

Hh

habit 1

✗ It is a habit in Japan to take off your shoes before entering a house.

✓ **It is a custom in Japan to take off your shoes before entering a house.**

See Language Note at MANNER

2

✗ Once one has taken the habit, smoking is very difficult to give up.
✓ **Once one has acquired the habit, smoking is very difficult to give up.**

acquire/adopt/develop/get into a habit (NOT take): 'He's developed the unfortunate habit of biting his fingernails.'

hair 1

✗ He had a black hair and very clear eyes.

✓ **He had black hair and very clear eyes.**

✗ Her beautiful blond hairs were shining in the sun.

✓ **Her beautiful blond hair was shining in the sun.**

When you mean 'a single hair' or 'several individual hairs', **hair** is a countable noun: 'There was a long black hair in my soup.' 'Stand still and I'll brush the hairs off your jacket.'

When you mean 'all the hair on a person's head', **hair** is uncountable: 'Where do you go to have your hair cut?'

2

See CUT 4

half 1

✗ He agreed to give her the half of the money.

✓ **He agreed to give her half of the money.**

Do not use **the** before **half** except when talking about a particular half.

Compare: 'He spends half the week playing golf.' 'During the second half of the concert I could hardly stay awake.'

2

✗ We will stay in Bangkok for two and half days.

✓ **We will stay in Bangkok for two and a half days.**

number + **and a half** (NOT **and half**): 'She can swim two lengths of the pool in four and a half minutes.'

3

✗ We have a break of one and a half hour for lunch.

✓ **We have a break of one and a half hours for lunch.**

number greater than one + plural form: 'three and a half minutes', 'twelve and a half miles'

Note the alternative: 'We have a one and a half hour break for lunch.'

halt

✗ Don't stand up until the bus gets to a halt.

✓ **Don't stand up until the bus comes to a halt.**

come to a halt (NOT get): 'The car that we'd been following came to a sudden halt outside the bank.'

hand 1

- ✗ In the other hand, many women choose to go out to work.
- ✓ **On the other hand, many women choose to go out to work.**
on the one hand ... , on the other hand ... , (NOT in, at): 'On the other hand, don't forget that these machines are expensive.'

2

- ✗ The future of millions of people should not be in the hand of one man.
- ✓ **The future of millions of people should not be in the hands of one man.**
in the hands of (plural) = controlled by: 'All the political power is in the hands of the government.'

3

- ✗ He came out of the bathroom with a towel in the hand.
- ✓ **He came out of the bathroom with a towel in his hand.**
in my/her/their etc hand/s (NOT the): 'You can't argue when someone has a gun in their hand.'

handle

- ✗ I learned how to run a house and handle with small children.
- ✓ **I learned how to run a house and handle small children.**
- ✗ That is surely not the way to handle with something so fragile.
- ✓ **That is surely not the way to handle something so fragile.**
handle sb/sth (WITHOUT with): 'We've decided to let our lawyer handle the matter.' 'Be careful how you handle the vase - it's worth a small fortune.'
Compare: 'This is a highly sensitive issue and needs to be handled with tact and diplomacy.' 'FRAGILE - HANDLE WITH CARE.'

happen 1

- ✗ It happened something very strange.
- ✓ **Something very strange happened.**
- ✗ I was afraid it might happen to me something terrible.
- ✓ **I was afraid that something terrible might happen to me.**
- ✗ It didn't happen what the teacher had predicted.
- ✓ **What the teacher had predicted didn't happen.**

The subject of **happen** comes in front of the verb, in the usual way: 'Accidents happen every day along this stretch of the road.' 'Something unforeseen has happened.'

When you use it (preparatory subject) before **happen**, the sentence continues with a **that** clause: 'It happened that we had both booked seats on the same flight.' (= By chance we had both booked ...)

2

- ✗ One day happened something very sad.
- ✓ **One day something very sad happened.**
- ✗ Then happened something that made me very angry.
- ✓ **Then something happened that made me very angry.**

The subject of the sentence comes in front of **happen** (NOT after it): 'Something unexpected has happened.' 'Something has happened that I think you ought to know about.'

3

- ✗ I don't know what's happened with him. He should be here by now.
- ✓ **I don't know what's happened to him. He should be here by now.**

Something **happens** to someone/something (NOT with): 'What's happened to the clock? It's not working.'

4 See PROBLEM 3

hardly 1

- ✗ I tried hardly to remember where I had parked the car.
- ✓ **I tried hard to remember where I had parked the car.**
- ✗ It was raining hardly and we all got wet.
- ✓ **It was raining hard and we all got wet.**
- ✗ Society shouldn't punish these people too hardly.
- ✓ **Society shouldn't punish these people too hard/severely.**

hardly = scarcely; almost not: 'It was hardly raining at all.' 'I could hardly believe my eyes.'

hard = (1) with a lot of effort: 'If you work hard, you're bound to pass.' (2) heavily or severely: 'The authorities are coming down hard on tax evasion.' Before a past participle, use **severely** for this meaning: 'If they are caught, they will be severely punished.'

- 2 ✗ It was so dark that we hardly could see.
- ✓ **It was so dark that we could hardly see.**

See Language Note at ALWAYS

- 3 ✗ There were hardly no trees left, just bare rocky land.
- ✓ **There were hardly any trees left, just bare rocky land.**
- ✗ When we arrived at the hotel, we couldn't hardly believe our eyes.
- ✓ **When we arrived at the hotel, we could hardly believe our eyes.**

See Language Note at NOT

harm

See Language Note at DO

have 1

- ✗ After buying the food, he had not any money left.
- ✓ **After buying the food, he didn't have any money left.**

When **have** is used as a main verb, the negative and question forms are made with **do**: 'I didn't have any breakfast this morning.'

Note the alternative: 'After buying the food, he hadn't got any money left.'

- 2 ✗ I stayed at home yesterday because I was having a bad cold.
- ✓ **I stayed at home yesterday because I had a bad cold.**

See Language Note at CONTAIN

- 3 ✗ I don't think that I have to say anything more, so I'll stop now and take this letter to the post office.
- ✓ **I don't think that I have anything more to say, so I'll stop now and take this letter to the post office.**

have to do sth = must do something: 'My train leaves in ten minutes so I'll have to go now.'

have sth to do = have something that you need or intend to do: 'I have two more letters to write.'

- 4 See AGO 2

5

See COLOUR 1, SIZE

have got 1

- ? He has got white hair, big ears and blue eyes.
 ✓ **He's got white hair, big ears and blue eyes.**
 ? I have not got a van and so I can't move my things by myself.
 ✓ **I haven't got a van and so I can't move my things by myself.**

The different forms of **have got** are nearly always contracted when they are spoken or written: 'I've got two sisters.' 'She's got big brown eyes.' 'He wanted to know if I'd got any money.'

2

- ? It all depends on whether the applicant has got suitable qualifications.
 ✓ **It all depends on whether the applicant has suitable qualifications.**

Have got is used only in informal styles (mainly in British English). In other styles, use **have**.

have to

- ✗ Some wives earn a lot of money and so their husbands haven't to work.
 ✓ **Some wives earn a lot of money and so their husbands don't have to work.**
 ✗ He was pleased that he had not to look after the baby.
 ✓ **He was pleased that he didn't have to look after the baby.**

The negative and question forms of **have to** are usually made with **do**: 'I don't have to leave just yet.' 'Do you really have to go now?'

he

- ? A child is bound to suffer if he thinks that no one loves him.
 ✓ **Children are bound to suffer if they think that no one loves them.**

See Language Note opposite

he or she,
he/she

- ? When anyone reads these lines, he or she will think that the writer is very sad.
 ✓ **Anyone reading these lines will think that the writer is very sad.**
 ? A criminal should be punished when he/she is caught.
 ✓ **Criminals should be punished when they are caught.**
 ? If a friend came to stay with me, I would give him or her a souvenir of Barcelona so that he or she would have something to remember his or her visit.
 ✓ **If a friend came to stay with me, I would give them a souvenir of Barcelona so that they would have something to remember their visit.**

See Language Note opposite

headache

- ✗ If I drink coffee, I get headache.
 ✓ **If I drink coffee, I get a headache.**

Headache is a countable noun: 'I woke up with a terrible headache.' 'My wife suffers from headaches.'

health

- ✗ I hope this letter finds you in a good health.
 ✓ **I hope this letter finds you in good health.**

Avoiding sexism in your writing

In the past, when people referred to a member of a group containing both men and women (or boys and girls), they used the pronouns **he/him/his**:

A good doctor listens carefully to his patients.

Anyone who wants to join should give his name to the secretary.

Nowadays, many people feel that this usage is unfair to women. If you want to avoid the danger of seeming sexist, you can use one of the following alternatives.

- Use **They/Them/Their** to refer back to an indefinite pronoun (**anyone, somebody etc**):

Anyone who wants to join should give their name to the secretary.

Some people object to this usage in formal styles, insisting that **they** (plural) does not agree in number with **anyone** (singular). This usage is nevertheless very common.

- Make all the forms plural:

Good doctors listen carefully to their patients.

Those who want to join should give their name to the secretary.

- Design the sentence in such a way that a personal pronoun is not needed. For example, instead of saying 'If anyone wants to go now, he may do so', just say 'Anyone who wants to go now may do so.'

- Use **he or she, his or her, etc**:

A good doctor listens carefully to his or her patients.

This alternative is found in formal writing, and so is the use of **he/she, his/her, s/he, etc**. However, they are generally felt to produce awkward and unnatural sentences, especially when they are repeated, as in:

If a doctor listens to his or her patients, he or she will be in a better position to help them.

Health is an uncountable noun: 'Worry can affect your health.' 'Nothing in life is more important than good health.'

hear 1

- ✗ They all sat down and heard my story.
- ✓ **They all sat down and listened to my story.**
- ✗ I like hearing tapes and watching English films.
- ✓ **I like listening to tapes and watching English films.**

listen (to) = hear and pay attention (to): 'He listened carefully to every word I said.' Compare: 'I could hear two people talking but I didn't listen to what they were saying.'

heavy

- x Her car was involved in a heavy accident.
 - ✓ **Her car was involved in a serious accident.**
 - x All the prisoners had committed heavy crimes.
 - ✓ **All the prisoners had committed serious crimes.**
- a serious accident/crime/illness etc (NOT heavy)**

height

- x She is a medium-height smartly-dressed woman.
 - ✓ **She is a smartly-dressed woman of medium height.**
 - x The police wish to interview an average height man with long black hair.
 - ✓ **The police wish to interview a man of average height with long black hair.**
- of medium/average height:** 'The escaped prisoner is of medium-height and was last seen wearing a green tracksuit.'

help 1

- x The girl's parents couldn't help to worry about her.
 - ✓ **The girl's parents couldn't help worrying about her.**
- can't/couldn't help doing sth:** 'I couldn't help laughing when I saw what he was doing.'

2

- x Remember to call me if you need a help.
- ✓ **Remember to call me if you need help.**

Help is usually an uncountable noun: 'Do you want some help?' 'He doesn't like asking for help.'

Note however the phrase **be a (great/tremendous) help:** 'Thanks for coming and looking after the children. You've been a great help.' 'It would be a great help if you could just address all the envelopes.'

here 1

- x The weather in here is very cold.
- ✓ **The weather here is very cold.**
- x The people in here believe in Hinduism.
- ✓ **The people here believe in Hinduism.**

Do not use **in** before **here/there** when you mean 'in this country or region': 'I'm having a problem with the food here.' 'Groceries here are much cheaper than in Japan.'

You use **in here** when you mean 'in this building/room/container etc': 'Nobody is allowed to come in here except authorized personnel.' 'I leave most of my books in here.'

2

- x She comes to here every afternoon to feed the birds.
- ✓ **She comes here every afternoon to feed the birds.**

Do not use **to** before **here/there** unless you are indicating or pointing to something: 'When the tide comes in, the water reaches right up to here.'

3

- x You do not need to bring a coat because here is warm.
- ✓ **You do not need to bring a coat because it's warm here.**
- x Here is very different.
- ✓ **It's very different here.**

When you are describing a situation, begin the clause with **it** (NOT **here**): 'It's raining here.'

high

- x Beauvais is very proud of having the highest cathedral in Europe.

- ✓ **Beauvais is very proud of having the tallest cathedral in Europe.**
- ✗ Smoke pours out of the high chimneys all day long.
- ✓ **Smoke pours out of the tall chimneys all day long**

Use **high** to describe something that is a long way above the ground (or whose top is a long way above the ground): 'The rooms on the ground floor have very high ceilings.' 'The top shelf was too high for me to reach.' 'The high wall made it impossible for prisoners to escape.'
Use **tall** (NOT **high**) to describe people, animals, trees, plants and things which are narrow and above average height: 'Most of the tall trees had been cut down.' 'I'd like to marry someone tall with a sense of humour.' 'He's almost six feet tall.'

hinder 1

- ✗ His health hindered him to do any hard work.
- ✓ **His health prevented him from doing any hard work.**
- ✗ Nobody can hinder people having fun.
- ✓ **Nobody can prevent people from having fun.**

hinder sth = cause progress, development, growth etc to slow down or stop: 'Higher interest rates could hinder economic growth.' 'Heavy rains hindered the expedition's progress.'

prevent (or stop) sb from doing sth = make it impossible for someone to do something: 'He removed the ignition key to prevent them from leaving.'

2

- ✗ Capital punishment aims to hinder people from committing such crimes.
- ✓ **Capital punishment aims to deter people from committing such crimes.**

deter sb (from doing sth) = persuade someone not to do something: 'The threat of imprisonment has failed to deter these young offenders.'

hire

- ✗ I'm hiring a small house near the university.
- ✓ **I'm renting a small house near the university.**

In British English you **hire** a suit, meeting hall, bicycle, fishing rod etc. You obtain the use of these things, usually for a short period, by making a single payment: 'Why buy a wedding dress when you can hire one?' 'Herr Platzer showed us where we could hire bicycles.'

You **rent** a house, shop, apartment, television etc, usually for a longer period, by making a series of payments: 'There are plenty of offices to rent in the town centre.' When talking about cars, you can use **rent** or **hire**: 'There's usually a place at the airport where you can hire/rent a car.'

In American English you always **rent** something (not **hire**), regardless of what it is or the length of the arrangement.

historic 1

- ✗ She likes reading historic novels.
- ✓ **She likes reading historical novels.**

historic = (1) very important in history: 'a historic voyage', 'a historic decision' (2) having a long history: 'a historic tradition', 'a historic building'

historical = (1) about or based upon people who actually lived or events that actually happened: 'Historical records suggest that the prince was fully aware of the murders.' (2) connected with or found in history: 'a diary of great historical interest', 'a historical document', 'for historical reasons'.

- 2
- ✗ He likes reading historic books.
 - ✓ **He likes reading history books.**
 - ✗ We spent the afternoon at the historic museum.
 - ✓ **We spent the afternoon at the history museum.**

a history book/lesson/museum etc = a book/lesson/museum etc that deals with the subject of history: 'Our history teacher next term is Mr Young.'

- historical**
- ✗ We shall be taking you to see several interesting historical places.
 - ✓ **We shall be taking you to see several interesting historic places.**
- See note at HISTORIC 1

- hit 1**
- ✗ Turning round, I hit a vase which broke into several pieces.
 - ✓ **Turning round, I knocked over a vase which broke into several pieces.**
- knock over** = hit something by accident so that it falls from a standing position: 'The cat jumped up onto the table and knocked over a full glass of red wine.'

- 2
- ✗ I was so terrified that I hit and kicked them with all my might.
 - ✓ **I was so terrified that I punched and kicked them with all my might.**

punch and kick (NOT **hit and kick**): 'The boy on the ground was punching and kicking to defend himself.'

- hold**
- ✗ One of the men walked over to me and held my bag.
 - ✓ **One of the men walked over to me and took hold of my bag.**
 - ✗ As soon as she saw the mouse, she held a knife.
 - ✓ **As soon as she saw the mouse, she picked up a knife.**
- hold** = have something in your hand/hands/arms etc: 'I'd been holding the baby for nearly an hour and my right arm was getting tired.'
- get/take hold of** = put your fingers or hands around something and hold it: 'Quick! Get hold of the rope! The boat's drifting away.'
- pick up** = put your fingers around something and take it: 'He bent down to pick up the glove that she'd dropped.'

- hole**
- ✗ He didn't want us to see the hole on his sock.
 - ✓ **He didn't want us to see the hole in his sock.**
 - ✗ The yacht hit the side of the ferry and made a hole in it.
 - ✓ **The yacht hit the side of the ferry and made a hole in it.**
- (make) a hole in sth** (NOT **on**): 'The bucket had a hole in the bottom.'

- holiday 1**
- ✗ She said she was going on holidays to France.
 - ✓ **She said she was going on holiday to France.**
 - ✗ I've just got back from holidays.
 - ✓ **I've just got back from holiday.**
- Speakers of British English use **(be/go) on holiday**, **(return/get back) from holiday** (WITHOUT -s): 'I met her while I was on holiday in Switzerland.' 'We're supposed to be going on holiday with them.'
- The plural form **holidays** is usually used with **the/my/your** etc: 'Where are you going for your holiday/s this year?' 'During the long summer holiday/s some students get a part-time job.'

Speakers of American English use **(be/go) on vacation** etc.

- 2
- x The children stay up late when they are in their holidays.
 - ✓ **The children stay up late when they are on holiday.**
 - x In those days we couldn't afford to go in holidays.
 - ✓ **In those days we couldn't afford to go on holiday.**
- (be/go) on holiday** (NOT in (your) holidays): 'Mark's on holiday this week.' 'On holiday I just like to relax and read a book or two.'
- 3
- x It's time you made a holiday.
 - ✓ **It's time you had a holiday.**
 - x At Easter a lot of pensioners go to Lugano to make a holiday.
 - ✓ **At Easter a lot of pensioners go to Lugano to have a holiday.**
- See Language Note at DO

- 4 See PASS1

home 1

- x As soon as I arrived at home, I knew that something was wrong.
 - ✓ **As soon as I arrived home, I knew that something was wrong.**
 - x When the examinations are over, I'm going to home.
 - ✓ **When the examinations are over, I'm going home.**
- arrive/go/return home** (WITHOUT at/to): 'Let's go home and have something to eat.' 'We arrived home at six o'clock.'
- Compare: 'We arrived at their house at six o'clock.'

- 2
- x I have to stay in my home to look after our baby.
 - ✓ **I have to stay at home to look after our baby.**
 - x We decided to spend the weekend in our home.
 - ✓ **We decided to spend the weekend at home.**
- at home** (NOT in my/our etc home): 'I'm fed up with being at home all the time.'

- 3
- x We left my uncle's home at ten o'clock.
 - ✓ **We left my uncle's house at ten o'clock.**
 - x Why don't you stay in Joan's home?
 - ✓ **Why don't you stay at Joan's house?**

leave/stay at/go home BUT **leave/stay at/go to sb's house**
Compare: 'Shall we go home or shall we go to your house?'

- 4
- x If they want to go outside the home, they have to ask their husbands.
 - ✓ **If they want to go out, they have to ask their husbands.**
- When someone leaves their house for a short while, they **go out**: 'I'd like to go out but I'm too tired.'

- 5
- x Saudi women were not allowed to work outside their home.
 - ✓ **Saudi women were not allowed to go out to work.**
- See Language Note at OCCUPATION

- 6
- x My parents don't want me to live out of home.
 - ✓ **My parents don't want me to live away from home.**

(live/move) away from home (NOT out of home): 'I've been living away from home for almost two years.'

homework 1



housework

- 1 x In my opinion, women who go out to work don't have enough time to do the homework.

✓ **In my opinion, women who go out to work don't have enough time to do the housework.**

homework = work that a teacher gives a pupil to do at home

housework = all the jobs that have to be done regularly to keep a house or flat clean and tidy

- 2 x Have you done your homeworks?

✓ **Have you done your homework?**

Homework is an uncountable noun: 'We're given a lot of homework at the weekend.'



homework

- 3 x Our teacher wanted to know why we hadn't made our homework.

✓ **Our teacher wanted to know why we hadn't done our homework.**

See Language Note at 60

honestly 1

- 1 x Honestly, we didn't play very well in the final.

✓ **To be honest, we didn't play very well in the final.**

x Honestly, I don't really like her husband.

✓ **To tell you the truth, I don't really like her husband.**

Use **honestly** when you want someone to believe that what you are saying is really true: 'I honestly don't mind where we go, as long as we go somewhere.' 'I was going to give it back to you, honestly.'

To show someone that you are about to tell them your own true feelings about something (especially feelings that you usually keep secret), use **to be honest (with you), in all honesty, to tell (you) the truth, (quite) frankly** or **to be frank**: 'In all honesty, I'll be glad when the children are back at school.' 'To tell you the truth, I don't think that the marriage will last long.'

- 2 x I honestly say that I haven't seen anyone work so hard.

✓ **I can honestly say that I haven't seen anyone work so hard.**

I can honestly say (WITH can): 'I can honestly say this is the worst film I've ever seen.'

hope 1

- 1 x I hope that one day things would change.

✓ **I hope that one day things will change.**

x I hope that you would think seriously about this matter.

✓ **I hope that you will think seriously about this matter.**

You **hope** that someone **will** do something or that something **will** happen (NOT **would**): 'I hope that you won't be offended if I don't come.'

2

- x I hope you to have a good time at the party.

✓ **I hope you have a good time at the party.**

When there is a change of subject after **hope**, use **hope + that** clause (NOT **hope + to-v**): 'She hopes (that) you'll come again.' 'We hope (that) your parents enjoyed their stay.'

When there is no change of subject, use **hope + to-v** (or **hope + that**

clause): 'She hopes to come again.' (= she hopes that she will come again) 'They hope to visit the Istana.' (= they hope (that) they will visit the Istana)

- 3 ✕ I deeply hope that there will never be another war.
 ✓ **I sincerely hope that there will never be another war.**
sincerely hope (NOT **deeply**): 'I sincerely hope that you will understand why we cannot come after all.'

- 4 ✕ Are you still unhappy? I don't hope so.
 ✓ **Are you still unhappy? I hope not.**
 When you wish that something previously mentioned is not true, use **I hope not**: 'Do you have to have another medical examination?' 'I hope not.'

- hopeless** ✕ I think the students will feel hopeless because they have already tried their best and failed.
 ✓ **I think the students will feel disheartened because they have already tried their best and failed.**

Hopeless is usually used to describe a situation, not a person: 'The firemen tried to get the blaze under control, but it was hopeless.' When you say that a person is **hopeless**, you mean that they are very bad at something: 'He's hopeless at remembering names.'

To describe someone who feels that they have little or no chance of success, especially because they have already experienced failure or disappointment, use **dispirited**, **dejected**, **disheartened**, **discouraged**, **despondent** or **demoralized**: 'Having lost ten matches in a row, the team felt completely demoralized.'

- horizon** 1 ✕ The tiny light looked like a star in the horizon.
 ✓ **The tiny light looked like a star on the horizon.**
on the horizon (NOT **in**): 'The sun was setting on the horizon.'

- 2 ✕ Further education enables you to broaden your horizon.
 ✓ **Further education enables you to broaden your horizons.**
your horizons (WITH -s) = the range of things that you are involved or interested in: 'As a politician, his horizons extend no further than the next election.'

- hospital** 1 ✕ I've been in the hospital for the last five weeks.
 ✓ **I've been in hospital for the last five weeks.**
 See note at SCHOOL 1

- 2 ✕ I want to go and see my grandmother who is ill at hospital.
 ✓ **I want to go and see my grandmother who is ill in hospital.**
 ✕ It gave me the opportunity to work at a hospital.
 ✓ **It gave me the opportunity to work in a hospital.**
in (a) hospital (NOT **at**): 'I didn't like being in hospital.'

- hour** ✕ It was a twelve hours trip.
 ✓ **It was a twelve-hour trip.**
 See Language Note at HUNDRED

- household** ✕ At the weekend they have to do all the household.
 ✓ **At the weekend they have to do all the housework.**

✗ Some women get no help with the household work.

✓ **Some women get no help with the housework.**

household = all the people living together in a house or flat: 'Be quiet or you'll wake the whole household.'

housework = all the jobs that have to be done regularly to keep a house or flat clean and tidy: 'My husband and I share all the housework between us.'

housekeeper ✗ Most Korean women are housekeepers.

✓ **Most Korean women are housewives.**

housekeeper = a person who does the cooking and keeps a house clean, usually paid by the owners of the house: 'We can't afford to employ a housekeeper.'

housewife = a married woman who does not have a full-time job outside the house: 'She doesn't want to give up her job and become a housewife.'

housework ✗ I do all the houseworks myself.

✓ **I do all the housework myself.**

Housework is an uncountable noun: 'There's always lots of housework to be done.'

how 1

✗ Could you describe how the driver looks like?

✓ **Could you describe what the driver looks like?**

✗ How is Christmas in France?

✓ **What is Christmas like in France?**

✗ How do the new shoes feel like?

✓ **What do the new shoes feel like?**

When you ask for or give a description of someone or something, use **what ... like** (NOT **how**): 'What's your new English teacher like?' 'This drawing gives you an idea of what the new shopping complex will look like.' 'What does it feel like to win an Olympic gold medal?' 'What do the apples taste like?'

2

✗ How do you think of the hotel?

✓ **What do you think of the hotel?**

✗ Should I tell him the truth? How do you think?

✓ **Should I tell him the truth? What do you think?**

When you ask someone for their opinion, use **what ... think** (NOT **how**): 'What do you think of Ann's new car?'

3

✗ Their decision will depend on how good is your offer.

✓ **Their decision will depend on how good your offer is.**

✗ Please let me know how much is the postage.

✓ **Please let me know how much the postage is.**

In a subordinate clause, the subject and verb do NOT change places. Compare: 'How much did she pay for it?' 'Do you know how much she paid for it?'

4

✗ I must tell you how I was pleased to receive a letter from you.

✓ **I must tell you how pleased I was to receive a letter from you.**

✗ I keep telling myself how I am lucky to have such wonderful children.

- ✓ I keep telling myself how lucky I am to have such wonderful children.

how + adjective/adverb + subject + verb: 'I can't describe how sad I felt.'
'How clumsy you are!' 'I was amazed at how fast she was driving.'

5

- ✗ We all know how terrible disease AIDS is.

- ✓ **We all know what a terrible disease AIDS is.**

what + noun phrase (NOT **how**): 'I've been told what a fine chess player you are.' 'What a stupid thing to say!'

how do
you do

- ✗ Dear Mary ... Hi! How do you do?

- ✓ **Dear Mary ... Hi! How are you?**

How do you do? is used in spoken English as a polite way of greeting a stranger or someone you do not know very well. It is not used in written English.

How are you? is used in spoken and written English as an informal greeting.

how much

- ✗ I realized how much different everybody's personality is.

- ✓ **I realized how different everybody's personality is.**

- ✗ I just can't tell you how much I'm sorry.

- ✓ **I just can't tell you how sorry I am.**

how + adjective/adverb (WITHOUT **much**): 'Did you notice how sad he looked?'

however

- ✗ I don't like shopping however I'll come with you.

- ✓ **I don't like shopping but I'll come with you.**

Unlike **but**, **however** is an adverb (NOT a conjunction) and is used only in formal styles: 'I was hoping to deal with this matter quickly. However, the situation is more complicated than I thought.' 'The newspapers always carried stories of new advances and glorious victories. In reality, however, the war was not going well.'

See also NEVERTHELESS, THEREFORE 1

huge

- ✗ Meno Park in Central Tokyo is very huge.

- ✓ **Meno Park in Central Tokyo is (absolutely) huge.**

See note at VERY 2

human

- ✗ The human's brain works better in the morning.

- ✓ **The human brain works better in the morning.**

Human is mainly used as an adjective: 'We should accept the fact that human judgement is fallible.'

Compare: 'A person's brain works better in the morning.'

humid

- ✗ He was living in a cold basement flat which had humid walls and almost no furniture.

- ✓ **He was living in a cold basement flat which had damp walls and almost no furniture.**

See note at DAMP

humour

- ? Bill looks angry. Is he in a bad humour?

- ✓ **Bill looks angry. Is he in a bad mood?**

- ? Sometimes when I'm in a good humour, I like to cook something special.

- ✓ **Sometimes when I'm in a good mood, I like to cook something special.**

Your **mood** is the way you feel (about life) at a particular time: 'Doctors believe that tiredness affects your mood and behaviour.' 'George is in a bad mood this morning. Has someone upset him?'

Humour is used with a similar meaning, but only in formal or literary styles: 'Steven was deep in bad humour.'

hundred

See Language Note opposite

hurry

- ✗ I was in hurry to catch the train.

- ✓ **I was in a hurry to catch the train.**

(be) in a hurry (to do sth): 'I was in such a hurry that I nearly knocked him over.'

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Using numbers

- **Day, month, minute, mile, kilo etc** are always SINGULAR when used (with a number) immediately before a noun: 'a six-minute wait', 'a ten-second silence', 'a five-mile race'.

My travel agent had arranged a 6-day coach tour.
The company provides a three-month training course.

Compare: 'We waited for thirty minutes.' 'We had a thirty-minute wait.'

- When you say **100, 1000, etc**, or write these numbers in words, use **a hundred, a thousand (WITH a)**:

The palace was built a thousand years ago.

Compare: 'The palace was built 1000 years ago.'

For emphasis or to be exact, it is possible to use **one** instead of **a**:

I am one hundred percent against the idea.

- After **a/one/five/twelve etc**, the words **hundred, thousand, etc** are always SINGULAR and are NOT followed by **of**:

Five hundred children are born in the city every day.
More than three thousand people were there.

Similarly, **of** is NOT used after **100, 250, 3000 etc**:

If you kill 200 whales a year, they will soon disappear.

Hundreds (of), thousands (of) etc are used only when you give a general idea of how many or how much: 'There were hundreds of stars in the sky.' 'They've spent thousands (of pounds) on improvements to the house.'

- Use **and** between **hundred** and the next number. (In American English, **and** is often omitted, especially in formal styles.)

BrE The club has about a hundred and thirty members.
AmE The club has about a hundred (and) thirty members.

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