

Tt

take 1

- ✗ When you come to dinner on Sunday, take your fiancée with you so I can meet her.
- ✓ **When you come to dinner on Sunday, bring your fiancée with you so I can meet her.**
- ✗ He asked if he could come to your party and take a friend with him.
- ✓ **He asked if he could come to your party and bring a friend with him.**

See Language Note on next page

2

See BREAKFAST 3, MEAL 2

take care

See CARE

take notice of

See NOTICE 2

take part in

See PART 4, 5, 6

talk 1

- ✗ I couldn't talk English in those days.
- ✓ **I couldn't speak English in those days.**

speak English/French/Thai etc (NOT talk): 'Do you speak Italian?' 'I didn't know you could speak Greek.'

2

- ✗ I'd like to talk you about a dream I had last night.
- ✓ **I'd like to tell you about a dream I had last night.**

When there is something that you want someone to know, you **tell** them about it: 'She told me about her holiday plans.'

When you have a conversation, you **talk** (to someone) about something: 'We talked about where we could go at the weekend.'

3

- ✗ There's something I'd like to talk you about.
- ✓ **There's something I'd like to talk to you about.**

talk to sb (about sth): 'The manager would like to talk to you when you have a moment.'

4

- ✗ I didn't want to talk with him because I was in a hurry.
- ✓ **I didn't want to talk to him because I was in a hurry.**

In British English the usual phrase is **talk to** someone: 'Who were you talking to just now?'

Note that in American English both **talk to** and **talk with** are used.

tall

- ✗ I prefer rooms with tall ceilings.
- ✓ **I prefer rooms with high ceilings.**

See note at HIGH

BRING • TAKE • LEAD • SEND • FETCH • CARRY • COLLECT • PICK UP

bring	Bring means 'come with sb/sth' (NOT 'go'): 'Could you bring me a glass of water, please?' 'I'll see you tomorrow at the club, and remember to bring your tennis racket!'
take	Take means 'go with sb/sth' (NOT 'come'): 'You take the shopping indoors and I'll put the car away.' 'When I go on holiday, I like to take a good book with me.' You usually take someone home, to school or to a cinema/restaurant/ airport etc (NOT bring/lead/send/carry): 'Lucy took us to Stratford to see a play.' 'If you need a lift to the station, ask Peter to take you.'
lead	If you lead someone to a place, you guide them there by walking in front of them, holding them by the arm, etc: 'Some blind people like to be led across the road.' 'The children led me through the wood to their secret hiding place.'
send	If you send a person somewhere, you tell them to go there. You do not go with them: 'My company sends one of us to Singapore every six months.'
fetch	If you fetch something, you go to the place where it is and come back with it: 'We waited at reception while the porter fetched our luggage.'
carry	If you go somewhere with something in your hands, in your arms, on your back etc, you carry it: 'She carried her chair into the garden and sat in the sun.' 'In some countries women carry their babies on their backs.'
collect/fetch	If you collect or fetch someone (from somewhere), you go there and bring them back with you: 'I have to collect the children from school at 4 o'clock.'
pick up	If you pick up someone (at a place), you go to the place where they are waiting, usually in a car or other vehicle, and then take them somewhere: 'I'll pick you up at your house just after seven. That gives us half an hour to get to the stadium.'

taste 1

- ✗ During your visit you'll be able to taste some of the local Catalan specialties.
- ✓ **During your visit you'll be able to try some of the local Catalan specialties.**

When you **taste** something, you put a little into your mouth to see what it is like: 'The chef stirred the soup, **tasted** it, and then added a little salt. When you have something to eat or drink for the first time, you **try** it. 'I think I'll try the onion soup. What's it like?'

- 2
- x I buy all my family's clothes because my husband has such a poor taste.
 - ✓ **I buy all my family's clothes because my husband has such poor taste.**
- have good/poor/little/no taste (in sth), (WITHOUT a/an):** 'She certainly has remarkably good taste in clothes.'

- 3
- x We all thought that the joke was of a very bad taste.
 - ✓ **We all thought that the joke was in very bad taste.**
- be in good/poor/bad taste:** 'These advertisements are in very bad taste and in my opinion should be banned.'

- 4 See NOTE AT FEEL 2

- tasteful**
- x The food was excellent and very tasteful.
 - ✓ **The food was excellent and very tasty.**
- tasteful** = chosen or produced by someone who is able to judge which kinds of art, music, furniture, etc, are attractive: 'The design of the room was very tasteful - pale colours, matching fabrics, and soft corner lighting.'
- tasty** = (of food) having a pleasant taste: 'These sausages are really tasty - where did you buy them?'

- taxi**
- x To save time, we decided to go with a taxi.
 - ✓ **To save time, we decided to go by taxi.**
 - ✓ **To save time, we decided to go in a taxi.**
- You go somewhere by taxi or in a taxi (NOT with):** 'If you go by taxi, you're likely to get stuck in a traffic jam.'

- tears**
- x All of a sudden the child burst in tears.
 - ✓ **All of a sudden the child burst into tears.**
 - x When the policeman had gone, she broke in tears.
 - ✓ **When the policeman had gone, she burst into tears.**
- burst into tears or break down (in tears):** 'Laura burst into tears and ran out of the room.' 'She still can't talk about the war without breaking down in tears.'

- technique 1**
- x The main cause of unemployment is modern technique.
 - ✓ **The main cause of unemployment is modern technology.**
- technique** = a way of doing something, especially one that requires special training: 'Thanks to these new surgical techniques, patients spend far shorter periods in hospital.' 'The purpose of these seminars is to keep our staff up to date with the latest teaching and testing techniques.'
- technology** = (the study of) the use of scientific theories and methods for practical purposes: 'Can you imagine what the world would be like without science and technology?' 'Space research has produced major advances in computer technology.'

- 2
- x The job requires proper technique training.
 - ✓ **The job requires proper technical training.**
 - x He used a lot of technique language that I didn't understand.
 - ✓ **He used a lot of technical language that I didn't understand.**

technical = (1) involving or requiring detailed knowledge, especially of an industrial or scientific subject: 'The flight was cancelled because of a serious technical problem.'

(2) requiring special knowledge to be understood: 'Engineering students need a lot of technical English.'

technology 1 x The modern technology has changed our whole way of life.

✓ **Modern technology has changed our whole way of life.**

See note at THE 4

2 x A fine example of modern technologies can be seen in the Indonesian fishing industry.

✓ **A fine example of modern technology can be seen in the Indonesian fishing industry.**

When **technology** has a general meaning it is uncountable: 'The country's economic fate depends on access to foreign technology.' Use **technology** as a countable noun only when you refer to a particular area of activity: 'The system uses advanced computer and satellite technologies.'

3 x High technology requires massive investment.

✓ **Advanced technology requires massive investment.**

advanced technology (NOT **high**): 'The United States government has agreed to provide both capital and advanced technology.'

telephone

See PHONE

television 1 x The whole world watched the cup final on televisions.

✓ **The whole world watched the cup final on television.**

Television (also **TV**) is usually uncountable: 'The children watch a lot of television.' 'The article explains how television affects family life.'

As a countable noun it means 'a television set': 'Some parents buy two televisions - one for the children to watch and one for themselves.'

2 x Cigarettes are no longer advertised in television.

✓ **Cigarettes are no longer advertised on television.**

See note at RADIO

tell 1

x The article tells about the history of Rome.

✓ **The article is about the history of Rome.**

? The story tells of a princess and a frog.

✓ **The story is about a princess and a frog.**

You usually say that a book, story, article etc **is about** a particular subject: 'The novel is about the experiences of a young German soldier during the First World War.'

Tell of is used only in literary styles: 'The poem tells of the deeds of a young Greek soldier during the Trojan War.' **Tell about** does not exist.

2

x He told that he hadn't eaten anything for over a week.

✓ **He told them that he hadn't eaten anything for over a week.**

✓ **He said that he hadn't eaten anything for over a week.**

tell sb sth (WITH indirect object): 'Jim told me that you've been offered a new job.'

say sth (WITHOUT indirect object): 'Jim said that you've been offered a new job.'

- 3
- ✗ John said that he was trying to get to London. 'That's where I'm going,' told the man.
 - ✓ **John said that he was trying to get to London. 'That's where I'm going,' said the man.**

Say is used with both direct and indirect speech: "I'm not going," he said.' 'He said he wasn't going.'

Tell is used only with indirect speech: 'He told me he wasn't going.'

- 4
- ✗ Kiri was always telling about herself and her problems.
 - ✓ **Kiri was always talking about herself and her problems.**
- talk about sth** (NOT **tell about**): 'Once she felt more relaxed, she began to talk about her real reasons for coming to see me.'
- Compare **tell sb about sth**: 'Did you tell him about the party on Saturday?' 'Don't forget to tell the doctor about your headaches.'

- tendency**
- ✗ I have a tendency to agree with the statement.
 - ✓ **I tend to agree with the statement.**
- To introduce an opinion, use **tend to** (NOT **tendency**): 'She tends to think that small firms should receive greater government support.'
- Compare: 'Ann tends/has a tendency to get up late.' (= Ann often gets up late)

- terrible**
- ✗ The traffic jams are very terrible.
 - ✓ **The traffic jams are (absolutely) terrible.**

See note at VERY 2

- terrorism**
- ✗ One of the world's greatest problems is the terrorism.
 - ✓ **One of the world's greatest problems is terrorism.**

See note at THE 4

- test**
- ✗ On my first day at the school, I had to make a test.
 - ✓ **On my first day at the school, I had to take a test.**
- take/do a test** (NOT **make**): 'Before they start their courses, all the new students take a placement test.'
- See Language Note at do

- text**
- ✗ She said she was writing a text about France for her local newspaper.
 - ✓ **She said she was writing an article about France for her local newspaper.**

text = (1) the words in a book, magazine, etc (as opposed to the illustrations); any written material: 'Alongside each drawing there were several lines of text.' 'A single disk can hold up to 1000 pages of text.'

(2) a book or piece of writing on an academic subject: 'The first two texts on the reading list are general introductions.'

(3) the written version of a play, speech etc: 'Only 'The Times' printed the full text of the President's speech.'

article = a piece of writing in a newspaper or magazine: 'I've just been reading an interesting article on alternative medicine.'

- th**
- ✗ It was their 23th wedding anniversary.
 - ✓ **It was their 23rd wedding anniversary.**

Use **-th** when the word for the number ends with '-th': '6th May' (= sixth), '18th May' (= eighteenth). Do not use **-th** with (numbers ending) 1, 2, 3.

Compare: '1st May' (first), '2nd May' (second), '3rd May' (third)

thank 1

- ✗ I thank you very much for your last letter.
- ✓ **Thank you very much for your last letter.**
- ✗ First I thank you for answering my letter so quickly.
- ✓ **First I'd like to thank you for answering my letter so quickly.**

Use **thanks** (informal), **thank you** or (especially in formal styles) **I would/should like to thank you** (NOT **I thank you**): 'On behalf of the team, I'd like to thank you for your invaluable advice and support.'

2

- ✗ Thank you for agree to listen.
 - ✓ **Thank you for agreeing to listen.**
 - ✗ Thank you that you give me a chance to explain the situation.
 - ✓ **Thank you for giving me a chance to explain the situation.**
- thank sb for doing sth**: 'Thank you for being so understanding.'

3

- ? Thank you in advance for your help.
- ✓ (Usually better to omit)

You can use **thank you in advance** if the person you are writing to has already said that they will do something for you: 'It was kind of you to offer to send me a copy. Thank you in advance.' You can also use this phrase if you are in a position of authority and know that the person you are writing to will do what you have asked. Otherwise, **thank you in advance** should not be used since it can cause offence.

4

- ✗ Thank to the microwave, we always have a hot breakfast.
 - ✓ **Thanks to the microwave, we always have a hot breakfast.**
- thanks to sb/sth (WITH-S)**: 'Thanks to parents' generosity, the school will soon have its own swimming-pool.'

thankful

- ✗ I'm very thankful to you for giving me this opportunity.
 - ✓ **I'm very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity.**
- thankful** = happy and relieved that something (good) has happened: 'We should all be thankful that nobody was hurt.'
- grateful** = full of thanks: 'Dr Cameron has received dozens of letters from grateful patients.' 'We'd be grateful if you could let us have your views on this matter.'

thanks

- ✗ First of all, thanks for your most interesting question.
 - ✓ **First of all, thank you for your most interesting question.**
- Thanks** is informal: 'Hello, John. Thanks for coming. I was hoping you could make it.' **Thank you** is more formal. See note at **THANK 1**

that 1

- ✗ It is two months now that I left Germany.
 - ✓ **It is two months now since I left Germany.**
- a week/two months etc + since** something happened (NOT **that**): 'It's almost two years since I started my PhD.'

2

- ✗ The weather has been very good, except for two days that it rained.
- ✓ **The weather has been very good, except for two days when it rained.**

When the meaning is 'at/on/in/during which' (referring to time), use **when** (NOT **that**): 'These are the times when Dr Roberts will be able to see you.' Compare: 'I shall always remember the two days that I spent in Paris.'

- 3
- ✗ I was shocked by the sight that I could hardly speak.
 - ✓ **I was so shocked by the sight that I could hardly speak.**
so + adjective/adverb + that clause: 'I'm so tired that I can't keep awake.' 'He spoke so quickly that nobody could understand him.'
- 4
- ✗ He closed the door quietly that nobody would hear him.
 - ✓ **He closed the door quietly so that nobody would hear him.**
Use so that to express purpose (NOT that): 'The burglars turned off all the lights so that they wouldn't be seen.'
- 5
- ✗ Children are not as easy to please nowadays that they were in the past.
 - ✓ **Children are not as easy to please nowadays as they were in the past.**
When making a comparison, use as/so ... as (NOT as/so ... that): 'It's as hard to get into university today as it was ten years ago.'
- 6
- ✗ It worried me that the letter had not arrived, especially that it had never happened before.
 - ✓ **It worried me that the letter had not arrived, especially since/as it had never happened before.**
When giving a reason for something, use since or as (NOT that): 'Instead of cooking, why don't we get a take-away, especially as it's so late.'
- 7
- ✗ Sitting next to me was an old lady, that seemed to be sound asleep.
 - ✓ **Sitting next to me was an old lady, who seemed to be sound asleep.**
That is used to introduce an identifying relative clause (one which identifies, defines, or restricts the preceding noun): 'The woman that is sitting behind us is Tom's music teacher.' 'The man that I marry will have lots of money.'
That is not used to introduce a non-identifying relative clause (one which simply adds more information about the noun).
- 8
- ✗ If you haven't sent it yet, I'd be pleased if you would do that as soon as possible.
 - ✓ **If you haven't sent it yet, I'd be pleased if you would do so as soon as possible.**
To make a precise reference to a previously mentioned action, use do so (NOT do that): 'I asked him politely to take his feet off the seat but he refused to do so.'
- the 1
- ✗ She is arriving on March the 25th.
 - ✓ **She is arriving on March 25th.**
When you say the date, use 'March the twenty-fifth' or 'the twenty-fifth of March'.
When you write the date, use 'March 25th' or '25th March' (WITHOUT the and of).
- 2
- ✗ Very few people can speak the English well in Japan.
 - ✓ **Very few people can speak English well in Japan.**

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

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

- 3 ☐ I have just seen a new magazine about the computers.
 ☒ **I have just seen a new magazine about computers.**

Do not use **the** with the plural form of a countable noun when it is used in a general sense. Compare: 'She likes cats.' (= cats in general) 'The cats we saw in Venice looked very hungry.' (= a particular group of cats)

- 4 ☐ A lot of people are afraid of the death.
 ☒ **A lot of people are afraid of death.**
 ☐ Nowadays the pollution is a very serious problem.
 ☒ **Nowadays pollution is a very serious problem.**
 ☐ My main hobby is the photography.
 ☒ **My main hobby is photography.**

Do not use **the** with an uncountable noun when it is used in a general sense: 'She hates dishonesty.' 'Power doesn't interest him.'

The is used when the sense is restricted: 'She hates the dishonesty of the man.' 'The power enjoyed by politicians doesn't interest him.'

- 5 ☐ Diseases such as the AIDS and the cancer cause a lot of suffering.
 ☒ **Diseases such as AIDS and cancer cause a lot of suffering.**

Do not use **the** before the name of a disease: 'He caught pneumonia and had to spend three weeks in bed.'

- 6 ☐ Our plane arrived at the Gatwick Airport.
 ☒ **Our plane arrived at Gatwick Airport.**

Do not use **the** before the names of airports and railway stations:

'Charles de Gaulle (Airport)', 'Narita (Airport)', 'Charing Cross (Station)'

- 7 ☐ The language school is in the Malibu Street.
 ☒ **The language school is in Malibu Street.**

The is not usually used in the names of streets and roads: 'Oxford Street', 'Fifth Avenue', 'Fir Tree Avenue', 'Blue Pool Road'.

Note that when someone mentions 'the Oxford road' or 'the London road', they mean the road that leads to Oxford/London.

- 8 ☐ Climbing the Mount Fuji in winter can be very dangerous.
 ☒ **Climbing Mount Fuji in winter can be very dangerous.**

Do not use **the** with the name of a mountain: 'Mount Everest', 'Mount Fuji', 'Mount Olympus'. Note, however, that **the** is used with the names of groups of mountains: 'the Alps', 'the Andes', 'the Himalayas'.

- 9 ☐ They were both found guilty and sent to the prison.
 ☒ **They were both found guilty and sent to prison.**

See note at SCHOOL 1

- 10 ☐ Yellow River has caused many terrible floods.
 ☒ **The Yellow River has caused many terrible floods.**

Always use **the** with the names of canals, rivers, seas and oceans:: 'the Suez Canal', 'the Ganges', 'the (River) Thames', 'the Atlantic (Ocean)', 'the Mediterranean (Sea)'

- 11 ☐ It is more than ten years since I visited West Indies.
☒ **It is more than ten years since I visited the West Indies.**

Most plural names begin with **the**: 'the Bahamas', 'the Himalayas', 'the United States', 'the Philippines'.

- 12 ☐ This is my second visit to UK.
☒ **This is my second visit to the UK.**

Use **the** with any country whose name includes 'state', 'union', 'republic', 'kingdom' etc: 'the UK', 'the United Kingdom', 'the USA', 'the United States', 'the People's Republic of China'.

- 13 ☐ Only very wealthy tourists can afford to stay at Imperial Hotel.
☒ **Only very wealthy tourists can afford to stay at the Imperial Hotel.**

The names of hotels and restaurants usually begin with **the**: 'the Hilton', 'the Mandarin', 'the Sheraton'.

Note that names which have a possessive form are exceptions: 'Claridge's', 'Salvo's', 'Tiffany's'

- 14 ☐ This system was brought to Hong Kong by British.
☒ **This system was brought to Hong Kong by the British.**

To refer to the people of a country, use **the** + adjective: 'the British', 'the French', 'the Portuguese', 'the Swiss'.

- 15 ☐ The hotel is not suitable for disabled.
☒ **The hotel is not suitable for the disabled.**

the poor, the sick, the deaf, the disabled, etc = all people who are poor/sick/deaf/disabled: 'The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.' 'She devoted her life to looking after the sick.'

- 16 See NATURE

- then 1 ☐ We took a bus to the city centre then caught a train to London.
☒ **We took a bus to the city centre and then caught a train to London.**

Then is an adverb (NOT a conjunction). It cannot be used to link clauses.

- 2 ☐ After my father retires, then I shall help him financially.
☒ **After my father retires, I shall help him financially.**

Then (= at that time) is used after a time clause only when it introduces a result or consequence. Compare: 'When you've seen the trees, then you'll know why I came to live here.' (= as a result of seeing the trees)

- there 1 ☐ If you aren't busy is something I'd like to ask you about.
☒ **If you aren't busy, there's something I'd like to ask you about.**

When you say that something exists or takes place, the sentence must have a subject. When there is no other subject, use **there**: 'There's a hair in your soup.' 'Suddenly there was a loud bang.' 'There are two police

officers waiting to see you.'

Note that in this pattern **there** has no meaning. It simply fills the subject position.

- 2
- ✗ There was four people in the car.
 - ✓ **There were four people in the car.**
 - ✗ In Barcelona there is plenty of things for visitors to do.
 - ✓ **In Barcelona there are plenty of things for visitors to do.**
 - ✗ There was a lot of girls watching the game.
 - ✓ **There were a lot of girls watching the game.**

Use **there is/was** when the following noun is singular/uncountable:

'There was a letter on the mat.' 'There was smoke all over the house.'

Use **there are/were** when the following noun is plural: 'There were babies crying in every room.' 'There are many times when I would prefer to be alone.'

Note that **a lot of, plenty of, etc** do not affect the number of the verb.

Compare: 'There *was* a lot of *traffic* on the road.' 'There *were* a lot of *cars* on the road.'

- 3
- ✗ My sister often goes to the indoor pool but I don't like going to there.
 - ✓ **My sister often goes to the indoor pool but I don't like going there.**

See note at HERE 2

4 See GOOD 4

5 See WHERE 1

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- therefore 1
- ✗ She has lived in New York for many years therefore she regards New York as her home.
 - ✓ **She has lived in New York for many years and (therefore) regards New York as her home.**

Therefore is an adverb (NOT a conjunction). It cannot be used to link clauses. See also **HOWEVER, NEVERTHELESS**

- 2 ?
- The child looked lost and therefore I asked him if I could help.
 - ✓ **The child looked lost and so I asked him if I could help.**

Therefore is used mainly in formal styles: 'Crops have been badly affected by the drought and therefore food will be in short supply.'

In non-formal styles use **so**: 'It was quite late so I didn't stay long.'

- these 1
- ✗ The present government doesn't care enough about the poorer sections of our society. Businessmen are encouraged to exploit workers and make huge profits. In spite of all these, I believe in the principles of free enterprise.
 - ✓ **The present government doesn't care enough about the poorer sections of our society. Businessmen are encouraged to exploit workers and make huge profits. In spite of all this, I believe in the principles of free enterprise.**

To refer back to the points that you have just made, use **(all) this** (NOT **(all) these**): 'In spite of all this, we managed to enjoy ourselves.' 'I find all this very confusing.'

2

See ONE 5

thing 1

? Being punctual is a very important thing.

✓ **Being punctual is very important.**

Avoid using **thing** after an adjective when the adjective can be used on its own: 'To obtain a bank loan when you don't have a job can be very difficult.'

Note however the commonly used phrase **a/the good thing**: 'Most people agree that democracy is a good thing.' 'The good thing about this school is that the teachers are all so enthusiastic.'

2

✗ I have a very important thing to ask you.

✓ **I have something very important to ask you.**

✗ If you need any special thing, please let me know.

✓ **If you need anything special, please let me know.**

something + adjective, **anything** + adjective, **somewhere** + adjective, **nothing** + adjective, etc: 'Did you notice anything unusual?' 'Let's go somewhere different tonight.'

3

? My brother knows many things about England.

✓ **My brother knows a lot about England.**

? Asian countries have learned many things from western countries.

✓ **Asian countries have learned a great deal from western countries.**

The use of **many things** often sounds unnatural. Instead, use **a lot**, **a great deal**, etc: 'She said that she had a lot to do.' 'In just one or two sessions you can learn a great deal.'

Note also the phrase **all about**: 'The best person to ask is David - he knows all about tropical plants.' (= he knows everything about ...)

4

See BAD 2

think 1

✗ I was thinking if you would like to have lunch before visiting the museum.

✓ **I was wondering if you would like to have lunch before visiting the museum.**

To introduce a polite request or invitation, use **I was wondering if/whether**: 'I was wondering if you'd like to play tennis on Saturday.' 'Sally was wondering whether you could give her some advice.'

2

✗ We should spend more time thinking why people do such terrible things.

✓ **We should spend more time thinking about why people do such terrible things.**

✗ While she was away, he often thought on her.

✓ **While she was away, he often thought about her.**

think about sb/sth (= give a lot of thought to): 'She's worried about her father and can't stop thinking about him.' 'Have you ever thought about what you'd like to do for a living?' 'You look serious - what're you thinking about?'

3

✗ He's thinking to make another trip to Italy next month.

✓ **He's thinking about making another trip to Italy next month.**

- ✗ We're thinking on going to the beach after lunch.
 - ✓ **We're thinking of going to the beach after lunch.**
- When you are talking about possible future actions, use **think about/of doing sth**: 'They're thinking of starting their own health food business.' 'We're thinking about going to Disneyworld again next year.'

- 4
- ✗ He advised me to think deeply about it before making a decision.
 - ✓ **He advised me to think seriously about it before making a decision.**
- think seriously/carefully** (NOT **deeply**) (**about sth**), especially before making a decision: 'The job has a lot of attractions and in my opinion you should think seriously about it.'

- 5
- ✗ Some foreigners are thinking the Japanese are rich.
 - ✓ **Some foreigners think the Japanese are rich.**
- See Language Note at CONTAIN

- 6
- ✗ I think she didn't understand what you said.
 - ✓ **I don't think she understood what you said.**
- Do not think (that)** is more usual than **think (that) ... not**. This applies to **believe, imagine, suppose, feel** etc: 'I don't imagine they'll be coming after all.' 'I don't suppose you could give me a lift?'

- this
- ✗ Will you be at home on this Sunday afternoon?
 - ✓ **Will you be at home this Sunday afternoon?**
 - ✓ **Will you be at home on Sunday afternoon?**
 - ✗ My exams are on this month.
 - ✓ **My exams are this month.**
- See Language Note at TIME

those See ONE 5

though See note at BUT

- thought 1
- ? People's attitudes and thoughts don't change overnight.
 - ✓ **People's attitudes and opinions don't change overnight.**
- thought** = something that you (suddenly) think of, remember or realize: 'Has the thought ever occurred to you that he might be guilty?' 'Does anyone have any thoughts about where we should eat?'
- opinion/view** = what you feel about something, especially after thinking about it for a long time: 'Journalists are supposed to report the facts, not personal opinions.' 'If you want my opinion - I think he's guilty.'

- 2
- ✗ They are prepared to kill in order to defend their thoughts.
 - ✓ **They are prepared to kill in order to defend their beliefs.**
- belief** = a strong feeling that something is true or untrue, good or bad etc: 'In the old days people were persecuted for their religious beliefs.' 'The poet's belief in life after death is not evident in these early poems.'

thousand See Language Note at HUNDRED

- threat
- ✗ They used to threat each other with atomic bombs.
 - ✓ **They used to threaten each other with atomic bombs.**

Threat is a noun: 'The letter was full of threats and accusations.' 'The President said he would stand firm and not give in to threats from terrorists.'

The verb is **threaten**: 'Whenever they have an argument, she threatens to leave him.' 'He is threatening the magazine with legal action unless they publish a full apology.'

throw 1

- ✗ He picked up a small stone and threw it to Sally's window.
- ✓ **He picked up a small stone and threw it at Sally's window.**

You **throw** an object **at** the person or thing you want to hit (NOT to): 'One day Dr Roseberry lost his temper and threw a book at me.'

2

- ✗ Some smokers just throw their cigarette ends.
- ✓ **Some smokers just throw their cigarette ends on the ground.**

throw sth + away/down/on the ground etc: 'You could save the paper for recycling instead of just throwing it away.'

thunder

- ✗ I heard a terribly loud noise, like a thunder.
- ✓ **I heard a terribly loud noise, like thunder.**
- ✗ We waited for the thunders and lightning to stop.
- ✓ **We waited for the thunder and lightning to stop.**

Thunder is an uncountable noun: 'When Mr Cameron got angry, his voice was as loud as thunder.'

thus

- ✗ My house is near Greenwich Park and thus we'll be able to visit the famous Observatory.
- ✓ **My house is near Greenwich Park and so we'll be able to visit the famous Observatory.**

Thus is used only in formal styles: 'All vaccines carry some risk of side effects. Thus emergency equipment and appropriate drugs should be available at all immunization sessions.'

In non-formal styles use **so**: 'The smell of paint can give you a headache and so it's a good idea to keep the windows open.'

till

- ✗ I managed to drive the car till the nearest hospital.
- ✓ **I managed to drive the car as far as the nearest hospital.**

See note at UNTIL 1

time 1

- ✗ The journey takes long time.
- ✓ **The journey takes a long time.**
- ✗ Long time ago there was a queen named Isabel.
- ✓ **A long time ago there was a queen named Isabel.**

a long time (WITH a): 'The film lasted a long time.'

2

- ✗ In the present time the situation is getting worse.
- ✓ **At the present time the situation is getting worse.**
- ✗ We both left the building in the same time.
- ✓ **We both left the building at the same time.**
- ✗ Most families get together in Christmas time.
- ✓ **Most families get together at Christmas time.**
- ✗ He was born in the right time and in the right place.
- ✓ **He was born at the right time and in the right place.**

See Language Note on page 333

- 3
- x Last time Singapore used to be a fishing village.
 - ✓ **Many years ago Singapore used to be a fishing village.**
 - x Last time you promised to join me on a trip to Beijing.
 - ✓ **The last time we met you promised to join me on a trip to Beijing.**

The last time (always with **the**) refers to a particular occasion: 'The last time we saw each other she said that she was going to get married.'

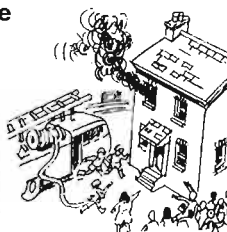
'This is the last time I'm coming here!'

To refer to a period in the (distant) past, use **previously, formerly, many years ago, in the old days, etc.** 'The new road changed people's lives enormously - previously the only way of reaching the village was on foot.' 'Zimbabwe was formerly known as Rhodesia.' 'In the old days the only way to get to India was by ship.'

- 4
- x The fire brigade arrived just on time, before the fire could spread.
 - ✓ **The fire brigade arrived just in time, before the fire could spread.**
 - x They had to rush to get to work on time.
 - ✓ **They had to rush to get to work on time.**

in time = not late; early enough: 'Make sure you arrive in time to see the beginning of the film.'

on time = (arriving) at the right time; punctual(ly): 'The train arrived at 17.28 - exactly on time.'



- 5
- x It didn't take a long time before we were back home again.
 - ✓ **It didn't take long before we were back home again.**

not take/be long (WITHOUT time): 'The dinner won't be long - about another five minutes.'

- 6
- x Medical science is developing every time.
 - ✓ **Medical science is developing all the time.**
 - x I think about you every time.
 - ✓ **I think about you all the time.**

When you mean 'continuously', use **all the time** (NOT **every time**): 'They seem to be arguing all the time.'

Compare: 'Every time I go skiing, I come home feeling years younger.'

- 7
- See SPEND 1, 2

- 8
- x We went to the cinema to spend the time until the train arrived.
 - ✓ **We went to the cinema to pass the time until the train arrived.**

When you have nothing important to do and you spend time doing something in order to avoid being bored, you **pass the time**: 'At the airport we bought a pack of playing cards to help pass the time.'

- 9
- x We spent a very good time in New York.
 - ✓ **We had a very good time in New York.**

have a good/marvellous time (NOT **spend**): 'In those days all I cared about was having a good time.'

times 1

- x Many times there is nothing worth watching on TV.
- ✓ **Very often there is nothing worth watching on TV.**

Using prepositions in time phrases

in

main parts of the day

in the morning/afternoon/evening: 'In the morning we went for a walk along the Seine.'

Compare: **at night:** 'I don't like driving at night.'

months, years, seasons, centuries

She'll be coming back home in March.' 'In 1989 he decided to join the army.' 'They're getting married in the autumn.' 'In the twentieth century there have been two World Wars.'

at the end of a stated period

'I'll be back in a couple of minutes.' 'In two weeks' time she's going on leave.'

on

specific days/dates/
mornings/afternoons, etc

'on Tuesday', 'on 3rd April', 'on Monday night', 'on New Year's Day', 'on the day of my arrival'

at

clock times

'The shops open at 9 o'clock.' 'Her flight is due in at 6.35.'

main points of time in the day

at midnight/noon/dawn/lunchtime, etc: 'We usually open our presents at midnight.' 'He turned up in my office at noon, expecting a free lunch.'

weekend (British English)

at the weekend: 'What are you doing at the weekend?'

at weekends: 'I never do any work at weekends.'

BUT (American English) **on the weekend**

the holiday period around
Christmas, Easter, Hannukkah, Ramadan, etc

at Christmas, at Easter, at Hannukkah, at Ramadan: 'We like to stay at home at Christmas.' 'At Ramadan the roads tend to be very quiet.'

BUT **on Christmas Day, on Easter Sunday**

phrases with time

'I'm afraid that at the present time we're out of stock.' 'You've come at a bad time.'

BUT note the idioms: **in time, on time, about time**

Note:

In, on, at, etc are NOT used before time phrases beginning with **this, every** and **last/next** (= the one that has just gone/is about to come)'

We can't afford a holiday this year.' 'Where did you go last weekend?'

'My exams finish next Tuesday afternoon.'

Note also that **the** is NOT used in these phrases.

Compare: 'The meeting is to be held on the last Friday in April.' In this sentence **last** does not mean 'the one that has just gone'.

In, on, at, etc are NOT used before phrases ending with **ago**

'He left the office five minutes ago.' 'I first met her in Glasgow about two years ago.'

Do not use **many times** unless you are thinking about the total number of times that something happens: 'I've tried phoning her many times during the past week, but nobody answers.' 'He'd told me the same story many times before.'

When you are thinking about the general frequency with which something happens, use **often**: 'When people are tired, they often make mistakes.'

- 2 ? He couldn't see where he was going and fell down many times.
 ✓ **He couldn't see where he was going and kept falling down.**
 ✗ People tell me many times that America is a dangerous country.
 ✓ **People are always telling me that America is a dangerous country.**

If you do something repeatedly, you **keep doing** it or you **are always doing** it: 'Why does she keep writing to you?' 'At school I was always getting into trouble.'

- timetable** ✗ The manager's timetable next week is very busy.
 ✓ **The manager's schedule next week is very busy.**

timetable = a list or plan showing the times when lessons take place or the times when buses, trains etc arrive and leave: 'According to my timetable, history is on Mondays and Thursdays.'

schedule = a detailed plan of all the things that have to be done during a certain period: 'It's important that we all try and keep to the schedule.' 'The project is running 6 months behind schedule.'

- tiresome** ✗ The flight from Hong Kong to London was very tiresome.
 ✓ **The flight from Hong Kong to London was very tiring.**
 ✗ After two tiresome days, we both needed some sleep.
 ✓ **After two tiring days, we both needed some sleep.**

tiresome = annoying or irritating: 'I find these so-called jokes extremely tiresome.'

tiring = causing tiredness; exhausting: 'Looking at a computer screen all day can be very tiring.'

- title** ✗ The newspaper titles were all about the earthquake.
 ✓ **The newspaper headlines were all about the earthquake.**

title = the name of a book, play, painting, piece of music etc: 'I can remember the title of the book but not the author.'

headline = the heading above a report in a newspaper, especially at the top of the front page: 'Have you seen today's headlines? There's been another car bomb in London.'

- titled** ✗ He was reading a short story by Saki titled 'The Open Window'.
 ✓ **He was reading a short story by Saki called 'The Open Window'.**
 ✗ She sent me an article from *Life Magazine* titled 'A Soldier's Anguish'.
 ✓ **She sent me an article from *Life Magazine* entitled 'A Soldier's Anguish'.**

To introduce the name of a book, story, film, article, song, painting etc, use **be called** or, especially in formal styles, **(be) entitled**: 'Her latest novel is called *Educating Peter*.'

Compare: 'The title of her latest novel is *Educating Peter*.'

- to 1**
- ✗ At that moment he noticed a man running to him.
 - ✓ **At that moment he noticed a man running towards him.**
- When you are talking about direction, use **towards** (NOT **to**): 'If you walk along the river bank towards Skipton, you come to a bridge.' 'Keep going towards Manchester until you see the sign for the airport.'
- 2**
- ✗ He came into the shop and went to the woman behind the counter.
 - ✓ **He came into the shop and went up to the woman behind the counter.**
 - ✗ She stood up, walked to John, and asked him what he was doing.
 - ✓ **She stood up, walked over to John, and asked him what he was doing.**
- When you go towards someone and stop in front of them, you go **up to**, **over to** or **across to** them (NOT **to** or **near to**): 'One of the Japanese students walked slowly up to me and, with a huge smile, handed me a rose.'
- 3** See DOWNSTAIRS, HERE 2, HOME 1
- 4** See NOT 1
- toast**
- ✗ I usually have a cup of coffee and a toast for breakfast.
 - ✓ **I usually have a cup of coffee and some toast for breakfast.**
 - ✗ You make some toasts and I'll set the table.
 - ✓ **You make some toast and I'll set the table.**
- Toast** is an uncountable noun: 'There's some toast for you in the kitchen.' 'How many pieces/slices of toast would you like?'
- toilet**
- ✗ One of the children wanted to go to toilet.
 - ✓ **One of the children wanted to go to the toilet.**
- go to the toilet** (WITH **the**): 'He won't be long. He's just gone to the toilet.'
- too 1**
- ✗ I was too happy when I received your letter today.
 - ✓ **I was very happy when I received your letter today.**
 - ✗ Bearing in mind that it is too far from here, we should make an early start.
 - ✓ **Bearing in mind that it is a long way from here, we should make an early start.**
- too** = more than is good, reasonable or acceptable: 'He was driving too fast and couldn't stop in time.' 'The meat was too tough to eat.' Compare: 'I was very tired but not too tired to go out.'
- 2**
- ✗ For some reason they didn't receive the fax and your letter hasn't arrived too.
 - ✓ **For some reason they didn't receive the fax and your letter hasn't arrived either.**
- In a negative clause use **either** (NOT **too/also/as well**): 'The cheese cake was disappointing and the coffee wasn't very special either.' Compare: 'The food was excellent and the service was good too.'
- 3**
- ✗ In my opinion, this is a too traditional approach.
 - ✓ **In my opinion, this is too traditional an approach.**

too + adjective + a/an + noun: 'I'd accept the offer if I were you - it's too good an opportunity to miss.'

- too many** ☒ It's an interesting magazine with too many good ideas.
☒ **It's an interesting magazine with a lot of good ideas.**

too many = more than is acceptable or required: 'I don't like television - there are too many advertisements.' 'You can't have too many friends.'

- too much 1** ☒ There are simply too much people in the world.
☒ **There are simply too many people in the world.**
☒ I noticed that he had had a couple of drinks too much.
☒ **I noticed that he had had a couple of drinks too many.**
 See MUCH 1

- 2** ☒ 'If you are too much selfish, nobody will like you,' she said.
☒ **'If you are too selfish, nobody will like you,' she said.**
☒ The English course was too much difficult for me.
☒ **The English course was too difficult for me.**

too much + noun: 'I hope I haven't caused you too much trouble.'

too + adjective/adverb (WITHOUT much): 'The dress was too expensive.'

'If you speak too quickly, he doesn't understand.'

Compare: 'The English course was much/far too difficult for me.'

- top** ☒ You will find my address on top of the letter.
☒ **You will find my address at the top of the letter.**
 at the top/bottom of a page or sheet of paper (NOT on): 'Please write your name clearly at the top of each page.'
 Compare: 'I eventually found the keys on top of the television.'

- touch 1** ☒ People living in the city were not touched by the famine.
☒ **People living in the city were not affected by the famine.**

When you mean 'have an effect on', use **affect** (NOT touch): 'How will these new taxes affect people on low incomes?' 'Farms in the south of the country have been seriously affected by the drought.'

- 2** ☒ It's good to go out to work because you get in touch with other people.
☒ **It's good to go out to work because you come into contact with other people.**
get in touch with = communicate with (someone) by letter or telephone: 'Don't wait until Christmas before you get in touch.' 'Mrs Taylor wants you to get in touch with her.'
come into contact with = meet: 'In my profession I come into contact with a lot of teachers.'

- touristic** ☒ It is one of the most popular touristic resorts in Spain.
☒ **It is one of the most popular tourist resorts in Spain.**

Touristic and **touristy** are used, especially in informal styles, to describe a place that is unpleasantly full of things for tourists to see and do: 'He refuses to go there any more - it's become too touristic.'

When you simply mean 'visited or preferred by tourists', use **tourist** + noun: 'London is full of tourist attractions.' 'During the tourist season the hotels are packed.'

- training** ✕ I made my training with the Swiss Bank in London.
 ✓ **I did my training with the Swiss Bank in London.**
 See Language Note at DO
- translate** ✕ The novel has been translated to English and French.
 ✓ **The novel has been translated into English and French.**
translate sth (from one language) into another language (NOT to):
 'Each letter has to be translated from Swedish into German.'
- transport** ✕ Some countries don't have a public transport.
 ✓ **Some countries don't have (any) public transport.**
Transport is an uncountable noun: 'How will you get there without transport?' 'People should be encouraged to use public transport.'
- transport-
ation** ✕ Apart from housing, transportation is also a problem.
 ✓ **Apart from housing, transport is also a problem.**
 In British English **transportation** usually refers to the process or business of moving things, especially goods, from one place to another: 'Information regarding the transportation and storage of nuclear waste is difficult to obtain.'
 The word for the system that carries passengers (or goods) from one place to another is **transport**: 'I spent most of my money on hotels, food and transport.' 'Trains are still my favourite form of transport.'
 Note that in American English **transportation** is used for this meaning.
- travel 1** ✕ The travel takes about half an hour.
 ✓ **The journey takes about half an hour.**
 ✕ For long travels we use the train.
 ✓ **For long journeys we use the train.**
 See Language Note on next page
- 2** ✕ He was exhausted from all the travels.
 ✓ **He was exhausted from all the travelling.**
 See Language Note on next page
- treasure** ✕ There is always controversy when a treasure is discovered.
 ✓ **There is always controversy when treasure is discovered.**
Treasure (= a collection of valuable objects) is an uncountable noun: 'It's an adventure story about a search for buried treasure.'
- tremble** ✕ It was so cold that I couldn't stop trembling.
 ✓ **It was so cold that I couldn't stop shivering.**
 You **tremble** when you are afraid, nervous, upset or excited: 'As she opened the envelope, her hands started trembling and she started to cry.'
 'She trembled with excitement just at the thought of seeing him again.'
 When you are cold, you **shiver**: 'I stood at the bus stop shivering and wishing that I'd worn my coat.'



trouble 1

- ✗ I'm sorry to cause you so many troubles.
- ✓ **I'm sorry to cause you so much trouble.**
- ✗ I'm having some troubles with my supervisor.
- ✓ **I'm having some trouble with my supervisor.**

Trouble (= difficulties or problems) is an uncountable noun: 'I hope you didn't have any trouble getting here.' 'His back has been giving him a lot of trouble recently.'

Note the alternative: 'I'm sorry to cause you so many problems.'

JOURNEY • TRIP • TRAVEL • TRAVELS • VOYAGE • TOUR

journey

When you travel to a place that is far away or to a place that you visit regularly, you **go on/make a journey** (NOT **do/have**): 'You can't go on a journey to Alaska without making careful preparations.' 'The journey to work takes about half an hour by train.' 'If the roads are flooded, we'll have to make the journey by boat.'

trip

When you go to a place and come back again, especially for a short visit, you **go on/make/take a trip**: 'How was your trip to San Francisco?' 'She's away on a business trip and won't be back until Monday.'

travel

Travel (uncountable) is the general activity of moving about the world or from place to place: 'She enjoys foreign travel immensely.' 'New computer technology has made air travel considerably safer.' A word with a similar meaning is **travelling**. This **-ing** form is often used after verbs and prepositions: 'I hate travelling on my own.' 'The job involves a certain amount of travelling.' (NOT 'of travel')

In compound nouns, **travel** is used: 'foreign travel', 'air travel' (NOT 'air travelling').

travels

Someone's **travels** (plural) are the journeys they make (and the experiences they have) during a long visit to one or more foreign countries: 'I accompanied the South African team throughout their travels in Australia and New Zealand.' 'We filmed a lot of wild animals on our travels.'

voyage

A **voyage** is a long journey in a boat or ship: 'Heavy seas and strong winds made the voyage from Europe very unpleasant.'

tour

A tour is a journey that you make for pleasure during which you visit a number of different places within a country, region etc: 'For our next holiday we're going on a ten-day tour of the Lake District.' Politicians and entertainers sometimes go on a tour as part of their work, making a planned series of visits in order to meet people or perform: 'The Prime Minister will be returning on Monday from a three-week tour of Southeast Asia.'

A tour is also a short trip around a city, factory, museum etc: 'After lunch we were taken on a guided tour of York Minster.'

- 2 x Sometimes my little brother is a real trouble.
 ✓ **Sometimes my little brother is a real nuisance.**

A person or thing that annoys you or gives you problems is a **nuisance**: 'The post office closes early today, which is a bit of a nuisance.' 'Alan! Stop being a nuisance and find something to do!'

- true x I hope all your dreams become true.
 ✓ **I hope all your dreams come true.**

come true (NOT **become**): 'His dream came true on the day apartheid was abolished.' 'If scientists' predictions come true, the Earth's temperature will rise by five degrees in the next fifty years.'

- trust x After he was caught stealing, nobody trusted in him.
 ✓ **After he was caught stealing, nobody trusted him.**

trust in = (formal or literary) have faith in: 'All will be well as long as you trust in God.'

trust (WITHOUT **in**) = believe that someone is honest (and will not hurt or deceive you): 'He's just a bit too friendly and I'm afraid I don't trust him.' 'I'm the only person he'll trust to look after his money.'

- truth x We all thought he was saying the truth.
 ✓ **We all thought he was telling the truth.**

tell the truth (NOT **say**): 'I'm still not convinced that he's telling the truth.'

- turn back x Having woken up, he sat up in his seat and turned back to see who was making all the noise.

- ✓ **Having woken up, he sat up in his seat and turned round to see who was making all the noise.**

turn back = stop and begin to return to the place you started from: 'If the bridge has been destroyed, we'll have to turn back.'

turn round (AmE **turn around**) = move so that you are looking in the opposite direction: 'If you turn round, I'll fasten your dress for you.'

- turn round x The alarm clock rang at 7.45 but I just turned round and went back to sleep.
 ✓ **The alarm clock rang at 7.45 but I just turned over and went back to sleep.**

When you are lying down and you move so that you are looking in the opposite direction, you **turn over**: 'Every time I turn over, the bed squeaks.'

- turn up x George turned up to be the father of one of my old schoolfriends.
 ✓ **George turned out to be the father of one of my old schoolfriends.**
 x Our presence turned up to be unnecessary.
 ✓ **Our presence turned out to be unnecessary.**

Turn up means 'arrive, appear, or be found': 'He turned up at the party dressed in pink pyjamas!' 'I can't find my keys, but I expect they'll turn up somewhere.'

When you are talking about the final result of something, use **turn out**: 'After a bad start, the party turned out to be a great success.'

TV

- x After dinner we watched a film in TV.
 - ✓ **After dinner we watched a film on TV.**
- See note at RADIO

type 1

- x The manager of the shop told me that he was not responsible for these type of fault.
 - ✓ **The manager of the shop told me that he was not responsible for these types of fault.**
- See note at KIND OF 1

2

- x This type of shoes don't damage the grass.
 - ✓ **This type of shoe doesn't damage the grass.**
 - ✓ **These types of shoe/s don't damage the grass.**
- See note at KIND OF 2

typical 1

- x Angelo took us to a typical restaurant.
- ✓ **Angelo took us to a typical Italian restaurant.**

After **typical** you usually mention the exact group to which someone or something belongs: 'McGarron looked like a typical American car salesman.' 'The old fireplace and the few pieces of typical Basque furniture give the room a homely atmosphere.'

2

- x After dinner it is typical to sing carols.
- ✓ **After dinner we usually sing carols.**
- ✓ **After dinner it is customary to sing carols.**

When you are talking about what usually happens at a particular time of the year, use **usually** or (especially in formal styles) **customary**: 'It's customary to kiss the bride.'

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