

Ww

wage

- x He has an annual wage of \$40,000.
 - ✓ **He has an annual salary of \$40,000.**
- See note at SALARY

wages

- x The company directors receive very high wages.
 - ✓ **The company directors receive very high salaries.**
- See note at SALARY

wait 1

- x I'm waiting a letter from my boyfriend.
- ✓ **I'm expecting a letter from my boyfriend.**
- x Anyway, I'll wait for you next weekend.
- ✓ **Anyway, I'll expect you next weekend.**

wait = stay somewhere until someone or something comes: 'I'll wait here until you get back.' 'It's quicker to walk than wait for a bus.'

expect = believe that someone or something is going to come: 'The train is expected to arrive in the next five minutes.' 'I can't leave the house - I'm expecting visitors.'

2

- x I stopped and waited the truck to pass.
- ✓ **I stopped and waited for the truck to pass.**
- x I'll wait you outside.
- ✓ **I'll wait for you outside.**

wait for sb/sth: 'I'll wait for you outside the post office.' 'What can I do while I'm waiting for the paint to dry?'

3

- x I'm waiting to see the photographs with great impatience.
- ✓ **I can't wait to see the photographs.**

In informal styles, to show that you are really looking forward to something, use **I (just) can't wait** or **I can hardly wait**: 'I can't wait to see you again.' 'I can hardly wait for the holidays to begin.'

wanna

- x We didn't wanna miss the train.
- ✓ **We didn't want to miss the train.**

See note at GONNA

want 1

- x My parents wanted that I should go to a different university.
- ✓ **My parents wanted me to go to a different university.**
- x 'Do you want I take you to his house?' she asked
- ✓ **'Do you want me to take you to his house?' she asked.**

want sb to do sth: 'The doctor wants me to go for another check-up in two weeks' time.'

2

- ? I want you to send me the coat if you find it.
 ✓ **I'd like you to send me the coat if you find it.**

For polite requests, use **would like (NOT want)**: 'If you're not too busy, I'd like you to have a look at my homework.'

was

- ? Everybody looked at him as if he was from another planet.
 ✓ **Everybody looked at him as if he were from another planet.**

In formal styles, when you are talking about an unreal situation, use **were (NOT was)**: 'If the motorway were extended, farming would be severely disrupted.'

wash

- ✗ I wash my body and then get dressed.
 ✓ **I have a bath/shower and then get dressed.**
 ✗ He's gone upstairs to wash.
 ✓ **He's gone upstairs to have a wash.**

When you talk about someone washing themselves, you usually use **have a wash/bath/shower**: 'I always feel better after I've had a good wash.'

See also Language Note at MYSELF

waste

- ✗ The report deals with the problem of nuclear wastes.
 ✓ **The report deals with the problem of nuclear waste.**

See Language Note at INFORMATION

way 1

- ✗ He explained the ways how we can help to protect the sea.
 ✓ **He explained how we can help to protect the sea.**
 describe/explain/examine (etc) how ... (WITHOUT the way/s): 'You have to know how their minds work.' 'In this morning's talk I'll be looking at how smaller companies are dealing with these problems.'
 Note the alternative: 'He explained the ways in which we can help to protect the sea.'

2

- ✗ She loves the farm and refuses to change her way of living.
 ✓ **She loves the farm and refuses to change her way of life.**

See note at LIFE 2

wear

- ✗ Then I wore some clothes and went downstairs.
 ✓ **Then I put on some clothes and went downstairs.**

See Language Note on next page

weather

- ✗ We had a miserable weather while on holiday.
 ✓ **We had miserable weather while on holiday.**

See Language Note at INFORMATION

week 1

- ✗ We knew that a four weeks holiday would bring us closer together.
 ✓ **We knew that a four-week holiday would bring us closer together.**

See Language Note at HUNDRED

2

See Language Note AT TIME

GET DRESSED • DRESS ONESELF • PUT ON • TAKE OFF • DRESS • DRESS UP • WEAR • HAVE ON • BE + ADV + DRESSED

ACTIONS

get dressed

When you **get dressed** you put on your clothes or a different set of clothes: 'I had a shower, got dressed and went downstairs.' 'I was still getting dressed for the party when the taxi arrived.'

dress oneself

Dress oneself is not common. It is mainly used when you are thinking about the special skill or ability that is required to put on clothes: 'Sally isn't old enough to dress herself yet.' See Language Note at MYSELF

put on

When you **put on** a piece of clothing or a watch, necklace etc, you put it into position on your body: 'Wait a minute! I haven't put my coat on yet.' 'Put your gloves on or your hands will get cold.'

take off

Take off is the opposite of **put on**: 'I can't wait to take off these new shoes.' 'Why don't you take your coat off and come and sit down?'

dress

If you **dress** someone, you put clothes on them: 'The nurses have to wash and dress the patients before the doctor sees them.'

dress up

When you **dress up** you put on: (1) a special costume: 'When the children were young, George used to dress up as Father Christmas.' (2) formal or smart clothes: 'We won't be going to an expensive restaurant so there's no need to dress up.'

STATES

wear

When you **wear** something, it is on a part of your body: 'Did you notice the jacket she was wearing at Alan's party?' 'He always wears smart clothes.'

have on

If you **have** something **on**, you are wearing it: 'The trousers he had on were too big for him.' 'You won't get cold as long as you have a coat on.'

be dressed in/be in

If you **are dressed in** or **are in** something, you are wearing it: 'She arrived at the theatre dressed in a long white gown.' 'Everyone was in their best clothes, but Alex turned up in an old T-shirt and jeans.'

be + adverb + dressed

When you are talking about someone's appearance, you can say that they **are smartly/neatly/well etc dressed**: 'Make sure you're smartly dressed for the interview.' 'He's always very well dressed - smart jackets, silk ties and so on.'

- weekend 1**
- ✗ I seldom stay at home on weekend.
 - ✓ **I seldom stay at home at the weekend.**
 - ✗ At weekend we go to the sports club.
 - ✓ **At the weekend we go to the sports club.**
 - ✗ During the weekend we usually go to a Chinese restaurant.
 - ✓ **At the weekend we usually go to a Chinese restaurant.**

See Language Note at TIME

- 2**
- ✗ During this weekend there is a squash tournament.
 - ✓ **This weekend there is a squash tournament.**

See Language Note at TIME

- welcome**
- ✗ You can bring as many friends to the party as you like.
Everyone is welcomed.
 - ✓ **You can bring as many friends to the party as you like.
Everyone is welcome.**

welcome (verb) = greet a guest or visitor in a friendly way when they arrive: 'Her Royal Highness was welcomed at the airport by a party of Cabinet Ministers.'

If you are pleased when someone comes to stay at your house or comes to your party, they are **welcome** (adjective), (WITHOUT d): 'You're always welcome to stay here, you know.' 'Aunt Edna always makes us feel welcome.'

- well 1**
- ✗ Everything was well until somebody came and sat in the seat next to mine.
 - ✓ **Everything was fine until somebody came and sat in the seat next to mine.**

- ✗ His table manners were not very well.

- ✓ **His table manners were not very good.**

Well is usually used as an adverb: 'The team played well on Saturday.'

As an adjective, **well** usually means 'in good health': 'George can't come because he's not very well.' 'He always looks well after a holiday.'

- 2** See KNOW 4

- West** See NORTH

- wet**
- ✗ It started pouring with rain and we all got completely wet.
 - ✓ **It started pouring with rain and we all got soaked.**
- soaked** or **soaking wet** = extremely wet: 'Don't leave the cushions in the garden. If it rains, they'll get soaking wet.'

- what 1**
- ✗ A woman can do everything what a man can do.
 - ✓ **A woman can do everything (that) a man can do.**
 - ✗ I'll do all what I can to help you.
 - ✓ **I'll do all (that) I can to help you.**
- What** is not used as a relative pronoun. After **all**, **everything**, **anything** etc, use **that** or nothing: 'You can have anything (that) you like.' 'I have everything (that) I need for the time being.'

- 2**
- ✗ She told him that she didn't want to marry him, what in my opinion was very silly of her.

- ✓ **She told him that she didn't want to marry him, which in my opinion was very silly of her.**

What is not used as a relative pronoun. When you comment on a previous statement, use **which**: 'Lizzie ate the whole box of chocolates, which was very greedy.'

3

- ✗ Please tell me what would you like for a wedding present.
 ✓ **Please tell me what you would like for a wedding present.**

When a **wh-** clause is part of a sentence (e.g. the subject or the object), the subject and verb in the **wh-** clause do not change places. Compare: 'Why did she leave so soon?' 'Do you know why she left so soon?'

when 1

- ✗ When hearing that the child had been found, she burst into tears.
 ✓ **On hearing that the child had been found, she burst into tears.**

To show that two things happen at the same time or that one thing happens immediately after the other, use **on/upon doing sth** (NOT **when**): 'On examining the suitcase, he noticed that the locks had been tampered with.'

2

- ✗ When I'll return home, I'll look for a better job.
 ✓ **When I return home, I'll look for a better job.**

See Language Note at **will**

3

- ✗ I don't know when is she coming.

- ✓ **I don't know when she is coming.**

See note at **what 3**

whenever

- ✗ Whenever you'll hear about this place, you'll want to come back.
 ✓ **Whenever you hear about this place, you'll want to come back.**

See Language Note at **will**

where 1

- ✗ He wanted to get to Paris, where his uncle lived there.
 ✓ **He wanted to get to Paris, where his uncle lived.**

When **where** is used to begin a relative clause, it is not followed by **there**. Compare: 'Every weekend she drives down to London. Her parents live there.' 'Every weekend she drives down to London, where her parents live.'

2

- ✗ The box where she kept her jewellery in had disappeared.
 ✓ **The box where she kept her jewellery had disappeared.**

When **where** begins a relative clause, it is not followed by **in, at, for, etc.**: 'We went to see the house where Shakespeare lived.'
 Compare: 'The box that/which she kept her jewellery in had disappeared.'

3

See note at **what 3**

which 1

- ✗ Students which fail the exam have to take the course again.
 ✓ **Students who/that fail the exam have to take the course again.**

Which is used to refer to things (NOT people): 'I like music which/that helps me to relax.'

2 See note at WHAT 3

while 1

- ✗ The Japanese have a tendency to keep silent while meetings.
- ✓ **The Japanese have a tendency to keep silent during meetings.**
While (conjunction) introduces a clause: 'While we were on holiday, we did a lot of walking.'
During (preposition) introduces a noun phrase: 'During the holiday we did a lot of walking.'

2

- ✗ While I drove to the airport, my car broke down.
- ✓ **While I was driving to the airport, my car broke down.**
 To refer to a 'background action', use the past progressive tense (**was /were doing**): 'While I was having a bath, the telephone rang.'

3

- ✗ Who will look after the children while you will be at work?
- ✓ **Who will look after the children while you are at work?**
 See Language Note at WILL

whole

- ✗ As a whole, I am very happy here.
- ✓ **On the whole, I am very happy here.**
as a whole = considered as a single body or unit: 'The country as a whole is not ready for another election.'
on the whole = generally speaking: 'On the whole, I can see no reason why you shouldn't apply.'

whom 1

- ✗ Most of the people whom I met were very kind.
- ✓ **Most of the people (that) I met were very kind.**
Whom is used only in formal styles: 'Those applicants whom the selection committee recommends for interview should be contacted without delay.' 'The police officer to whom the crime was first reported has been transferred to another unit.'
 In non-formal styles, use **that/who** or nothing: 'The man (that) she intends to marry comes from Stockport.' 'The girl (that) you were speaking to is a friend of mine.' In non-identifying clauses, however, only **who** is possible: 'Both girls - who you may remember from Helen's party - have got places at Oxford.'

2

- ✗ She is one of the few people whom I think might be good at the job.
- ✓ **She is one of the few people who/that I think might be good at the job.**
 When you need a subject relative pronoun, use **who/that** (NOT **whom**): 'He was the one who/that came to meet me at the station.'

why

See note at WHAT 3

wide

- ✗ My education has given me a wide view of life.
- ✓ **My education has given me a broad view of life.**
- ✗ The magazine gives wide descriptions of market trends.
- ✓ **The magazine gives broad descriptions of market trends.**
broad view/picture/description/outline (of sth), NOT **wide**: 'Can you give me a broad outline of what the speech was about?'

will 1

- ✗ When capital punishment was abolished, people thought that murders will become more numerous.
- ✓ **When capital punishment was abolished, people thought that murders would become more numerous.**

A reporting verb in the past tense (e.g. 'thought') is usually followed by **would/could** (NOT **will/can**). Compare: 'I think she will accept any job that comes along.' 'I thought she would accept any job that came along.'

2

- ✗ If a developing country will become a developed country, it has to attract foreign investors.
- ✓ **If a developing country is to become a developed country, it has to attract foreign investors.**

When you are talking about what must happen in order to make something possible, use **if ... am/is/are to do sth** (NOT **will**): 'If we are to get there by six o'clock, we'll have to get a taxi.'

3

See Language Note below

Talking about the future

- When you talk about something happening in the future, you often use one of the following conjunctions:

TIME

after, as soon as, before, immediately, once, the moment, until, when, whenever, while

CONDITION

if, whether, as long as, in case, unless

- To refer to the future after these conjunctions, use the present simple tense (NOT **will/shall**):

I'll phone you as soon as I arrive at the airport.

The plane should be taking off shortly, as long as there aren't any delays.

Note:

- Sometimes it is possible to use the present perfect tense instead of the present simple. The present perfect expresses a sense of completion:

She doesn't want to buy a car until she's passed her driving test.

Once you've made a few friends, you won't feel so lonely.

- When the clause beginning with **if, whether, when**, etc is the object of the sentence, **will** may be used:

I doubt whether David will still recognize me.

I don't know when they'll be back.

Also, **if ... will** is possible when **will** expresses the idea of willingness.

What are you going to do if she won't help you?

If you'll take a seat for a moment, I'll tell Mr Fox you're here.

win

- ✗ We have never won the American team.
- ✓ **We have never beaten the American team.**

win a game, match, race, competition, election, etc: 'United have won four of their last five matches.' 'Who won the FA Cup last year?'
beat a person, team or group (in a game, match, race, competition, election etc): 'They're a good side but I'm sure we can beat them.'

wish 1

- ✗ I wish you have a wonderful holiday.
- ✓ **I hope you have a wonderful holiday.**
- ✗ I wish you will enjoy your stay here.
- ✓ **I hope you will enjoy your stay here.**

Use **wish that** (+ past/past perfect tense) for things that cannot happen or will probably not happen: 'I wish I hadn't told them my address.' 'I wish you could stay here longer.' (= this will probably not happen)
 Use **hope that** (+ present/present perfect tense) for things that may easily happen or may easily have happened: 'I hope you've had a successful trip.' 'We hope you all have a very merry Christmas.'
 When **wish** is used for this meaning, the object is a noun phrase (NOT a **that** clause): 'I wish you a safe journey.' 'We'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas.'

2

- ? I wish to send you a wedding present.
- ✓ **I'd like to send you a wedding present.**
- ? I wish to stay until the end of July but I can't.
- ✓ **I'd like to stay until the end of July but I can't.**

When you tell someone what you want (to do), or ask someone what they want (to do), use **would like** or (especially in informal styles) **want**: 'I'd like to buy a few postcards.' 'What would you like to do tonight?'
Wish is used with this meaning only in formal styles: 'We wish to apologize for the late arrival of this train.'

3

- ✗ I wish that they will stop killing each other.
- ✓ **I wish that they would stop killing each other.**
- ✗ He wishes he can drive a car; taxis are so expensive.
- ✓ **He wishes he could drive a car; taxis are so expensive.**

When you are thinking about the present or the future, use **wish (that) + would /could/had** etc. (NOT **will/can/have** etc.) 'I wish I knew his telephone number.' 'I wish I didn't have to go to school tomorrow.'

with 1

- ✗ I finally opened the can with using a screwdriver.
- ✓ **I finally opened the can by using a screwdriver.**

To explain 'how' something is achieved, use **by doing sth** (NOT **with**): 'The thieves got into the house by climbing through the kitchen window.'
 Compare: 'I finally opened the can with a screwdriver.'

2

See CAR 2, TAXI

within

- ✗ She is getting married within a few hours and she feels a bit nervous.
- ✓ **She is getting married in a few hours and she feels a bit nervous.**
- ✗ My examinations are within two weeks' time.
- ✓ **My examinations are in two weeks' time.**

within = before the end of the stated period: 'The parcel should be

arriving within the next five days.' 'Within six years of joining the company he was Managing Director.'

in = at the end of the stated period: 'The doctor wants to see me again in a week's time.' 'Don't go away. I'll be back in a few minutes.'

wood

- ✗ The coat has a leather belt and three brown wood buttons.
- ✓ **The coat has a leather belt and three brown wooden buttons.**

The adjective meaning 'made of wood' is usually **wooden** (NOT **wood**): 'Stir the mixture gently with a wooden spoon.'

work 1

- ✗ Without a full-time work, some people think it's not worth living.
- ✓ **Without a full-time job, some people think it's not worth living.**
- ✓ **Without full-time work, some people think it's not worth living.**
- ✗ I've come to England to do a research work in civil engineering.
- ✓ **I've come to England to do research work in civil engineering.**

See Language Note at OCCUPATION

2

- ✗ I got up and got ready to go to my work.
- ✓ **I got up and got ready to go to work.**

See Language Note at OCCUPATION

3

- ✗ These days a lot of women go to work outside.
- ✓ **These days a lot of women go out to work.**
- ✗ My wife goes to work outside the house.
- ✓ **My wife goes out to work.**

See Language Note at OCCUPATION

4

- ✗ I would like to work at an international organization.
- ✓ **I would like to work for an international organization.**
- ✗ My mother works in a large insurance company.
- ✓ **My mother works for a large insurance company.**

See Language Note at OCCUPATION

world 1

- ✗ Nepal has one of the highest mountains in all over the world.
- ✓ **Nepal has one of the highest mountains in the world.**
- ✗ The sewing machine is one of the most widely used products of the world.
- ✓ **The sewing machine is one of the most widely used products in the world.**

superlative + noun + **in the world**: 'At that time China was the richest and most powerful country in the world.'

2

- ✗ Pollution is a serious problem in all of the world.
- ✓ **Pollution is a serious problem all over the world.**
- ✗ Their music is played in every part of the world.
- ✓ **Their music is played all over the world.**

all over the world = everywhere in the world: 'Since joining the newspaper, she's travelled all over the world.' 'There will be teams from all over the world.'

worse

- x It was the worse journey I had ever made.
- ✓ **It was the worst journey I had ever made.**
- x People's lack of responsibility makes the problem even more worse.
- ✓ **People's lack of responsibility makes the problem even worse.**

bad, worse, (the) worst: 'The medicine just made me feel worse.' 'It's the worst film I've ever seen.'



worst

- x The next time I saw her she looked even worst.
- ✓ **The next time I saw her she looked even worse.**
- x The day finished worst than it began.
- ✓ **The day finished worse than it began.**

See note at WORSE

worth 1

- x The ring has great sentimental worth.
- ✓ **The ring has great sentimental value.**
- x They do not appreciate the worth of life.
- ✓ **They do not appreciate the value of life.**

Worth is usually used as a preposition: 'A four-bedroomed house in the middle of town is probably worth about £200,000.'

The noun related to **worth** is **value**: 'The current value of property is very low compared with this time last year.'

Compare: 'That watch is worth fifty pounds.' 'That watch has a value of fifty pounds.'

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2

- x The missing ring worths about two thousand pounds.
- ✓ **The missing ring is worth about two thousand pounds.**
- x A holiday doesn't worth all the effort it takes preparing for it.
- ✓ **A holiday isn't worth all the effort it takes preparing for it.**

be worth £20/very little/a fortune etc: 'These old computers aren't worth much nowadays.'

3

- x It's also worth to visit the north of England if you have time.
- ✓ **It's also worth visiting the north of England if you have time.**
- x The museum was certainly worth to see.
- ✓ **The museum was certainly worth seeing.**

it's worth doing sth; sth is worth doing (NOT to do): 'It's worth remembering that these old cars can be very expensive to run.'

worthwhile

- x The film reviews are always worthwhile looking at.
- ✓ **The film reviews are always worth looking at.**

it's worth/worthwhile doing sth: 'It might be worth having one or two copies made.' 'Is it worthwhile talking about it now, or shall we leave it until our next meeting?'

sth is worth doing (NOT worthwhile): 'Some of these so-called professional teams aren't worth watching.'

Compare: 'Was the long drive up to Scotland really worthwhile?'

worthy

- x It's not worthy taking your own car.
- ✓ **It's not worth taking your own car.**
- x The cathedral is certainly worthy to be visited.
- ✓ **The cathedral is certainly worth visiting.**

it's worth doing sth; sth is worth doing (NOT worthy): 'Do you think it's worth having the engine tuned?' 'The letter isn't worth worrying about.'

would 1

- ✗ If I would live in the countryside, I would be much healthier.
 ✓ **If I lived in the countryside, I would be much healthier.**

When you are talking about the present or the future and you imagine something that is untrue or unlikely, use the past tense ('lived') in the **if** clause (NOT **would**): 'If I knew her address, I'd send her a postcard.' 'If I won a lot of money, I'd buy a new car.'

2

- ✗ If you would have caught the earlier train, we could have travelled together.
 ✓ **If you had caught the earlier train, we could have travelled together.**

When you are talking about the past and you imagine something that is impossible, use the past perfect tense ('had caught') in the **if** clause (NOT **would have**): 'If he hadn't got on the plane, he would still be alive.'

3

- ✗ If you would have any more questions, I'll do my best to answer them.
 ✓ **If you should have any more questions, I'll do my best to answer them.**

When you are talking about the present or the future and you imagine something that is possible but unlikely, use **if ... should** (NOT **if ... would**): 'If anyone should need me, I'll be back in half an hour.'

wound

- ✗ Only the driver was wounded in the accident.
 ✓ **Only the driver was injured/hurt in the accident.**

See note at DAMAGE 1

wrapping

- ✗ Manufacturers should dispense with all unnecessary wrapping.
 ✓ **Manufacturers should dispense with all unnecessary packaging.**

wrapping (also **wrappings**) = paper or paper-like material that is put round something: 'I wanted to tear off the wrapping and see what was inside.'

packaging = the container or material that something is placed in by a manufacturer, especially to protect it or make it look attractive: 'Packaging should be biodegradable and kept to a minimum.'

Note that both **wrapping** and **packaging** are used in connection with food: 'Somewhere on the packaging/wrapping there should be a date stamp.'

write 1

- ✗ I'd like to apologize for not having written you before.
 ✓ **I'd like to apologize for not having written to you before.**

In British English you **write to** a person or place (WITH **to**): 'Wingate wrote to his father, asking for more money.'

In American English **to** is optional: 'I'll write (to) you and give you all the latest news.'

2

- ✗ Dear ... I write to you to ask for your advice.
 ✓ **Dear ... I am writing to you to ask for your advice.**

For actions which are happening at the time when they are mentioned, use the present progressive tense (NOT the present simple): 'I'm writing to tell you that I'll be coming to London next Thursday.'

wrong

- x The belief that Spanish is easy to learn is wrong.
- ✓ **The belief that Spanish is easy to learn is mistaken.**

To describe a belief or idea that is wrong although people do not know it is wrong, use **mistaken**: 'Some people have the mistaken idea that cats need to drink milk.' 'I'm afraid you must be mistaken.'

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