

Vv

vain

- ? The police did their best to rescue the hostages but in vain.
- ✗ **The police did their best to rescue the hostages but without success.**
- ? She tried to get him to listen but in vain.
- ✓ **She tried in vain to get him to listen.**
- ✓ **She tried to get him to listen but it was all in vain.**
- ✓ **She tried to get him to listen but to no avail.**

In vain usually comes after verbs such as **try, search, hunt, look, wait, fight etc** or after the verb **be**: 'Her voice was beginning to rise and she tried in vain to control it.' 'A team of surgeons battled in vain to save him.' 'I was never in any doubt that my efforts would be in vain.' In other situations, use **without success** or **to no avail**: 'They did everything they could to protect her, but (all) to no avail.'

valuable 1

- ✗ The magazine is printed on very valuable paper.
- ✓ **The magazine is printed on very expensive paper.**
- ✗ They always buy valuable brands such as Polo, Louis Vuitton, and Yves St Laurent.
- ✓ **They always buy expensive brands such as Polo, Louis Vuitton, and Yves St Laurent.**

valuable = worth a lot of money: 'Your stamp collection must be quite valuable by now.' 'If the painting is genuine, it could be extremely valuable.'

expensive = costing a lot of money, especially when compared with other things of the same type: 'He only buys silk ties, even though they're more expensive.' 'Why are these bananas so expensive?'

- 2 ✗ They will steal all your money and valuable things.
- ✓ **They will steal all your money and valuables.**

When you mean valuable things such as jewellery, cameras, etc, use **valuables** (always plural): 'The management advises guests to deposit their valuables in the hotel safe.'

- 3 ✗ The small hotels are usually very valuable for money but the big ones are expensive.
- ✓ **The small hotels are usually good value but the big ones are expensive.**

If something is worth what you pay for it, it is **good value (for money)** or **(good) value for money**: 'At just under \$90 the Sony is very good value.' 'Having paid £200 for the suit, I expect to get better value for money.'

value 1

- ✗ The large size is very value.
- ✓ **The large size is very good value.**

See note at VALUABLE 3

- 2
- ✗ In any case, the car gives you an exceptional value for money.
 - ✓ In any case, the car gives you exceptional value for money.
be good/excellent/exceptional value (for money) (WITHOUT a/an):
 '£600 might seem expensive for a two-week holiday, but when you look at all the extras it's quite good value.'

- vegetable**
- ✗ I buy a lot of fresh fruit and vegetable.
 - ✓ I buy a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables.
 Unlike **fruit**, **vegetable** is a countable noun: 'Alan has never been keen on vegetables.'

- very** 1
- ✗ He looked very funny that I couldn't help laughing.
 - ✓ He looked so funny that I couldn't help laughing.
so + adjective/adverb + that clause: 'The music was so loud that I started to get a headache.'

- 2
- ✗ Meno Park in Central Tokyo is very huge.
 - ✓ Meno Park in Central Tokyo is (absolutely) huge.
 - ✗ The traffic jams are very terrible.
 - ✓ The traffic jams are (absolutely) terrible.
 - ✗ I'm very convinced that he is telling the truth.
 - ✓ I'm (absolutely) convinced that he is telling the truth.
- Do not use **very** or **extremely** with adjectives which already have a strong meaning, e.g. **boiling** (= very hot), **convinced** (= very sure), **exhausted** (= very tired), **huge** (= very big), **terrible** (= very bad). If you want to increase the strength of these words, use **absolutely** or (depending on the particular adjective) **completely**, **totally**, **utterly** or **quite**: 'By the time I got home I was completely exhausted.'
 With adjectives which do not have a strong meaning, use **very** or **extremely** (NOT **absolutely**, **completely** etc): 'By the time I got back home I was very tired.'

- 3
- ✗ Their services are very appreciated by the hospital management.
 - ✓ Their services are greatly appreciated by the hospital management.
Very may be used with past participles that are like adjectives and refer to a state: 'very bored/worried/interested/pleased'.
 Past participles with a strongly passive meaning are usually modified by **greatly** or **(very) much**: 'His work is much admired.' 'This courageous woman, who helped so many of us, will be greatly missed.'

- 4
- ✗ Although he was very in love with Marianne, he wanted to marry a rich heiress.
 - ✓ Although he was very much in love with Marianne, he wanted to marry a rich heiress.
Very is not used before a phrase beginning with a preposition (e.g. 'in love with', 'in need of', 'at odds with'). However, in such cases it is often possible to use **very much**: 'These proposals are very much in keeping with the President's own ideas.'
 Note the alternative: 'Although he was deeply in love ...'

- very much** 1
- ✗ I enjoyed very much my stay in the USA.
 - ✓ I enjoyed my stay in the USA very much.
 - ✗ I would like very much to visit some of the places that I have

been reading about.

- ✓ **I would very much like to visit some of the places that I have been reading about.**

Do not put **very much** between a verb (e.g. 'enjoyed') and its object (e.g. 'my stay in the USA'). When the object is short, **very much** goes at the end of the sentence or in front of the verb. When the object is long, **very much** usually goes in front of the verb: 'I very much hope that you and your family have a safe journey.'

- 2 x It costs very much.

- ✓ **It costs a lot (of money).**

- x New doors cost very much because wood is so expensive.

- ✓ **New doors cost a lot (of money) because wood is so expensive.**

With some verbs (e.g. **cost, pay, charge, eat**) it is possible to use **very much** in questions and negative sentences: 'Did it cost very much?' 'It didn't cost very much.'

However, in affirmative sentences **very much** is usually replaced by a **lot**: 'It will cost quite a lot to have the job done properly.'

- 3 See LOVE

view 1

- x The view of all the blood on the ground made her feel ill.

- ✓ **The sight of all the blood on the ground made her feel ill.**

View refers to the whole area that you can see from somewhere, especially when you can see a long way into the distance: 'His studio has a spectacular view over Sydney Harbour Bridge.' 'I've booked a room with a view of the sea.'

When you are talking about the act of seeing something, use **the sight of**: 'The sight of so many people dying from disease and hunger is something I will never forget.'

2

- x Come over here and watch the view.

- ✓ **Come over here and look at the view.**

- x We just sat there and saw the view.

- ✓ **We just sat there and admired the view.**

- x From the top of the tower you see a wonderful view of the city.

- ✓ **From the top of the tower you get a wonderful view of the city.**

look at/admire/enjoy the view (NOT **see/watch**): 'We asked the coach driver to stop so that we could look at the view.'

have/get a (good) view from a particular place (NOT **see**): 'If you stand where I am, you get a much better view.'

3

See POINT OF VIEW

violence

- x Some of these films are full of the violence.

- ✓ **Some of these films are full of violence.**

See note at THE 4

vision

- x We'd like to know your personal vision of the situation.

- ✓ **We'd like to know your personal view of the situation.**

vision = a picture in the mind of what the future will be like: 'This romantic vision of a world without war is far removed from reality.'

view = the way you think about something that exists now: 'This report sets out the views of our members very clearly.' 'At that time there was a widely-held view that fascism was not a threat to Europe.'

visit 1

- ✗ Afterwards we visited a restaurant for dinner.
 ✓ **Afterwards we went to a restaurant for dinner.**

You **visit** places that are of special interest, especially when you are a tourist or official guest: 'By the end of the day I was fed up with visiting museums and all the travelling around.' 'Later in the day Her Majesty will be visiting the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.'

You **go to** a restaurant, market, library, someone's house etc: 'If it rains, we could always go to the cinema.' 'I've got to go to the dentist's.'

2

- ? Thank you for visiting me.
 ✓ **Thank you for coming to see me.**
 ? He's gone back to Iran to pay a visit to his family.
 ✓ **He's gone back to Iran to see his family.**

When you are talking about visiting someone for pleasure or business, **go/come to see sb** (or **go/come and see sb**) usually **sounds more** natural than **visit sb** or **pay sb a visit**: 'She's gone to **see her brother**.' 'Let's go and see Peter and take him some grapes.'

3

- ✗ I've been visiting a language school in Cambridge.
 ✓ **I've been going to a language school in Cambridge.**

go to or (more formal) **attend** a school, college, class etc (= go there regularly as a student): 'Her son goes to a small private school near Chingford.' 'I've started going to evening classes.'

Compare: 'Government inspectors **visit** the school twice a year.'

4

- ✗ If I ever visit to Canada, I'll go when it's warm.
 ✓ **If I ever visit Canada, I'll go when it's warm.**

You **visit** a place (WITHOUT **to**): 'He has visited all the countries in Europe.'

Compare: 'The President's July visit to El Salvador has been postponed.' (noun + **to**)

vocabulary

- ✗ The article contained a lot of American English vocabularies.
 ✓ **The article contained a lot of American English words.**

vocabulary = all the words in a language or all the words (in a language) that someone knows: 'English has a vast vocabulary.' 'By the end of the course students should have an active vocabulary of around 2000 words.'

voice 1

- ✗ 'You're late!' he said with an angry voice.
 ✓ **'You're late!' he said in an angry voice.**

in a loud/deep/sad etc **voice** (NOT **with**): 'She spoke in such a soft voice that we couldn't hear anything.'

Compare: 'She speaks with a strong accent.'

2

- ✗ Students should feel able to voice out their opinions.
 ✓ **Students should feel able to voice their opinions.**

voice your feelings and opinions (WITHOUT **out**): 'I'm not just voicing my own opinions - we all feel the same.' 'Whenever one of us voices the slightest disapproval, the chairman takes offence.'

voluntary

- x The hospital could not operate without volunteers.
- ✓ **The hospital could not operate without voluntary helpers.**
- x In my opinion, these young volunteers should be congratulated.
- ✓ **In my opinion, these young volunteers should be congratulated.**

Voluntary is an adjective (NOT a noun). It describes someone who agrees to work without being paid, or work that is not paid: 'On Saturdays she does voluntary work at an old people's home.'
The noun is **volunteer** = someone who decides to do something when they are not forced to do it: 'I need three volunteers to help me move the piano.'

vote 1

- x Next year a new president will be voted.
- ✓ **Next year a new president will be elected.**
- x On the day of the vote, they couldn't be bothered to go and vote.
- ✓ **On the day of the election, they couldn't be bothered to go and vote.**

vote = show which person or which course of action you prefer, especially by marking a piece of paper or raising your hand: 'Who will you be voting for at the next election?' 'Fifty-three per cent of Danes voted in favour of the Maastricht treaty.'

elect = choose a leader or representative by voting: 'Roman Catholic cardinals are meeting at the Vatican to elect a new Pope.' 'Williams was elected with a clear majority.'

election = an occasion when people vote: 'Who's going to win the next election?'

2

- x People are not allowed to vote more than one candidate.
 - ✓ **People are not allowed to vote for more than one candidate.**
- vote for sb**: 'I'm not prepared to vote for someone who keeps changing his mind.'

3

- x Every night they voted what they would do the next day.
 - ✓ **Every night they voted on what they would do the next day.**
- vote on** a particular question or issue: 'The Council voted on a motion to close the hospital.'

voyage

- x She didn't say much about her voyage to Germany.
 - ✓ **She didn't say much about her trip to Germany.**
 - x On the first day we'll rest because the voyage will be tiring.
 - ✓ **On the first day we'll rest because the journey will be tiring.**
- See Language Note at TRIP

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