I didn't feel suitable to a career in medicine.
 ✓ **I didn't feel suited to a career in medicine.**

suitable (for) = right or appropriate for a particular purpose: 'The film isn't really suitable for children.' 'We'd like to give her the job but her qualifications aren't suitable.'

suited to = having the qualifications, experience, personality etc that make you suitable for a particular job or situation: 'Her interest in poetry makes her better suited to a literature course.'

- 2 ✗ The food they gave us wasn't suitable to be eaten.

- ✓ **The food they gave us wasn't fit to eat.**

be fit to eat/drink/live in etc = (of the condition or quality of something) good enough for the stated purpose: 'The house hadn't been cleaned for months and wasn't fit to live in.'

- *sunbath ✗ In the afternoon we had a sunbath on the beach.
 ✓ **In the afternoon we sunbathed on the beach.**

The noun **sunbath** does not exist. Use the verb **sunbathe** /'sʌnbəið/ or **do some sunbathing/go sunbathing**: 'I found him back at the hotel, sunbathing by the pool.' 'The sky had clouded over so we couldn't do any sunbathing.'

- superior ✗ The second hotel was far superior than the first one.
 ✓ **The second hotel was far superior to the first one.**
 See note at INFERIOR

- supply ✗ We shall supply you everything you need.
 ✓ **We shall supply you with everything you need.**

supply sb with something: 'The workers are supplied with masks and special protective clothing.'

- support ✗ He couldn't support the way his father used to shout at him.
 ✓ **He couldn't tolerate the way his father used to shout at him.**
 ✗ Are you prepared to support the noise of the traffic?
 ✓ **Are you prepared to put up with the noise of the traffic?**

tolerate, put up with, stand sb/sth (NOT **support/suffer**) = be willing to accept someone or something, even though the person or situation is

unpleasant: 'I'm surprised that she tolerates his behaviour.' 'It's not a bad job, as long as you can stand the long hours.'

- suppose 1** x All their products are suppose to be guaranteed for six months.
 ✓ **All their products are supposed to be guaranteed for six months.**

be supposed to be/do sth (WITH -d): 'How many pages are we supposed to write?' 'You're supposed to be there in five minutes.'

- 2 x It's a very unusual coat and so I suppose you will not have any trouble finding it.
 ✓ **It's a very unusual coat and so I don't suppose you will have any trouble finding it.**

See note at THINK 6

- surely 1** x It was an absolutely terrible flight. The next time I go to Rio, I will surely go by train.
 ✓ **It was an absolutely terrible flight. The next time I go to Rio, I will definitely go by train.**

Surely is used to express a strong belief in the truth or likelihood of what you are saying, and often to encourage the listener to express agreement: 'Surely they should have arrived by now!' 'A twenty-dollar parking fine! Surely someone's made a mistake!' 'You don't need to wear a coat in this weather, surely?'

Definitely expresses a sense of complete certainty about something: 'She said she'd definitely be back by dinner time.' 'This is definitely the best film she's ever made.'

- 2 x On the first day we'll just stay at the hotel and rest because the journey will be surely tiring.
 ✓ **On the first day we'll just stay at the hotel and rest because the journey is bound to be tiring.**

If you feel sure that something is going to happen, you say that it is **bound/sure** to happen: 'At the interview they're bound to ask you about your last job.' 'Once drivers get impatient, accidents are sure to happen.'

- 3 x He said he felt worried because of all the recent air disasters. Surely I became worried too.
 ✓ **He said he felt worried because of all the recent air disasters. Naturally I became worried too.**

When you mean 'as anyone would expect', use **naturally** or **of course**: 'She's just lost her job and so naturally she's feeling a bit depressed.' 'Henry is still in France but he'll be back in time for the wedding of course.'

- surprised 1** ? When we heard about the accident, we were all surprised and didn't know what to say.
 ✓ **When we heard about the accident, we were all shocked and didn't know what to say.**

When someone is surprised and upset because something unpleasant has happened, they are **shocked**: 'When reports came in that the child's body had been found, everyone was deeply shocked.'

- 2 ✗ Paola was very surprised for the low prices.
 ✓ Paola was very surprised at the low prices.
 ✗ I was pleasantly surprised about the variety of food in England.
 ✓ I was pleasantly surprised by the variety of food in England.

surprised at/by sth (NOT about/for/of etc): 'I was surprised at the difference in their ages - he was old enough to be her father.' 'I knew she would do well and wasn't at all surprised by her results.'

- suspect** ✗ Army intelligence suspected him as a secret agent.
 ✓ Army intelligence suspected him of being a secret agent.
suspect sb of (doing/being) sth (NOT as): 'The police suspect her of receiving stolen goods.' 'Their father is suspected of being connected with the local mafia.'

- suspicious** ✗ Before I actually started to use one, I was suspicious about the value of computers.
 ✓ Before I actually started to use one, I was sceptical about the value of computers.

suspicious = thinking that someone may be guilty of doing something wrong: 'I started to get suspicious when he refused to tell me where he had been.'

sceptical /'skeptɪkəl/ = tending not to believe what people say about something: 'Many doctors remain highly sceptical about the value of alternative medicine.'

- sympathetic** ✗ He's a selfish, greedy little man and not at all sympathetic.
 ✓ He's a selfish, greedy little man and not at all likeable.
sympathetic = feeling or showing sympathy: 'He expected people to be sympathetic because he was an orphan.'
likeable = easy to like: 'If Philip weren't so arrogant, he'd be quite likeable.'