



**B2.11**

# Global English

2nd  
edition

*B2 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)*



CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE

**EDITED BY ISEEC S.A.**

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**GLOBAL ENGLISH  
LEVEL: B2.II**



## Unit 1. Social networks

### GRAMMAR: ARTICLES

English has two articles: **the** and **a/an**

	<b>Definite article</b>	<b>Indefinite article</b>
Article	The	A/An
Objective	Refer to specific nouns	Modify non-specific nouns
Example	Let's watch <b>the</b> film you borrowed.	Let's watch <b>a</b> film.
Meaning	A <b>specific</b> film: the one you borrowed	<b>any</b> film rather than a specific film

When to use an article? Which article to use?

Identify if the noun is countable or uncountable.

**Countable** nouns are always preceded by an article.

**Uncountable** nouns do not carry an article.

*Can you bring me **a** glass of water? (Countable)*

***Life** is beautiful. (Uncountable)*

Some nouns can be both countable and uncountable:

Then using an article will change the meaning of the sentence the noun is used in.

	<b>Without</b> article	<b>With</b> article
With article	It is a joy to watch <b>children</b> grow up.	The children from across the street misbehave a lot
Meaning	Children, <b>in general</b>	Those children, <b>in particular</b>

In this same manner, using **the** instead of **a/an**, or instead of nothing at all, makes the noun you refer to more specific.

Using **a** or **an** depends on the sound which the next word begins with.

<b>a +</b>	<b>an +</b>
SINGULAR NOUNS	
beginning with a <b>consonant</b>	beginning with a <b>vowel</b>
<i>a cat; a car; a tree</i>	<i>an ant; an umbrella; an apple</i>
beginning with a <b>consonant sound</b>	beginning with a <b>silent "h"</b>
<i>a uniform, a university, a user (sounds like "you")</i>	<i>an hour</i>



**The same rule applies to ACRONYMS**

We stayed at a B&B last time we went to the UK.

The doctor ordered an MRI  
(magnetic resonance imaging)

**The same rule applies to ADJECTIVES**

*a rotten apple*

*an unusual behaviour*

Jobs always use **a/an**:

I'm **a** lawyer

I'm **an** artist

He is **a** teacher

He is **an** English teacher

He is **a** university teacher

He is **an** honourable teacher

He is a **high** school teacher

For the names of specific geographical features use **the** (mountain ranges, rivers, beaches, areas, forests and deserts)

**The** Alps

**The** Nile

**The** Middle East

**The** Sahara desert

Countries and regions don't take an article EXCEPT FOR  
Countries and regions that are considered to be plural, such as:

**The** United States of America

**The** United Kingdom

**The** Netherlands

**The** Canary Islands

**The** Balearic Islands





**LISTENING: FACEBOOK**

Damien: I'm thinking about quitting Facebook.

June: Really? Why?

Damien: Oh, I'm just sick of it. I spend so much time on there, and I kind of feel like I'm wasting my time.

June: James tried doing that and he was back online within 2 months.

Damien: Yeah, I remember.

June: What about keeping in touch with friends overseas?

Damien: I have their email addresses, so I can write to them.

June: You're not going to miss looking at photos from nights out and stuff like that?

Damien: No, not really.

June: What about organizing events and things like that?

Damien: Well WhatsApp is free, and I generally use that, so I don't think I'll miss it. Anyway, I don't really organize many events to be honest. I'm going to sign up for a gym instead. I spend way too much time sitting down.

June: Well, I think you'll be back sooner or later.

Damien: We'll see. I spend so much time on the computer during work and Facebook just distracts me. I have a really busy few months coming up. I might sign up again in summer.

June: Well, I'll miss the chats we have online.

Damien: Why don't we meet for coffee instead? We're neighbours after all.

June: Ha ha. I guess you're right. The old fashioned way.

Damien: Right, I have to go, I'll see you later.

June: Okay, don't be a stranger. Bye!



## READING: THE SOCIAL NETWORK

### The Social Network Boom

The social network boom has changed the way we communicate with each other. It's changed the way we interact as a society, but is the boom just another "bubble", another flash in the pan, or is it a good fundamental change for society?

Anyone who thinks social networks are just a fad clearly isn't living in the real world. In the past year social media helped overturn governments, named a cheating footballer despite a super-injunction from the courts, and were involved in the chaos caused when youths used their Blackberries to organize riots. Now, with a large proportion of social network use taking place on smart phones, it's becoming even more a part of our lives, and it looks like it will keep growing.

"Social media is not a "bubble" " said Bruno del Ama, chief executive of Global X Social Media ETF (a company that invests solely in social media companies). "It's different to 1999. Those companies were not even making any revenues." No, social media is here to stay. It's the new internet eco-system. However, is it sustainable? Ten years ago Myspace was the next big thing. Everyone thought it was a sure thing, but it didn't change with the times, and now it's no longer one of the major players. The user experience is important. Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, was always conscious of making Facebook user friendly and enjoyable. The ball game has changed and MySpace has been left behind.

This is the year that Facebook finally floated on the stock market, giving the company a valuation of between \$80 and \$100 billion. However, like other social networks, Facebook is still trying to find the best way to make money out of its massive base of users. Advertising has been the main income generator. Facebook has been gathering information about its users over its short lifetime, so it can tailor ads to users who will be more likely to respond favourably.

There is money to be made if you're wise, but how do investors decide which network makes a good investment? Here are four key points they should be looking for:

#### 1. The Network Effect

This is the size and strength of the network and the potential it has for growth in the future. Investors should also consider how stable the network is and whether it has a good defense against changes in the marketplace. Will users switch to a similar network? Those that look like they will keep hold of their users are more attractive.

#### 2. Engagement

Page views and time spent on the website are a good indicator of the resilience of the site and network. Facebook does pretty well here, accounting for an impressive 14 of the 74 minutes spent on average on the Internet each day.

#### 3. Commercial Proposition

Rupert Murdoch bought MySpace for \$580m in 2005 and got rid of it in 2011 for just \$35m. What investors learned from Murdoch's mistakes on that venture is that commercialization can sometimes kill off users. It takes time and investment to build an investment into a monopoly. As with Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, you need to offer the users something that attracts them. There also needs to be potential for growth.



#### 4. Customer Retention

You've got the customers, but can you keep them? Groupon is an example of a company that is fighting to get customers, but they may have to increase their costs if they want to keep acquiring customers as competition increases. As was the case with MySpace, customers will leave if a better offer comes along.

### VOCABULARY: TEXT SPEAK GUIDE

In the last few years with the rise of mobile phones and social networks a new language has evolved that people are calling text-speak. So what is it? What do lol, omg and rofl mean? Let's find out...

LOL – Laugh out loud

LMAO – Laughing my ass off

ROFL – Rolling on the floor laughing

IMO – In my opinion

HRU – How are you?

GR8 – Great

L8 – Late

M8 - Mate

GG – Good game

BTW – By the way

MSG – Message

NP – No problem

NE1? – Anyone?

PLS – Please

OTT – Over the top

OT – Off-topic

N1 – Nice one

BFF – Best friends forever

IMS – I'm sorry

FYI – For your information

BRB – Be right back

L8R - Later

GTG – Got to go

CYL – See you later

CYT – See you tomorrow





## VOCABULARY: FALSE FRIENDS

### Actual

In English 'actual' means 'real', as in the opposite of imaginary, not 'current'.

*His actual name was William, but everyone called him Bill.*

### Argument

This is most often a verbal fight, not the 'plot' of a book.

*The couple had a big argument about what to name their child.*

### Assist

This is another way to say 'help', but not to say 'attend'.

*Can you assist me on this next project?*

### Carpet

An insulating material used to cover a floor; it's not a folder for school.

*That's a beautiful new carpet you have in the dining room!*

### Contest

When used as a verb, it means to fight something or someone, not to answer a phone.

*I'm going to contest the parking ticket that they gave me.*

### Embarrassed

This is a feeling of shame, not to be pregnant.

*I was so embarrassed when I fell in front of everyone.*

### Large

This is another word for big, not long.

*He works in a very large building. It takes up a lot of space in the area.*

### Library

You borrow and return books at a library, you buy them at a 'book store.' (UK Book Shop)

*The school has a great library where you can check out the books for free, as long as you bring them back on time.*

### Molest

This is to be violated sexually, not simply 'bothered' by something.

*He will spend the rest of his life in jail after being convicted of molesting the young girl.*



**Parent**

This is a mother or a father, not simply a relative of any sort.

*His parents always supported him in anything he did.*

**Realize**

This is to understand something; sometimes suddenly. It's almost never used in the sense of making something a reality, in this context it's better to say 'carry out.'

*When he told me the story again, I realized it had been my fault.*

**Sane**

This means to be in a right state of mind, not 'healthy.'

*He was declared sane by the judge, and therefore can face jail time.*

**Sensible**

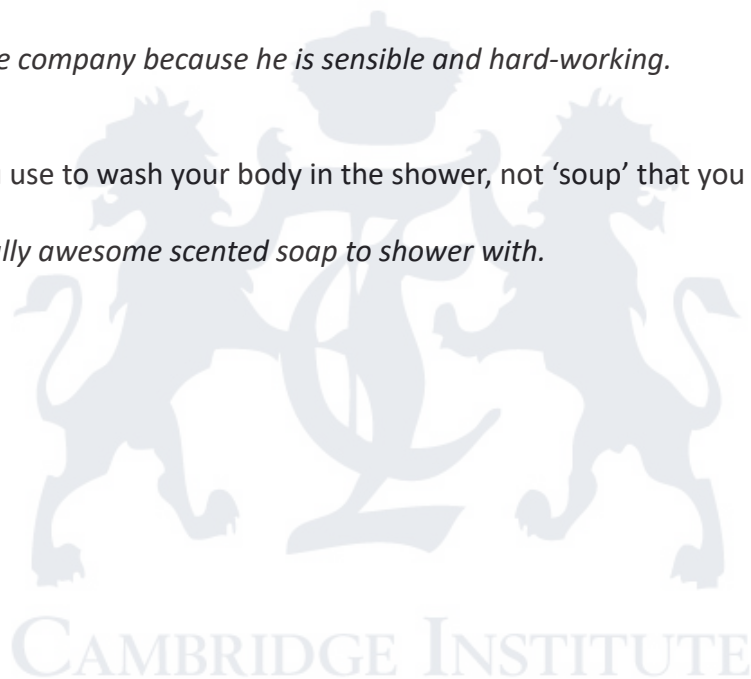
An adjective used to describe someone who makes good decisions, not a person who is sensitive.

*He is a good fit for the company because he is sensible and hard-working.*

**Soap**

This is something you use to wash your body in the shower, not 'soup' that you eat.

*I just got this new really awesome scented soap to shower with.*





### VOCABULARY: OUTER SPACE

#### Spaceship/spacecraft

A vehicle used to travel to outer space.

*A spaceship with a human on board first reached outer space in 1961.*

#### Astronaut

A professional who goes to outer space in a spaceship

*The first astronaut to walk on the moon was Neil Armstrong.*

#### Asteroid

A large rock which orbits the sun, smaller than a planet.

*“Armageddon” is a movie about an asteroid hitting Earth.*

#### Gravity

The force that attracts objects towards each other; the natural force, drawing objects to the centre of the Earth.

*When astronauts go into outer space they float in the spaceship because there is no gravity.*

#### Satellite

A man-made structure that orbits a planet, usually to gather information.

*Here in Madrid I can see more satellites than stars moving in the night sky.*

#### Meteor

Pieces of rock or metal travelling through space become meteors when they enter the atmosphere of a planet. As they travel through a planet’s atmosphere, they appear as bright lights in the night sky, which are also known as ‘shooting stars’.

*Scientists have learned a lot about what makes up asteroids and planets by studying fallen meteors, which are known as meteorites.*

#### Shooting star

A common name for a meteor burning up as it passes through earth’s atmosphere. Its light shines extra bright in the sky for a few moments when seen from earth.

*It is considered good luck to make a wish when you see a shooting star.*

#### UFO

An unidentified flying object.

*My uncle is sure that he once saw a UFO near his home.*



**Observatory**

A building used for studying stars and outer space usually equipped with large sophisticated telescopes.

*Observatories are often situated at very high altitudes on the summits of mountains.*

**Telescope**

A tool that can be used to look at things in more detail, often when the object is far away in outer space.

*My daughter uses her telescope to look at craters on the moon.*

**Solar system**

A system of planets, stars and other outer space objects that are in orbit together.

*Our solar system, which includes 8 planets and the Sun are all part of the Milky Way galaxy.*

**Launch**

To shoot or project something into the sky.

*NASA launches spaceships, rockets and satellites into space every month.*

**Orbit**

(n) the path that an object takes when going around another object.

(v) to revolve around something.

*The earth's orbit around the sun takes 365.24 days to complete.*

*The moon orbits the Earth, while the Earth orbits the sun.*



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## READING: GRAVITY

Science fiction films and series set in space have always become blockbusters: just think of “2001 - A Space Odyssey”, “Star Wars”, “Apollo 13”, “Armageddon” and “Star Trek”. More recently Sandra Bullock and George Clooney teamed up for the new space adventure: “Gravity”.

“Gravity” is a science fiction thriller which tells the tale of Stone (Bullock), a medical engineer and Kowalski (Clooney), an experienced astronaut, sent into space to do routine repairs and servicing of a telescope. Everything seems fine until a cloud of smashed satellite pieces throws them into the terrible situation of being completely alone in outer space. Not only does their shuttle get damaged, but they also lose contact with Earth. They must do what they can to survive while completely alone, hundreds of miles from any other human being. While dealing with issues such as a lack of oxygen and fuel, their only chance of survival is reaching another orbiting space station some 100km away. The psychological effects of such a disaster are strongly felt by the characters in the film, who overcome feelings of despair and isolation with perseverance and resilience.

The outstanding graphics and visual displays used in the film *Gravity* were so innovative that the creators of the film have won several Academy Awards, Golden Globe Awards and Critics’ Choice Awards. They received rave reviews for their story line which, although based on a fantasy situation, manages to evoke the suspense and thrill of a real crisis which could potentially happen in space. Audiences are kept on the edge of their seats by the film’s ability to make them understand the feelings of the protagonist while in the classic lost-at-sea scenario – but with a science fiction twist. Although “Gravity” is classified as a sci-fi thriller, what most people seem to like about it is how believable the story is. It seems as though this very situation could be happening right now, hundreds of miles above our planet.





## LISTENING: DO YOU BELIEVE IN ALIENS

Diane: Hey Julie, you know what I heard on the news last night?

Julie: What?

Diane: Well, there was a news report about a farmer right on the outskirts of town who claims to have seen a UFO flying right above his farm. He even managed to take a few photos of the circular disk with lights all around it. Yeah, they showed the photo during the report. It really freaked me out.

Julie: Why? Diane, do you actually believe in aliens?

Diane: Of course I do! How can we live in such a vast universe and not believe that there are other forms of life out there.

Julie: Well I don't buy it. I think all this talk of UFOs and aliens is just as crazy as talking about Big Foot or the Loch Ness monster. And I'm sure those things do not exist.

Diane: I never understood how people can be so quick to dismiss the possibility of life on other planets. I mean, there's a whole galaxy beyond our reach that scientists have yet to explore or understand. How does anyone really know what could be out there? Maybe there are little green men with big heads or maybe there are alien civilizations similar to ours here on Earth. Who knows?

Julie: Well for now I know for sure that eight planets, one Sun and many stars exist, because I can see them. But, until I see a UFO or an alien with my own eyes, I think it's just one big hoax.

Diane: Oh Julie, you're such a skeptic. So what do you think the farmer saw in his fields?

Julie: Well apparently there was quite an impressive meteor shower last night so maybe he saw all the falling streams of light and simply got confused.

Diane: Maybe it was a meteor shower or maybe it was an alien ship. Until we find out for sure, I am going to stay open minded about the possibilities. Maybe we should go talk to the alien-sighting farmer out of town and see what he says?

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## VOCABULARY: PHRASES WITH 'TIME'

### To kill time / have time to kill

To have extra time to waste on something while waiting for someone or some event.

*I had time to kill at the airport waiting for my flight so I read a magazine.*

*Driving to my mother's house was a long journey, so we killed time playing driving games.*

### Waste of time

An activity that is unproductive and a bad use of time.

*I find memorizing information for exams such a waste of time. I forget it all again as soon as I have done the exam.*

### To take the time (to do sth)

To dedicate the necessary time to doing a task properly.

*You should take the time to revise your notes the night before an exam – it will help you to remember important information.*

### To make time for (sth)

To plan or create the time for something in your schedule.

*Peter will always make time for a visit to his parent's house every Sunday.*

### For the time being

From now until further notice.

*Kyle can stay with us for the time being, but I hope he keeps looking for his own place because he can't stay here forever.*

### To run out of time

To have very little time left to complete a certain task; when the deadline for completing a task is getting close.

*I am running out of time to finish my report; it is due tomorrow and I am only half way through it.*

### To be pressed for time

To have little time in which to finish an action.

*Please answer quickly Cindy, I am pressed for time. I have to go to pick up my kids in 15 minutes.*

### Free/spare time

Available time when you're are not working or studying.

*In his free time Charles loves to play football and play the drums.*

### Time flies

Time passes by quickly.

*Time always flies when we are rehearsing for our play.*



**To have / go through a hard time**

A period of difficulty.

*Irene is really going through a hard time; she can't find a job so she's moving back in with her parents.*

**From time to time**

Sometimes.

*Although I am lactose intolerant I still eat ice cream from time to time, I just love it so much that I can't give it up.*





## GRAMMAR: THE ZERO ARTICLE

The zero article is used when nouns do not have a determiner (her, our, every) or an article (a, an, the) in front of them. Some common situations when they are omitted are with proper nouns, with countable and uncountable nouns when talking about an indefinite number of them, and with certain expressions of time, place and transport.

Uses of zero articles:

### 1. Generalizations and non-countable nouns

When you talk about a kind of noun in general, (for example when giving a personal opinion) or use the uncountable meaning of a noun, you do not use an article. Compare:

Zero article	Definite article
I really love hot dogs. (hot dogs in general)	<b>The</b> hot dogs on the table are for Denis. (specific hot dogs)
Telephones annoy me. (all telephones in general)	<b>The</b> telephone I use at work annoys me. (a specific telephone)
The room was filled with happiness. (the general emotion of happiness)	<b>The</b> happiness I feel is uncontainable. (specific happiness, not the emotion in general)
Conference rooms are normally very boring. (opinion, rooms in general)	<b>The</b> conference rooms in the Plaza Hotel are very boring. (fact, some specific rooms)

### 2. Proper Nouns (people, countries, cities, towns, streets, languages, specific mountains or lakes and business names)

*I once saw Tom Cruise walking through downtown New York.*

*London is such a beautiful city.*

*Mary lived in Australia for six months last year.*

*I've been learning English for two years.*

*My parents live on Corby Road.*

*Mount McKinley is the highest mountain in Alaska.*

*I never shop at Wal-Mart or Calvin Klein stores.*

### 3. Institutions (bed, church, class, college, court, home, hospital, market, prison, sea, town, university, work and forms of transport)

*When I started college I really wasn't sure what it would be like.*

*He was sent to prison for 10 years.*

*He goes to work by bus.*

Note: When using the names of institutions while referring to a specific building or location we use THE

*The university where my brother studies has a large campus.*

*The market closes on public holidays.*



#### 4. Nouns with prepositions

*As I arrived at school right on time, I didn't have a chance to clean my shoes before I walked into class.*

#### 5. Unique objects

When we refer to unique aspects of our environment that everybody is familiar with, we use the

*I love listening to the wind and the rain beating on the window panes when I am inside my house.*

*One day I would like to fly to the moon and visit the nearest planets.*

*The internet is very useful for finding information.*

#### 6. Categories or groups of people

If we are referring to groups of people the is required. Here are some examples:

*The homeless are well looked after at Christmas, but not at other times of the year.*

*The poor may benefit more from the tax change.*

Note: it is not considered politically correct to refer to certain groups in this way. e.g. the blind, the disabled etc. In this case terms such as "blind people", "disabled people" are preferred.

#### 7. Other

Days – Sunday, Monday

Festivals – Christmas, Halloween

Games – chess, cards, basketball

Parts of the day or night – night, noon, morning

Seasons and months – winter, spring, August, September

Years – 1984, 1985

Exceptions:

##### 1 . Proper names with oceans, seas, rivers, canals and deserts

The Atlantic Ocean

The Mediterranean Sea

The Rideau Canal

The Atacama Desert

The River Thames

##### 2. Plural names like the following

Family last names: The Robinsons, The McAdams

Countries: The Americas, The Antarctic, The Arctic, The Czech Republic, (all republics) The Netherlands, The Philippines, The United Kingdom

Islands : The Canary Islands, The Caribbean Islands

Mountains: The Himalayas, The Rocky Mountains



### 3. Building or institution names

If the first name of the building is a person or place's name, no article will be required

Oxford University  
Buckingham Palace

But if the building name is not a person or place's name it will require **the**

The Nature Museum  
The Eiffel Tower

If the name contains the preposition **of**, **the** is necessary.

The Museum of Fine Art  
The Great Wall of China  
The United States of America  
The Republic of Dominica

**4. Mealtimes, times of day, days or months of the year** will use **the** when there is an adjective before the noun or when we are speaking about a specific moment.

*The lovely dinner we had at the Jenkin's house was delicious.*  
*The early morning is the best time to go for a run.*  
*The warm summer in Italy becomes almost intolerable by July.*





**GRAMMAR: TELL VS. SAY**

“Say” and “tell” are common reporting verbs used when we want to reproduce what other people have previously said.

*Maria **told me** she was going to work late.*

*Jenny **said** she wanted to see her parents that weekend.*

Although both are frequently used in reported speech, they have a different structure:

**SAY**

Say usually takes a direct object. The direct object may be

1. the actual words uttered (direct speech):

*“Hello” or “Give me back my cookie!”*

2. a word such as *something, nothing, anything, much, a lot*:

*Shh! He’s **saying something**. I want to hear him!*

*The weather forecast didn’t **say anything** about rain this afternoon.*

3. a that-clause (noun clause):

*Felicity has never really **said that she truly loves me**.*

*John **said that he had received some good news**.*

4. a wh-noun clause (especially in negative and questions):

*Did the postman **say where we should pick up the parcel**?*

*Mrs. Johnson didn’t **say when she would return**.*

**Say** can be followed by the adverb **so**:

Why should you stop seeing him? Because **I said so!**

If the speaker wants to use **say** with an indirect object, the preposition **to** must be used. This use of “say to somebody” occurs only with long clauses beginning with **that**:

*He **said to me** that he was sorry, and that he regretted his offensive comments.*

*He ~~said me~~ that he was sorry.*

Much more common than **say**, however, in this kind of utterance – when you want to mention the person or persons you are addressing the words to – is the verb **tell**.



## TELL

**Tell** almost always occurs with an indirect object:

Please **tell me** the story of your life.

Nobody **told Jim** about the meeting – that’s why he wasn’t there.

**Tell** does, however, occur without an indirect object and with a limited number of direct objects in expressions such as *tell a lie, tell a story, tell the truth, tell secrets*:

She never **tells the same story** twice.

I’ve never been any good at **telling lies**.

**Tell** may occur without an overt (visible) indirect object in a certain kind of context—if the context indicates that there is an audience – but only with *wh*-noun clauses or phrases:

The speaker **told why these facts hadn’t come to light before**.

**Tell** must have an overt indirect object in all other contexts, that is, a word that refers to a person and which comes directly after it:

I want to **tell YOU** how much I appreciate your kindness.

Please **don’t tell JOHNNY** about this.

If the direct object is a **that**-noun clause, it must also have an indirect object:

They **told ME that I’d better arrive early**.



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## GRAMMAR: “OTHER” REPORTING VERBS

“Tell” and “Say” are perfectly correct for reporting what others have said. However, there are a number of other reporting verbs which can more accurately describe what someone has said. Look at the table below:

“Tell” verbs	“Say” verbs
Advise	Admit
Inform	Claim
Assure	Insist
Convince	Explain
Reassure	Declare
Persuade	Complain
	Announce
	Mention
	Suggest

These verbs take a variety of structures. The following list gives you reporting verbs in various categories based on sentence structure. Notice that a number of verbs can take more than one form.

### I. Verb + object + infinitive

Advise, encourage, invite, remind, warn, assure, beg

*Maria **encouraged me to look** for a new place.*

*The Joneses **invited all their friends to attend** their anniversary celebration.*

### II. Verb + (that)

Agree, decide, deny, explain, admit, insist, promise, recommend, suggest

*Lou **admitted (that)** she’d tried to leave early.*

*She **agreed (that)** we needed to reconsider our plans.*

### III. Verb + verb gerund

Deny, recommend, suggest

*William **denied having** anything to do with her.*

*Marge **suggested getting up** early in the morning.*

### IV. Verb + infinitive

Agree, decide, offer, promise, refuse, threaten

*My friend **offered to give** him a lift.*

*He **refused to take** no for an answer.*



**V. Verb + object + preposition + gerund**

Accuse, blame, congratulate

*They **accused him of cheating** at the game.*  
*She **blamed her boss for missing** the bus.*

**VI. Verb + preposition + gerund**

Apologise, insist

*He **apologized for being** late.*  
*She **insisted on doing** the washing up.*





## LISTENING: EARWIGS

Max: Hey guys, beware tonight! Make sure you check your beds properly before you go to sleep; go through your pillows and your nets, and make sure you are well covered!

Steve: What exactly are you talking about?

Lizzie: Hah, what's going on?

Max: Earwigs!

Max and Lizzie (in unison): What?

Max: Well, this insect called "forficula" or earwig is said to make its way into peoples and animals ears, and on occasions not only cause deafness, but violent pain by biting, and there have been cases that people had nests of these insects in their ears. Apparently these bugs eat into your brains!

Lizzie: Hah, that's an urban legend right! Well... that reminds me of the story about "Spider Death"!

Max: Oh, go on, enlighten us!

Lizzie: Well, these 3 women in London turned up at hospitals, all of them in the same week, and with the same symptoms: high temperature, cold sweat and vomiting, followed by total muscular collapse and paralysis. They all died within 48 hours. Autopsy results showed toxicity in the blood. These women did not know each other, and seemed to have nothing in common. It was discovered, however, that they had all visited the same restaurant called "Why not Spain", within days of their deaths. The Spanish health Authorities shut the restaurant down, and inspected everything. The food, water, air conditioning and found nothing. The big break came when a waitress at the restaurant was rushed to local hospital with similar symptoms. She told doctors that she had been away, on holiday, and had only been to the restaurant to pick up her pay. She did not eat or drink while she was there, but had used the lavatory...

Max: And... ?

Lizzie: And the doctor went to the restaurant and lifted the toilet seat. Under the seat, out of normal view, there was small spider. It turns out it was an African spider whose venom is extremely toxic but can take several days to take effect. They live in hot damp climates, and toilet rims that provide just the right environment. Apparently other people died in the same circumstances... So guys, you know now, before you use a public toilet, lift the seat to check for spiders. It could save your lives!

Steve: Hum... Do you think that's actually true? I got one for you!

Lizzie: True or false?

Steve: You'll see... Did you know that Neil Armstrong's first words upon setting foot on the surface of the moon were: Good Luck, Mr. Gorsky!

Max: Are you talking about the astronaut? I think I heard about this, is this actually true?

Steven: That's right. When Armstrong was a kid, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit a ball, which landed in the front of his neighbor's bedroom windows. His neighbors were Mr. & Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky. "Sex, you want sex? You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"



Max: What? So it is true!

Steven: Yep, When Apollo Mission Astronaut Neil Armstrong first walked on the moon, he not only gave his famous “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” statement but also said: “Good luck Mr. Gorsky.” For many years nobody understood what he meant by that, but finally in 1995 Mr. Gorsky died and Armstrong decided to explain it.

Max: Ok... Well, what I know for sure is that my inbox is full of stories like these. One scarier than the other.

Lizzie: It’s been some time since I stopped reading them. If you believe them you’ll end up completely paranoid!

## READING: ON URBAN LEGENDS

Urban Legends are derived from age-old traditions and folklore or the passing down of stories. We’ve all heard of the legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. We often use the word “legend” to describe a very unique individual who excelled in his or her field, or a story describing incredible events and/or mystical times.

The more modern take on a legend is the urban myth or legend. The “urban” part of “urban legend/myth” is a misnomer, as these stories don’t necessarily have to take place in an urban environment. “Urban” here is used to mean “modern or present-day”. These tales are often described as unreliable and/or fictitious. Many urban legends are frightening but some are based on real events.

A well-known urban legend involves a criminal gang who drive around at night with their car’s headlights off. If another driver flashes their headlights at the gang’s car as a warning, the criminals then follow and murder the other driver. As far as anyone knows, this story is completely untrue, but on several occasions it has confused authorities, who believed it was a real threat.

Urban legends often contain a lot of detail, therefore the teller will provide the listener with in-depth descriptions of specific events. The basic story may stay the same, but other details may change depending on who is telling the story. The teller may claim that it happened to “a friend of a friend”, to make the story seem more personal and credible. As already mentioned, urban legends don’t necessarily have to be false, and often contain elements of truth.



**GRAMMAR: BE SUPPOSED TO / BE EXPECTED TO**

Both of these expressions imply some type of expectation. The time suggested in either expression is based on how “be” is conjugated. If it’s in the present, it is an expectation about the present or the future. If it’s in the past, it speaks about an expectation in the past that many times was not followed through on. “Suppose” may be used more to assume or guess, while “expect” would be used more about something you are, or were, sure about. However, in many instances they can be used interchangeably.

*I’m **supposed to** finish my report this afternoon.*

*I’m **expected to** finish my report this afternoon.*

In both cases, there is an expectation that I will do something. The difference is that the second sentence specifically involves another person or other people who are expecting me to do something.

When we use **to be supposed to** it means that the subject should do something. That might be because it’s a normal duty, the subject was asked to do it or simply because it’s assumed that this thing will happen. If it’s use in past tense it speaks about an expectation in the past that many times was not met.

*They **are supposed to** arrive at 6pm.  
(It’s assumed they will arrive at 6pm.)*

*He **is supposed to** share the chores at home.  
(It’s a normal duty.)*

*We **were supposed to** go to the party.  
(The expectation was that we were going to the party, but we didn’t.)*

When we use **to be expected to do something** it means that another person, or people, believe that the subject will do something, or believed that the subject would do something in the past. It can also be used in the present tense when talking about rules.

*The students **are expected to** arrive on time.  
(The school rules state students have to arrive on time.)*

*They **were expected to** pass the test.  
(It was fairly certain they were going to pass the test.)*

However, when they are use in negative structures the two have very different meanings. Not expected to means that you don’t have to do something but there is an option. Not supposed to means that you shouldn’t do something because it is somehow prohibited.

*You **are not expected to** organize the meeting by yourself.  
(You don’t have to do it, it’s optional.)*

*He **is not supposed to** go out this weekend. He is grounded.  
(He is grounded, so he is not allowed to go out.)*



## LISTENING: SPAIN

John: So, hey, Carlos, where are you from exactly?

Carlos: Hey John, I'm from San Sebastian here in Spain.

John: Cool. I am from the United States, and I was wondering if you all here in Spain also leave home to attend university?

Carlos: I have heard that young people do that in the United States, but it's not as common here in Spain. If we stay to go to university in the town we grow up in, we usually continue living with our parents. Can you explain to me what is normal in your country?

John: Well, usually for university, we can go to another city apart from our home city and live on our own for at least one year in a building called a dormitory. After that we may continue to live close to the university or somewhere further away with our friends. However, even if we stay in our hometown for university we will most likely move away from our parents' house. Basically, at 18 years old, we have to prepare to live on our own.

Carlos: Oh, wow, that is much different than here in Spain. We might move to a different city and live on our own for university, but many students stay in their home cities and in that case no one would move to a different house away from their parents. Until we find a job, or maybe even longer we will stay in our parents' house. It is more of a tradition here in Spain.

John: It's really interesting to see how different cultures handle the transition from adolescence to adulthood. I think talking about the different ways the United States and Spain go through this process, we can notice positives and negatives for each.

Carlos: I would definitely agree. Some people may say that here in Spain some students live with their parents too long, but I think maybe some people aren't ready to live on their own at 18 years old.

John: Absolutely. I missed having my mom do my laundry!

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## READING: RUMSPRINGA

Some people may see the Amish people as peculiar. It is a religious group that for the most part exists in the Northeast of the United States, and it is a group that has long-standing traditions that many see as outdated or maybe even just weird. They have funny-looking beards, don't use technology, and still use horses to get around. Something that may be lesser known about the Amish is that their youth go through a rite of passage during their adolescence that allows them to experiment with many things that normally would be frowned upon, referred to as 'Rumspringa.'

Activities during Rumspringa may include acts of rebellious behavior, doing things that go against the norm of Amish culture, and discovering what it means to be passing through the adolescent period. Amish youth may be seen wearing non-traditional Amish clothes, perhaps drinking alcohol, or even not attending Amish religious services. A popularized view of Rumspringa is that normal boundaries enforced by families and communities with Amish citizens are relaxed and accepted as such.

One important aspect to this idea of Rumspringa is that the actual number of Amish youth who go through the rite of passage in this way is a minority. Most understand Rumspringa to mean the stage of adolescence, and that process ends when teens become adults. There is a period of misbehavior and rebellion, but much less than people outside of Amish communities would like to believe.





## VOCABULARY: Focus

### Peculiar

Unusual or strange; could be uncomfortably strange depending on the context.

*Our new geography teacher is very peculiar, and this makes it difficult to understand the subject.*

### To be frowned upon

When something is seen as negative.

*Staying out late before you turn 18 is frowned upon by many parents.*

### Rebellious

Opposing authority; difficult to control.

*His rebellious actions made life difficult for the teachers at school.*

### The norm

Something regarded as typical - not a rule.

*It's the norm for Michael to wake up at 7:00 in the morning.*

### Misbehavior

The action of behaving in a bad way.

*The child's misbehavior got to the point where the parents had to call for professional help.*

## WRITING: Now You

A renowned travel magazine is holding a competition to feature a guest article. Interested participants are being asked to write a 150 word piece on the traditions of their own culture, and how those traditions differ from others they have seen in different places. Please submit your competition entry.



### VOCABULARY: EXPRESSIONS WITH 'WONDER'

#### No wonder

It's not surprising.

*It's no wonder the dog was hungry, you didn't give it any food this morning!*

#### To wonder

To be curious about something..

*I wonder how people used to live without the internet.*

#### Time works wonders

The passing of time resolves most issues.

*I was pretty mad at my mum about what happened, but time works wonders. I haven't forgotten about it, but I've moved on.*

#### To wonder if

A phrase used to introduce an unsure thought.

*I wonder if Mark will come tonight. Did you talk to him?*

#### To work wonders

Do something that is amazingly beneficial or skilful.

*Wow! Becky sure can work wonders in the kitchen. Dinner was delicious!*

#### To wonder about something/someone

To be curious about something or someone.

*Why did you do that to your sister? I wonder about you sometimes.*

#### Wonders will never cease

Said when something surprising has just taken place (usually as a sarcastic exclamation).

*Husband: Hi darling, I finally got around to vacuuming the living room.*

*Wife: Wonders will never cease!*

#### The eighth wonder of the world

Used to describe something extraordinarily incredible or spectacular.

*Wow! This temple is mind-blowingly beautiful; it's like the 8th wonder of the world.*

#### To do wonders

Similar in meaning to 'to work wonders'; makes miracles.

*This new cream has done wonders for my skin.*



## LISTENING: THE BACKDOOR TO MACHU PICCHU

Piotr: The experiential aspects of being there is so hard to capture and frame. The scale, the winds, the sun, the enormity of the view. This is Piotr Redlinski for the New York Times. For the hundredth anniversary of Hiram Bingham's encounter of Machu Picchu, I was assigned to photograph his original route through the Vilcabamba valley. My guide was John Levers, a 59 year old Australian from a local Cusco adventure outfitter. John has done this trek at least a dozen times.

Piotr: The 60 mile journey took 10 days to complete, up and down countless peaks and valleys. Our guide told us that all the elevation changes were roughly equivalent to climbing and descending Mount Everest.

John: Ok, yesterday we came over that ridge from Choquequirao, dropped into the huge canyon of Rio Blanco, behind that's Rio Apurimac Canyon and in places over 4000 metres deep.

Piotr: The trek was rugged but we didn't exactly rough it. We had a cook and his assistant, three wranglers and six mules that carried our gear, food and tents. We averaged about ten hours of trekking a day and as we inched our way forward the team would race ahead and have the dinner and our camp set up for us by the time we got there. The food was surprisingly great. It's something you don't expect on a ten day camping expedition. Our cook and his assistant with very few pots and a gas stove were able to conjure up these three course meals. What was absolutely breathtaking was the scale and the distances that were unveiling in front of me. Luckily I had John in the frame every now and then to give it all some sense of scale. Shooting from the trail presented its own challenges. You either had to watch your step not to twist your ankles or watch the 300 foot cliff that was just a couple of feet away. But luckily, neither I nor my cameras fell off. Because John set the pace and because of the steepness of the terrain I ended up looking at the back of his boots most of the day. It's become a meditative exercise to watch step by step. I was warned about blisters, about knees, about feet adjusting after three, four days even though I'm in pretty good shape, and I've trekked and do yoga every day, this scared me. Luckily I pulled out a very worn pair of boots, the most worn pair of boots I had and avoided the blisters, miraculously.

Piotr: The first couple of days were enjoyable and invigorating, but how many days can you sustain this type of exertion for? And then by the end it turned into a beautiful, monastic (almost like) experience. Leaving such beautiful places is never easy, but it's something you never forget. I would gladly do it again.



## GRAMMAR: STATE VERBS

Most verbs describe an action, for example, to play. Playing is something we can do. However, there are some verbs which describe “states” of being. These verbs cannot be used in the continuous form.

There are four categories of state verbs:

**Emotions:** love, hate, prefer, like, loathe, be, agree

**Possession:** need, have, own, want, belong, owe, possess

**Sense:** see, hear, feel, smell, sound

**Thoughts:** know, believe, remember, understand, realize, mean, suppose

Compare:

*I have a blue car.*

~~*I am having a blue car.*~~

*I prefer cold weather to hot weather.*

~~*I am preferring cold weather to hot weather.*~~

It is important to know that some of verbs can be state verbs and dynamic verbs. Here are some examples:

### BE

*Todd is silly. (Todd is always silly)*

*Todd is being silly. (Right now, Todd is acting silly)*

### HAVE

*I have 3 brothers. (Possessive, they are mine)*

*I am having a party tomorrow. (Collocation, future intention)*

### SEE

*I don't see very well through my left eye. (To see, vision)*

*I am seeing Henry. (Idiom: to meet/date someone)*

### THINK

*I think Colombia is a beautiful country. (An opinion)*

*I am thinking about registering for a new course. (Something I am considering)*

Here is a more extensive list of state verbs:

like	prefer	hear	concern
know	believe	astonish	dislike
belong	depend	deny	be
love	agree	disagree	have
realise	remember	please	deserve
fit	matter	impress	involve
hate	mind	satisfy	include
suppose	recognise	promise	lack
contain	see	surprise	measure (= have length etc)
want	own	doubt	possess
mean	appear	think (= have an opinion)	owe
consist	look (= seem)	feel (= have an opinion)	weigh (= have weight)
need	sound	wish	
understand	taste	imagine	
seem	smell		



## VOCABULARY: Focus

### To inspire

To make someone want to do a certain thing, or something that causes someone to have a positive feeling or reaction.

*That movie really inspired me to get more involved in the local animal shelter.*

### Heritage

Different characteristics pertaining to the history of a society (languages, cultures, traditions) which are passed down from previous generations.

*Black and white magic is an important part of many Amazonian tribes' heritage.*

### Condition

The physical or mental state which something/someone is in.

*That old church was in really good condition considering it was 200 years old.*

### To deteriorate

When something ages and becomes worn out with the passing of time.

*Centuries of hail, wind and snow had caused the castle walls to deteriorate.*

### Ancient

Very old (sometimes used to exaggerate the age of something).

*Stonehenge is an ancient monument in England, believed to be over 5000 years old.  
I finally bought a new cell phone to replace the ancient one I used to use.*

### Ruin (noun)

A town, building or site that has been mostly destroyed.

*There are ancient Mayan ruins all over Central America.*

### To endure

To put up with something difficult, to last.

*Machu Picchu was constructed to ensure that it could endure the heavy rains of the area.*

### Erosion

The process of being gradually worn away by wind, sea, rain or use.

*The walls of the canyon have this smooth, curved formation due to thousands of years of erosion from the constantly moving water that passes through it.*

### Sacred

Related to religion and known to be very holy.

*These temples are sacred to the locals. They hold important ceremonies here.*



**To excavate**

To uncover something by digging, in order to discover something from the past.

*They were able to find out how the Egyptians used to live once the ruins had been excavated.*

**To date back**

To have existed in a specific time in the past.

*The tombs which were uncovered date back to around 2750 B.C.*

**To reconstruct**

To rebuild an old structure or artifact.

*Old ruin sites are sometimes reconstructed to resemble the original structure.*





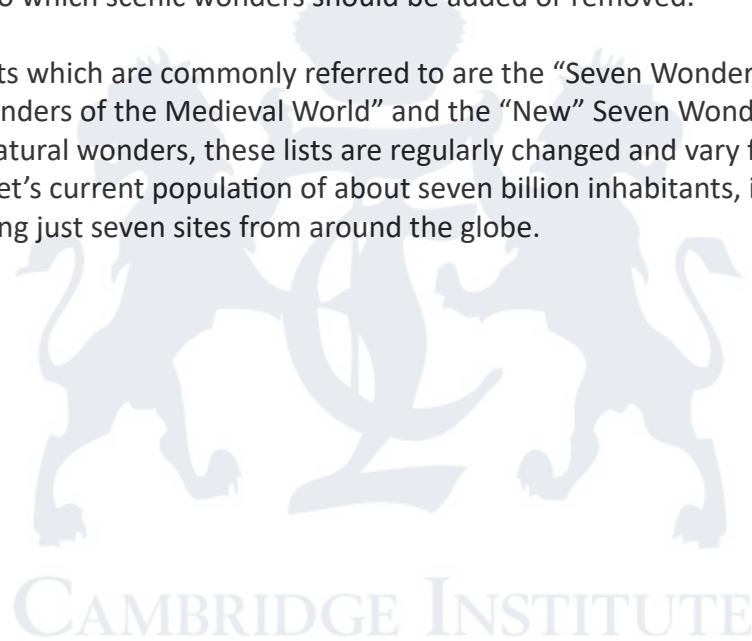
## READING: WONDERS OF THE WORLD

The world is filled with marvellous sights and structures. Some are man-made, some are created by nature, but for me the most impressive are usually a combination of both. Due to our planet's wide variety of culture and incredible places to visit one could create several lists of world wonders.

The first list of wonders that was created was the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World" often called the "Seven Wonders of the World". Each of these seven wonders was man-made and was constructed around the Mediterranean Sea in the classical era. The compilation of sites we know as the "Seven Wonders of the World" was decided by the ancient Greeks and included the Colossus of Rhodes, the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Tomb of Mausollos at Halicarnassus and the Lighthouse of Alexandria. The only structure from this list that still stands is the Great Pyramid of Giza, which can be found in Egypt.

In 1997, a list was introduced called the "Seven Wonders of the Natural World" which focuses on our planet's natural wonders. This list includes commonly known sites from across five continents, such as Mount Everest, Victoria Falls, the Grand Canyon, the Great Barrier Reef, the Northern Lights, Paricutin Volcano in Mexico and the Harbor at Rio de Janeiro. However, because this list is so modern, it is often disputed as to which scenic wonders should be added or removed.

A few of the other lists which are commonly referred to are the "Seven Wonders of the Modern World", the "Seven Wonders of the Medieval World" and the "New" Seven Wonders of the World. Similarly, as with the natural wonders, these lists are regularly changed and vary from one source to another. With the planet's current population of about seven billion inhabitants, it is not an easy task to create a list containing just seven sites from around the globe.





### VOCABULARY: GOOD/BAD ADJECTIVES

#### Positive Adjectives

##### Competent

Having a sufficient skill for a certain purpose.

*Working in the IT department, he has proved to be competent with the new system. His work isn't spectacular, but he gets the job done.*

##### Efficient

Being able to finish a task while wasting little to no time.

*Being efficient was perhaps his best attribute, and it allowed him to work less hours.*

##### Capable

To be able to do something.

*"Are you capable of finishing your work today?" my boss asked me. I said, "Of course!"*

##### Handy

When used in reference to a person, it means they are good with their hands. When talking about an object, profession or a skill, this refers to being useful.

*My neighbour is very handy; I always call him when I need help with DIY.  
My new dishwasher is very handy; it saves me lots of time on washing up.*

##### Proficient

Well-advanced with a particular skill

*She is proficient in three languages, which makes her very valuable with international clients.*

##### Ingenious

Someone who is smart and resourceful.

*He was an ingenious worker with computers – he would come up with solutions that no one else would think of.*

##### Skilful

Being good at one or many things.

*She's a very skilful negotiator – she always gets the best deal for the company.*

##### Talented

Having a special ability.

*He's a very talented speaker – he always has the audience's full attention.*



## Negative Adjectives

### Incompetent

Being clearly insufficient at something.

*She was an incompetent employee. She couldn't even answer the phone correctly!*

### Inefficient

Wasting a lot of time during work.

*The new guy is so inefficient. He didn't even finish one task yesterday.*

### Helpless

Dependent on others, while being unable to provide help.

*Newborn children are completely helpless, and depend on their parents for everything.*

### Ineffective

Someone who does work, but doesn't produce any results.

*Everything they did was ineffective. They submitted reports every Friday, but they always had to be corrected.*

### Clumsy

Awkward, and doing things ungracefully.

*The new intern had good intentions, but was very clumsy and always broke things, which cost the company valuable money.*

### Inept

Without the ability to finish a certain task or lacking a skill.

*His CV looked good but he turned out to be inept at most aspects of his job, so was quickly fired.*

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## GRAMMAR: CONFUSING VERBS

Verbs often confused with each other

### Do / Make

In many languages, **do** and **make** are covered by the same verb. In English, **do** is used for more general actions. **Make** is used more when something is created or there is some kind of result at the end.

If unsure, think about what alternative verb you could use. If it is something that describes an obvious action (*e.g. play, clean, etc.*) then you probably need **do**. If you would otherwise need a verb like *produce, create etc.* then you probably need **make**.

*Every night, I **do** the dishes. (The dishes already exist, and I am cleaning them, which is a physical activity.)*

*I can't go out because I have to **do** my homework. (The homework already exists. I just have to complete it.)*

*Every night, I **make** dinner. (Dinner doesn't exist until I start to create it)*

*I find it difficult to **make** decisions. (The decision is the end product.)*

There are some expressions which collocate with each:

#### Do

someone a favour  
an exam/a course/an essay  
something/nothing  
right/wrong  
business

#### Make

plans/arrangements  
a comment/a complaint  
a discovery  
a suggestion/a recommendation  
a mistake

### Hear / Listen

**Hear** is used when we are aware of a sound. **Listen** is used when we are actively paying attention to a sound. Furthermore, listen is always accompanied by the preposition "to" if it has an object.

Remember, it is possible to hear something without listening to it, but it is not possible to listen to something without hearing it.

*She **hears** birds singing every morning. (The birds make noise, she is aware of it.)*

*She **listens** to the music that she likes. (She actively pays attention to the music.)*

### See / Watch / Look at

**See** is related to the sense of sight; however it is not used as an action verb – it refers to something that is visible to you. **Watch** is for when you are actively paying attention to something – usually an activity being done by someone else, or an action or event that takes place for a period of time (this includes sports, TV programmes etc.). **Look at** is used when we are actively paying attention to something that is not moving, for example a monument.

As with **listen** and **hear**, it is possible to see something without watching or looking at it (in your peripheral vision, for example), but not the other way around.



I can **see** a tree from my bedroom window. (It is visible from the window, but I don't pay special attention to it.)

I enjoy **watching** the sunset. (I pay attention to this, and it involves movement and takes place over a period of time.)

I like **looking** at paintings in museums. (I pay attention to them, and they are not moving.)

Please note the following colloquial usages:

Did you **see** the game last night? (Here see can be used in place of watch.)

I **watched** his things while he went to the bathroom. (Here watch is used in the sense of "look after".)

I'm **seeing** this really great guy at the minute. (Here seeing means "dating".)

### Lie (lie, lay, lain) / Lay (lay, laid, laid)

These can become very confusing because **lie** and **lay** are both verbs in the infinitive form, but **lay** can be used apart from the base form as the past tense of **lie**. However, as base form verbs, **lay** requires a direct object whereas **lie** doesn't. **Lie** refers to the position or location of something, whereas **lay** is the action of putting something in a particular position.

Toledo **lies** just to the south of Madrid. (Referring to location.)

I **lay** on the bed, thinking. (Past tense of **lie**, referring to position.)

I **lay** the paper on the table. (Present tense of **lay**, referring to the action of putting the paper on the table.)

Note: to **lie** is also a verb that means to say something that isn't true. In this case, it behaves as a regular verb in the past (**lied**).

### Intend / Pretend

**Intend** means to have the idea of doing something in the future, or to have had the idea in the past. **Pretend** is to fake something; something that isn't real. It is very often used along with **to do** or **to be**.

I **intend** to go to school on Monday, even though I am sick today. (I have the idea of going to school on Monday.)

The robber **pretended** to be an employee to get into the bank. (He faked being an employee.)

### Lose / Miss

If you **lose** something, you no longer have something that you previously had. If you **miss** something, it usually means you have not arrived on time to catch some form of transport.

I've **lost** my car keys. I don't know where I left them.

Sometimes I **miss** the bus if I don't arrive on time.

Note: **miss** is also a verb for expressing an emotion of longing for someone or something:

I **miss** my hometown when I'm on holiday.



## Lend / Borrow

Both of these verbs express the act of an object or idea being temporarily given to another entity. However they are the opposite in terms of which part of the action is taking place. You **lend** something to someone. You **borrow** something from someone.

*Sometimes I **lend** my sister clothes, because I know she will give them back to me.*

*Last month I had to **borrow** money from the bank. I am not looking forward to having to pay that money back to them.*

## Feel / Fall

**Feel** is to have some sort of perception, whether it is physical or emotional. **Fall** is most often used to mean physically lowered by some force. These can get confused because the past tense of **fall** is **fell**.

*I **feel** sick because of all the pizza I ate this afternoon.*

*I **fell** down the stairs because I wasn't paying attention.*

## Remember / Remind

**Remember** is to have a memory of something. **Remind** is most often used when someone else does or says something that causes you to remember some information.

You can **remind** yourself to do something, but you cannot **remember** yourself.

**Remind** can also be used with the preposition **of** to talk about something that seems familiar to you because it shares characteristics with something else that you already know.

*I **remember** living in a big house when I was young. (I have this memory.)*

*As I was about to leave, she **reminded** me to take the trash out. (She told me to take the trash out because I had forgotten.)*

*He **reminds** me of my brother. – they have similar personalities. (He makes me think of my brother because they are similar to each other.)*

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**LISTENING: WORK GOSSIP**

Mary: Hey, Katherine did you hear about John?

Katherine: Oh hey Mary. No I don't think so, but if I did can you remind me?

Mary: Well, there's a rumor he's going to get fired at the end of the week.

Katherine: Ohhhh, yes, I do remember hearing that. Do you think he deserves it?

Mary: Well, as long as you promise not to tell anyone... he's pretty ineffective at most of the things he has to do. Our workload as a company is increasing, so we really need people who are efficient at their jobs.

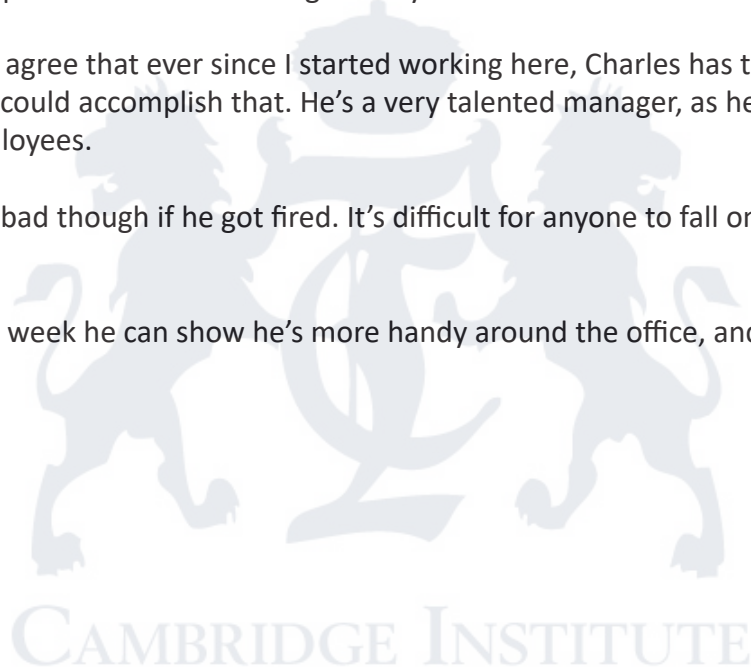
Katherine: I don't know if I would agree completely, however I think our boss, Charles, has been really fair in general. I was listening to a meeting they were having last week, and he was telling John that he needed to become more capable at basic tasks. I think he is more competent than some other people do, but if he doesn't improve after that meeting he only has himself to blame.

Mary: Yeah, I definitely agree that ever since I started working here, Charles has told us what he expected, and how we could accomplish that. He's a very talented manager, as he knows how to get the best out of his employees.

Katherine: I would feel bad though if he got fired. It's difficult for anyone to fall on hard times these days.

Mary: Well, maybe this week he can show he's more handy around the office, and Charles will want to keep him employed.

Katherine: We'll see...





## READING: DON'T GO UNNOTICED

### How to Make Sure You Don't Go Unnoticed

How can you balance humility with pride at work? Especially if being too humble means that the people in charge don't recognize your contribution at work. At the same time boasting too much about what you have done makes you look vain, and can have a very negative effect on those same people in charge. One suggestion is to set clear goals with your bosses so that if those goals are reached, they know that you have successfully completed your task. Furthermore, a timeline showing how your objectives are progressing can show both that you met your targets and also that you did so capably. These are good goals to identify BEFORE you start. In this sense, it allows you to do your work at your own pace, knowing that you and your bosses are on the same page. You won't have to keep reminding them what you're doing.

Don't be afraid to volunteer for extra assignments, which can show willingness and ambition. Be wary of taking on too much extra work though; you still need to be able to manage your workload, and you don't want the quality of your work to suffer as a result of doing too many extra hours. While it's sometimes possible to multitask, focusing on one task at a time will improve the quality and efficiency of your work. There's a fine line between confident and arrogant. Do your work well and be modest about it and your work ethic and attitude will be noted and hopefully rewarded.





**VOCABULARY: COLLOCATIONS (BIG AND SMALL)**

We use different adjectives of size in order to describe general things and ideas. Therefore, they collocate with different nouns, some of which may have a very similar or even identical meaning. There are some nouns which can collocate with more than one adjective, for example: "Number" could be described using "big" or "large" and the meaning is the same. However, to a native speaker it doesn't sound correct to say "big quantity" instead of "large quantity." Similarly, "large deal" wouldn't sound as natural as "big deal."

**Big:**

**Difference** – two things that aren't close together

**Deal** – something that is very important

**Sister/brother** – the older sibling

**Boy/girl** – most often used to talk about an adolescent

**Business** – the biggest corporate companies

**Toe** – the "thumb" of the foot

**Day** – a day of special significance (i.e. a wedding day)

**Large:**

**Amount** – a lot of something

**Quantity** – a lot of something

**Proportion** – a high ratio

**Small:**

**Business** – usually applied to a local business that has yet to grow

**Group** – usually anywhere from 2-5

**Amount** – not very much

**Room/house/kitchen** – household physical spaces

**Difference** – two things close together

**Little:**

**Boy/girl** – usually a toddler

**Brother/sister** – the younger sibling

**Toes** – anything but the big toe



## LISTENING: CELEBRITY SCANDALS

Peter: Hello, everyone. Peter and Dawn back with you here in the studio, talking scandals... oh yeah, hot right now is the rumor that, Julia Robinson, our favorite desperate housewife is back in rehab. Oh boy. Dawn, are we surprised?

Dawn: Not in the slightest Peter. This lady is a complete train wreck. Quite frankly, I'm surprised she's lasted this long. Once we heard that she got the raw end of the deal in the settlement with her ex-husband, musician Phillip Davis, I knew she'd end up in a downward spiral.

Peter: I'm going to have to agree with you on this one, Dawn. Hey Mrs. Robinson, what else is new? Simon and Garfunkel aren't here to save you now. Moving on, what about this Dawn? Recently James and Larissa Johnson separated, and now it's getting ugly. It seems as though James has made a recent accusation in the media that Larissa was cheating on him with one of her male housekeepers. Boom! The gloves are off.

Dawn: For about one day, it looked like they might be able to be friends even after they separated, but clearly that is no longer the case. This has years of fighting written all over it. I really do feel bad for the children though, because they are going to get caught in the middle of all the terrible things they will say about each other.

Peter: Unfortunately, I agree with that as well. We make a lot of jokes around here, but you really have to be sad for the young children in a case like this. We're going to take a quick commercial break, and be right back after these messages...





## GRAMMAR: PASSIVE REPORTING VERBS

The passive is used to change the focus of the sentence, to avoid generalized subjects and to make an action impersonal. It is common in descriptions of processes, and in scientific and technical language in general.

In reported speech we start with a reporting verb that signifies we are talking about something someone else says or thinks (in various tenses). Although this is referred to as 'indirect' speech as opposed to 'direct,' it is in the active voice. Passive reported speech may seem like a huge task, however the key is to narrow it down into changing the reporting verbs into the passive voice, and the rest follows.

There are a few different structures we can use to make the reporting verbs passive:

### Using 'It'

It is + passive reporting verb (say, report, state, believe, think, etc.) + that

*It is said that nobody trusts politicians these days.*

*It is believed that the sun will rise tomorrow.*

### Using 'There'

There + passive reporting verb + infinitive (to + base form) verb

*There is reported to be a bear that has escaped from the zoo.*

*There are thought to be no survivors from the crash.*

### Using a subject

With verbs such as believe, know, say, think which report people's opinions, a passive construction is often used to avoid a weak subject, and to give a generalized opinion:

#### With present reference, the passive is followed by the infinitive.

*People think that Tom is in Paris. (active voice)*

Subject + passive reporting verb + infinitive verb

*Tom is thought to be in Paris.*

#### With past reference, the passive is followed by the infinitive of "to have" and the past participle:

*People believe that Jane left Germany last week. (active voice)*

*People thought Sarah had paid too much. (active voice)*

Subject + passive reporting verb + to have + past participle

*Jane is believed to have left Germany last week.*

*Sarah was thought to have paid too much.*

Passive voice reporting verbs are often used with large themes (e.g. widely-held beliefs) and general subjects (e.g. "they", "people" etc.)



## READING: WHAT'S SO FASCINATING?

In the English speaking sectors of the world and beyond, there exists a hard truth that really can't be argued with. Whether we would admit it to a work colleague or not is irrelevant. The shameful truth is that we LOVE reading about the lives of celebrities. Maybe it's because we imagine a life of extravagance, complete with ups as well as downs. Because, who wants to be normal their whole life? Well, certainly some people, but the sheer number of tabloids sold tells us that there is something that captures that attention of the 'normal' people. We demand our celebrity gossip.

Whether it's a cheating scandal, a new baby, or a question about the sexuality of a star, celebrity news sells. Some say everything is sensationalized to a degree that you can't really believe anything you read. That may be true, however it seems that people don't really care about whether or not it is actually true, but choose to imagine it as truth anyway.

With the proliferation of sources that exist nowadays, even if people wanted to stop reading the tabloids, they probably couldn't. Maybe it was the general public who created this fascination with celebrities and their news, but what has resulted is that businesses make profits by selling their stories, and as long as this is the case, they won't go away. On the contrary, they will more than likely become stronger.





### VOCABULARY: GOING ABROAD

#### Visa

An approval stamp on a passport that is given by a country's government, allowing a visitor to the country to enter, leave, and stay in the country for a specific amount of time.

*I need a visa if I want to go to study in Sweden.*

#### Residence permit

A card that allows an immigrant to stay and work in a country permanently.

*My mother never applied for citizenship when she came to the U.S. Instead, she just has a residence permit.*

#### Work permit

A legal authorization which allows a person to work. Known as a green card in the USA.

*If you are under 18 in the United States you must apply for a work permit if you want a job.*

#### Papers

Official documents.

*Make sure you take your papers when you go to your student identification card appointment.*

#### Citizenship

Being legally recognized as a subject or national of a state or country.

*Many immigrants come to countries seeking citizenship and work.*

#### Embassy

The office that officially represents one country in another.

*I had to go the American embassy in Prague when I lost my wallet while on holiday.*

#### Ambassador

The person who officially represents one country in another.

*The Mexican ambassador to the USA was summoned by the American president to explain the recent incident at the border.*

#### Immigration

The movement of people from one country to another, with the intent to stay long-term.

*There has been a recent jump in immigration coming from South East Asian countries.*



**Emigration**

Leaving one's own country to settle in another.

*My uncle emigrated from Bulgaria.*

**Refugee**

A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

*Many refugees from Vietnam came to the United States at the end of the war.*

**Border**

A line that separates two countries, administrative divisions, or other places.

*She lives in a small Dutch town a mile from the border with Germany.*





## LISTENING: CITIZEN

Dariusz: Hey Vladek!

Vladek: Hey there Dariusz, how are you?

Dariusz: Ok, a little anxious though.

Vladek: Why's that?

Dariusz: Well, I'm going through the process of becoming a citizen and there's a lot of paperwork.

Vladek: Oh yeah, I remember the process.

Dariusz: There are just so many papers that I have to fill out. I've had a green card for five years but now I want to be a citizen.

Vladek: Well, you're just going to have to do all the work like any other immigrant. It's a bit tedious, but once it's all completed you'll feel a whole lot better.

Dariusz: I would like to have dual nationalities but that seems even more complicated. I might just take on full American citizenship. It's a difficult decision; I'm going to think it over a little bit more.

Vladek: I took on full citizenship. I wanted to just jump right in and be completely American. It's not as easy as it seems though. This will never really be my home. I'll always have an accent and people will always look at me like I came from somewhere else. It's tough but you have to settle in and settle down.

Dariusz: Well I want to do it. I have been here for fifteen years now and now that I am married I want to finish the process. It's because I married Melissa that I can become a citizen. I spent ten years here knowing that at any moment I could have been deported. Those were stressful times.

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## GRAMMAR: CONDITIONALS

### Conditionals 1

Conditionals are sentences with two clauses –an ‘if’ clause and a main clause– that are closely related. Conditional sentences are often divided into different types.

#### Note

Although many conditional sentences use **if + will/would**, conditional sentences can also use other words instead of “if” (e.g. “when”, “as soon as” or “in case”). Other modal verbs can be used instead of “will/would” (e.g. “can/could”, “may” or “might”). It is not important which clause comes first.

### Zero conditional

#### If + present simple + present simple

We use the zero conditional to talk about things that are always true.

Note that we are not talking about specific events but something which is generally true.

We use: If/When/Unless + a present form + present simple or imperative

*If you turn off the lights, you use less electricity.*

*When you buy a car, you need insurance.*

*The alarm goes off when you enter the room.*

*Unless you’ve been there yourself, you don’t really understand how fantastic it is.*

### First conditional

#### If + present simple + will + infinitive

We use the first conditional when we talk about real situations, and things that we consider likely to occur.

*I’ll go shopping on my way to work if I have time.*

*If it’s a nice day tomorrow we’ll have a barbeque in the garden.*

*If Madrid wins the Champions League, I’ll have a party.*

### Second conditional

#### If + past simple + would + infinitive

The second conditional is used to talk about unreal, hypothetical or impossible situations.

*If I won a lot of money I’d buy a fast car.*

*Where would you go if you could travel anywhere in the world?*

*If you didn’t drink so much I’d feel a lot better.*



Look at the difference between the first and second conditionals.

*In January: If it snows tomorrow I'll go skiing. It might snow tomorrow.*

*In August: If it snowed tomorrow I'd go skiing. It almost certainly won't snow tomorrow.*

### Third conditional

#### If + past perfect + would + have + past participle

Third conditional sentences describe the past. They describe something that didn't happen in the past.

*If I'd studied harder at school I would have gone to university.*  
(He didn't study very hard and he didn't go to university.)

*We wouldn't have got lost if you hadn't given me the wrong directions.*  
(She wasn't given the correct directions and she didn't find her way.)

*She might have finished the exam if she'd had more time.*  
(She didn't finish the exam and she didn't have more time.)





## GRAMMAR: MIXED CONDITIONALS

The generic name “mixed conditional” refers to conditional sentences that combine two different types of conditional patterns.

For example,

### I. Unreal present with past or future

Present

If I didn't have so much work,  
(I have lots of work)

Past

I would have gone out last night  
(but I didn't go)

Present

If Maria weren't so nice to you,  
(she is nice to you)

Future

she wouldn't be preparing dinner for you tonight.  
(she's preparing dinner for you)

### II. Unreal past with present or future or present

Past

If I had been better at maths,  
(I wasn't good at maths)

Present

I would have more job opportunities.  
(I don't have many job opportunities)

Past

If I had renewed my passport,  
(I didn't)

Future

I would join you in Rome this weekend.  
(I'm not going to join you)

### III. Real past with future

Past

If you studied enough,  
(you have studied enough)

Future

you will pass the exam.  
(this is certain)

Past

If they took the 9 pm train,  
(they took it)

Future

they will be here at 10:30 pm.  
(this is certain)



## READING: THE IMPORTANCE OF IMMIGRATION

Throughout history people have migrated from one place to another. Immigration is a daily fact of life as many people seek to go beyond their borders for various reasons. Wars, famine and changes of lifestyle are all reasons why people might leave their homes, and there are many examples of this throughout history. During the 19th century many Irish immigrants went to North America due to a terrible famine. Many Japanese left for Brazil and Peru after the Second World War and many Turks moved to Germany to rebuild the country around the same time. In modern western society it is very difficult to encounter a major metropolis that is wholly composed of one ethnic group. Cities such as London, Paris and New York are places of great diversity and have an ever-growing immigrant population. The impact of immigration is widespread and for many reasons.

People who leave their native countries often perform important roles in their newly adopted homelands. A vast majority of immigrants take on blue collar jobs such as construction, farm work, and cleaning. Often, immigrants do not know the native language of their new homes and thus take on manual labor jobs. A well-known adage states that immigrants take on jobs that regular citizens of a country do not want to do. Thus, things like plumbing, field labor, and factory jobs are done by newcomers, often for very low wages. The United States, for example, saw many of its most important infrastructure projects constructed by newly-arrived immigrants. The arduous task of building the transcontinental railroad was done by Irish and Chinese immigrants. The coal that helped power American industries was also often mined by immigrants.

The effects of immigrants on an economy are very powerful. Often, people who arrive to a new country are blamed for economic downturns. Yet, statistics seem to show otherwise. In the United States, immigrants contribute 90 billion dollars in tax revenue every year and only receive 5 billion dollars in welfare. Much of the agricultural produce in the Central Valley of California is harvested by immigrant workers. This area generates 17 billion dollars in revenue for the US economy. There are other areas that also receive great contributions from newly-arrived people in a country. The mixing of cultures through immigration gives a great worldly education to people who witness it happen. Festivities, social customs, and cooking are all areas that grow due to immigration.

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## WRITING: Now You

### ARTICLE FORMAT

A realistic article should consist of:

1. An eye-catching title which attracts the reader's attention and suggests the theme of the article. (Think about why you read a magazine or newspaper article recently - what made you read it?)  
Articles can also have subheadings before each paragraph.
2. An introduction which clearly defines the topic to be covered and keeps the reader's attention.
3. The main body of two to five paragraphs in which the topic is further developed in detail.
4. The conclusion - summarising the topic or a final opinion, recommendation or comment.

NOTE: Before you begin writing it is important to consider:

- Where is the article going to appear - in a newspaper or magazine?
- Who are the intended readers - a specific group such as students or teenagers, or adults in general?
- What is the aim of the article - to advise, suggest, inform, compare and contrast, describe, etc.?

DO NOT use over-personal or over-emotional language or simplistic vocabulary.

DO NOT talk about yourself. You are writing for the general public, not a close circle of friends. Your opinions are only interesting to other people if you can make them amusing, justify them or explain them.

There are several ways in which you may begin your article:

#### A quotation or saying:

*'It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife' \**

Detailed study of matrimonial offers given to magazines proves that this is still the case. 75 per cent of men ready to wear wedding rings declare financial independence and stability.

\* Jane Austen 'Pride and Prejudice'

#### A criptic statement (you begin with a statement that is unclear for the reader):

At last everything has been completed. The vans and trucks are loaded, equipment is checked and people are ready for their journey. It took over a year to prepare the whole action but for them it is just the beginning. The humanitarian aid is due to cross the border of our country tonight at 2 a.m.

#### An anecdote:

On 26th November 1922 Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon entered the newly-discovered tomb in the necropolis near Luxor. After 3000 years they were the first people who passed the 'blind gate' and saw the Pharaoh's treasure. The legend claims that the discovery was accompanied by several signs of the Gods' disapproval and that the ignorance of European archeologists cost them their lives.



Nowadays the famous legend attracts hordes of tourists. The ancient spell that was to protect the prince's eternal life turned against him. The 'house' of his soul is devastated year after year.

**A question:**

Have you ever imagined climbing 'The Mountain'? You think it is not possible without months of previous training and preparations, right? Here you are wrong. All you need to get ready is... your bank account number. Mount Everest, called 'The Mountain' by people who feel respect towards it, is now offered as a tourist attraction for those who can afford such a trip.

A good ending is very crucial. It may be the summary of the points made in the article, a conclusion of the rhetorical question or a paraphrase of the statement made at the beginning.

**Useful expressions:**

- *Let's...*
- *How about...?*
- *Would you...?*
- *I think you will agree that...*
- *I hope you can imagine...*
- *What would you do if...*
- *All in all...*
- *To sum up...*
- *The conclusion is...*





### VOCABULARY: WHAT TO EAT

#### Additives

Used in food to preserve or enhance flavor in some way.

*The additives in some dairy products can make them last longer in supermarkets.*

#### Organic Food

Produced naturally without any chemicals such as pesticides.

*Jane buys only organic food because she is convinced it's better for her.*

#### Processed Food

Altered from the original food state, most often for convenience purposes.

*Many processed food items last a long time and can be prepared easily.*

#### Junk Food

Food that offers little or no nutritional value; bad for you.

*A diet that consists of mostly junk food is very unhealthy.*

#### Genetically Modified Food

Food produced from plants or animals whose DNA has been purposely changed.

*Some people think that genetically modified food should be banned as its effects on human health aren't fully understood.*

#### Balanced Diet

Eating a wide variety of foods from different groups to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

*Along with exercise, a balanced diet can drastically improve your health.*

#### Carbohydrate

A main dietary component that gives the body energy. Foods such as bread, potatoes and pasta contain a lot of carbohydrates.

*You should eat plenty of carbohydrates, but not so much that they later turn to fat.*

#### Fiber

A dietary component that helps with digestion.

*A diet high in fiber is often recommended to people who want to lose weight.*

#### Minerals

Chemical elements that the body needs which are provided through food or supplements.

*It is very important for people to get all the minerals they need such as calcium and iron.*



**Vitamins**

Substances the body requires to grow naturally.

*Some important vitamins provided through food are vitamin C, D, and B-12.*

**Protein**

A nutrient inherent in many foods that the body needs to grow.

*Eating a lot of protein can help make you strong.*

**Staple Diet**

The main food (or foods) of a diet.

*His staple diet at university consisted of pasta and root beer.*

**Strict Diet**

Eating a restricted amount of food or a particular type of food.

*She said she wanted to go on a strict diet to lose weight before the wedding.*

**Obesity**

Being seriously overweight.

*The obesity rate in the United States is extremely high.*

**Anorexia**

An eating disorder in which the sufferer starves him or herself.

*She had to have treatment when it became clear that she was suffering from anorexia.*

**Vegetarian**

A diet that excludes meat.

*I am a vegetarian, but I still eat dairy products.*

**Vegan**

A diet that excludes all animal products.

*I used to eat a lot of cheese, but now that I am vegan, I can't eat cheese or drink milk.*

**Wholegrain/Wholemeal**

Foods that use the entirety of the grains initially used to make them.

*Many people consider wholegrain foods to be more healthy, but if you have celiac disease, they can be deadly. People with celiac disease are allergic to wheat.*



## LISTENING: HEALTHY LIFE

Interviewer: Hello, everyone thank you for joining us today. I'm here with Natalie Jones, a prominent dietician, who is here to talk to us about how to live a healthy life. Natalie, thanks for being here.

Natalie: Thank you for having me on today.

Interviewer: Ok, so we have some questions for you to answer from our listeners. First one, what can I do to balance my diet even though I am very busy?

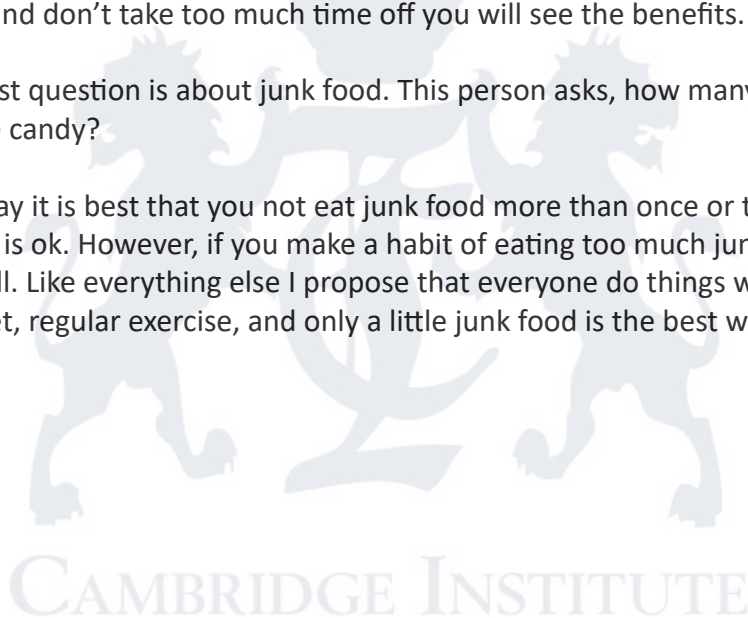
Natalie: That is a really good question, because sometimes when we become very busy we cheat with things like fast food. I recommend that you follow a plan that you can make at the beginning of each week. If you have something like that on paper, you have a more tangible reminder of the right track.

Interviewer: Ok, our next question concerns exercise. It reads, how do I know if I'm getting enough exercise?

Natalie: Well, some people fear that they aren't doing enough during a single day or enough overall. I suggest that everyone make a schedule for their exercising. In a way very similar to the food plan, if you exercise regularly and don't take too much time off you will see the benefits.

Interviewer: And our last question is about junk food. This person asks, how many times can I cheat per week with food like candy?

Natalie: Well, I would say it is best that you not eat junk food more than once or twice each week. In moderation everything is ok. However, if you make a habit of eating too much junk food it can be very bad for your diet overall. Like everything else I propose that everyone do things with a good balance in mind. A balanced diet, regular exercise, and only a little junk food is the best way to have a healthy lifestyle.





## GRAMMAR: SUBJUNCTIVE

The subjunctive is used in English to highlight something important or urgent. It is formed by using the base form of the verb. It follows verbs that signify importance or urgency.

The subjunctive is used after the following verbs:

to advise (that)  
to ask (that)  
to command (that)  
to demand (that)  
to desire (that)  
to insist (that)  
to propose (that)  
to recommend (that)  
to request (that)  
to suggest (that)  
to urge (that)

The subjunctive is formed as follows:

### Subject + subjunctive verb (advise, ask, etc.) + that + subject + base form

The subjunctive is only noticeable in certain forms and tenses. In the examples below, the subjunctive is not noticeable in the I/you/we/they form of the verb, but it is noticeable in the he/she/it form of the verb.

#### Present:

*I advise that **you go** to the conference.*  
*She commands that **we buy** the television.*  
*Anna requested **Tim come** to the party.*

#### Past:

*We proposed that **she follow** the guidelines.*  
*I recommended that **they leave** the party.*

The subjunctive can also follow fixed expressions that replace a subjunctive verb. Some phrases include:

It is best (that)  
It is crucial (that)  
It is desirable (that)  
It is essential (that)  
It is imperative (that)  
It is important (that)  
It is recommended (that)  
It is urgent (that)  
It is vital (that)  
It is a good idea (that)  
It is a bad idea (that)



Examples:

*It is best that **I find** the directions to the wedding.*

*It is necessary that **someone take** notes in the meeting.*

**Negative sentences in the subjunctive simply use “not” to switch the meaning.**

*It is essential that **they not drive** after drinking.*

*I suggest that **you not take** the job without renegotiating the salary.*

**Passive and continuous sentences in the subjunctive begin with the base form “be” .**

*They insisted that **she be allowed** to swim in the pool.*

*We requested that **they be waiting** at the door.*





## READING: EATING DISORDERS

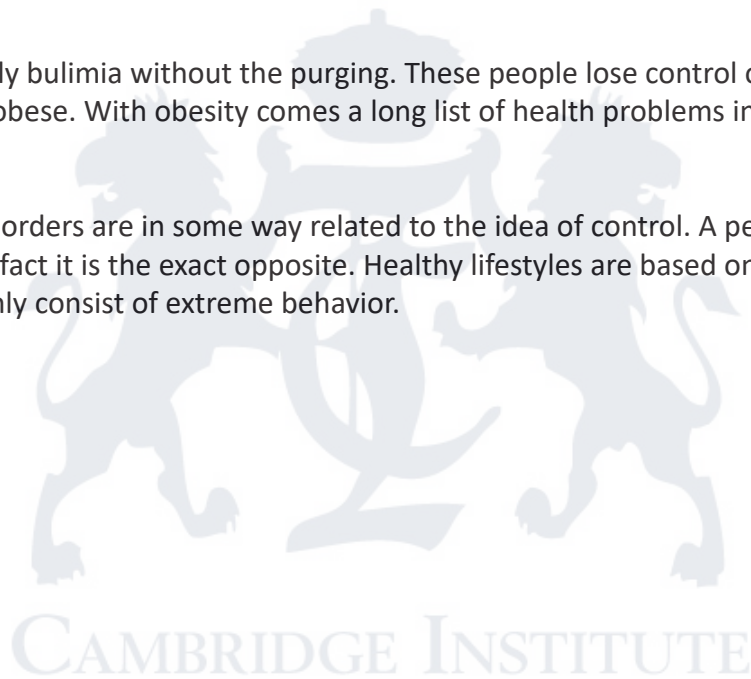
There is a lot of pressure these days to look good. This, plus other factors, can lead to dangerous, and sometimes even deadly, eating disorders, especially in young people. Some of the most common eating disorders are anorexia, bulimia, and over-eating.

Anorexia is characterized by restricting eating or abandoning it all together. People who have anorexia have a strong fear of becoming fat, or even gaining a little weight. They usually have a distorted image of what they actually look like. For example, if they look malnourished or sick because they have become too thin, they will most likely look in the mirror and see something beautiful because it fits the image they want to achieve.

Bulimia is characterized by something called bingeing and purging. This is a process where someone eats a large amount of food, and subsequently purge themselves of the food they have just eaten. They may choose to vomit the food, take laxatives to digest it very fast, or exercise an unhealthy amount. Unlike those who suffer from anorexia, people with bulimia usually look physically normal. However, the process of bingeing and purging is extremely dangerous for various essential organs in the body.

Over-eating is basically bulimia without the purging. These people lose control of their eating habits and normally become obese. With obesity comes a long list of health problems including diseases related to the heart.

All of these eating disorders are in some way related to the idea of control. A person may think they are in control, when in fact it is the exact opposite. Healthy lifestyles are based on balanced activities, and eating disorders only consist of extreme behavior.





## VOCABULARY: PHRASAL VERBS

### To bolt down

To eat or drink all of something very quickly.

*He bolted down three plates of pasta last night.*

### To knock back

To drink alcohol, usually quickly.

*I knocked back seven beers at the party.*

### To pig out

To eat an excessive amount of food in one sitting.

*I love to pig out on French fries and hamburgers after I haven't eaten for a while.*

### To cut down on something

To reduce the amount of something you consume.

*She is going to cut down on cheese in her diet.*

### To put on weight

To become heavier.

*After I didn't exercise for a month, I put on some weight.*

### To take something up

To adopt an activity as a new habit or hobby.

*I think I am going to take up running next month to become healthier.*

### To build up one's strength

A process of becoming stronger.

*When I started going to the gym I was weak, but slowly I have built up my strength with regular workouts.*

### To try out

To experiment with an activity.

*I'm going to try out this new diet for a month to see if it helps me lose weight.*



### VOCABULARY: ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

#### Recycle

To collect and process waste products so they can be used again.

*Please recycle all your glass bottles by putting them into the green bin.*

#### Ecotourism

The business of organizing holidays to natural areas in a way that helps local people and doesn't damage the environment.

*If you want a holiday that will change your life, choose this ecotourism package in the heart of Australia.*

#### Fair trade

A kind of trading where the people who produce the goods receive a fair price.

*He makes sure all his food is fair trade certified.*

#### Global warming

The slow rise in world temperatures caused by heavy gases such as carbon dioxide building up in the air around the Earth and stopping the heat from escaping into space.

*One of today's most pressing global issues is global warming.*

#### Pesticides

Chemicals used to kill unwanted insects, small animals, plants and fungi that may damage plants or crops.

*Make sure you wash those apples, they are probably covered in pesticides.*

#### Biodegradable

Able to be broken down or destroyed naturally, and in a way that is not harmful to the environment.

*The nice thing about banana leaves is that you can use them for plates, and when you're finished you can just throw them in the compost bin or feed them to the cows, because they're biodegradable.*

#### Natural resources

Natural resources are useful raw materials that we get from the Earth such as water, metal, oil, wood, coal, etc. which can be used by people.

*The world's natural resources are rapidly being used up.*

#### Carbon footprint

A measurement of the amount of carbon dioxide created by a person, business, or organization.

*I am changing all the light bulbs and heating systems in my home to be more efficient and lower my carbon footprint.*



**Renewable energy**

Energy is collected from resources which are naturally replenished, such as sunlight, wind, waves, and crops rather than using fuels that we will eventually run out of, such as oil and coal.

*There is a huge push in today's car market to change from gasoline to renewable energy alternatives.*

**Sanitation**

A system for protecting people's health by keeping areas free from dirt and waste by cleaning streets and processing harmful materials.

*The sewage and sanitation systems in this city are terrible.*

**Waste**

Materials or things which are not used or which have no value – often rubbish, trash and garbage.

*The first step towards being more energy efficient is lowering the amount of waste you produce.*





## READING: ECOTOURISM

Picture this: white sand, sparkling blue sea, tall jungle trees swaying gently in the breeze as a noisy flock of tropical birds stud the cloudless sky with colour. Behind the cocktail bar, to the right of your poolside sun lounger lies the hotel's mini-golf course, but as we zoom out, we see that the native forest that used to carpet this area has been replaced by hotel resorts. No local people live here, just the tourists in their sunglasses and busy hotel workers cleaning last-night's rubbish off the beach and shooing away uninvited guests.

Would this be your idea of paradise? With the rising presence of ecologically-friendly ideas, more and more people have begun living in a way that will cause the smallest amount of damage to the environment possible. These people want their holiday to feel ethical too, making ecotourism one of the fastest-growing businesses in the world. Ecotourism is all about travelling to view natural environments and wildlife without causing a negative impact on the environment. It also pours money back into the local community, rather than large international businesses. This shows respect and helps strengthen the local people's culture. Travellers enjoy a more authentic, deeper experience of the place and often stay with locals in their houses. They travel by foot, bicycle or on animals, so as not to cause pollution or use up the local natural resources. Because of this, ecotourism can only support a very small amount of tourists, and this makes it very expensive.

Sometimes, however, a holiday package is advertised as ecotourism, but the true principles of ecological sustainability are not followed. When too many tourists are added to the local population it puts pressure on the local environment, often using up precious natural energy sources. Extra water treatment and sanitation plants, lodges and roads have to be built, often destroying the natural environment in the process. Many ecotourism packages are run not by the local community, but by businesses or governments who tend to view ecotourism principally as a way to gain profit, so the money made from it does not flow back to the local people and the environment.

Although fashionable, the jury is out on whether ecotourism is truly different from traditional tourism. It pays to investigate holiday packages which advertise 100% sustainable ecotourism. When travellers take the time to learn more about the place they are travelling to, and investigate its history, cultures and current environmental situation, they can be better prepared to avoid harming the native wildlife, people and environments.

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## LISTENING: MY EFFORTS TO BE GREEN

Speaker 1: You know I didn't use to be very green at all. When I was younger I loved cars... loved driving. I used to spend all my spare time away on road-trips, and I mean these days I don't even own a car! The pollution, the destruction of the environment that comes from drilling into our natural oil reserves just comes at too much of a price I think. Man, looking back, my family used to make so much waste, I still remember having to take out three giant huge black trash bags, every single week! We used to have no compost, no organic waste, really little recycling – like just glass bottles! Well, I went to university and I started studying environmentalism, and it really made me realize that the earth was in very hot water. Global warming is like this ticking time bomb just waiting to explode! Seriously, I used to have no idea about how important taking care of the planet and encouraging sustainable development was.

Now I recycle everything I can, like when I am at the supermarket I look for things with less packaging so I can try to make my carbon footprint smaller. I had to completely change my habits; I learned to look on the labels or things to find out where it came from, if it contains pesticides, whether it is recyclable, biodegradable, all of that. I recycle almost everything, from paper to plastic to food scraps, everything I can. I also buy fair trade coffee and chocolate, and I try to buy organic and locally grown products, all from renewable energy sources.





## VOCABULARY: ENVIRONMENTAL IDIOMS

### A recipe for disaster

A plan which will end badly or undesirably.

*My son plus his stunt bike in the skate park is a recipe for disaster*

### A ticking time-bomb

An unstable situation that will become dangerous if not fixed quickly.

*Because of the earthquakes, this old building is a ticking time bomb. It's just waiting to collapse!*

### To go green

To become someone who is careful and works hard to act in a way that will not damage the environment.

*More and more people are going green these days.*

### A race against the clock

To try to do or finish something when there is very little time to do it in.

*We are in a race against the clock to finish this project by Friday.*

### To be walking on thin ice

To act very carefully and cautiously because of a dangerous situation.

*Watch your words James, she angers easily and you are walking on thin ice talking about global politics with her.*

### The butterfly effect

When small actions affect changes that can lead to larger, more serious consequences.

*All his nagging about mundane tasks like doing the dishes had the butterfly effect of leading to bigger arguments which eventually destroyed their relationship.*

### The jury is out

That the final consequence or decision is unknown.

*I would say that the jury is out on whether they will be able to pass a law prohibiting people from texting while walking on the street.*

### To sweep something under the carpet / rug

To hide or ignore a problem instead of dealing with it.

*When selling the house, the real estate agent swept under the carpet the fact that there were racoons living in the attic.*

### To be in hot water

To be in a dangerous and troubling situation.

*I was in hot water with my boss when she caught me smoking in the toilets.*



## GRAMMAR: PAST AND PRESENT HABITS

### Past habits

We use “used to” to talk about habits that happened regularly in the past, but do not happen anymore.

*She used to play the saxophone.*  
*Did they use to go sailing often?*  
*I used to smoke.*  
*You didn't use to care about global warming.*

We also use “used to” to talk about things that were true in the past, but are not anymore.

*There used to be a forest here.*  
*I used to love her.*  
*We didn't use to understand his heavy Indian accent.*

Notice that in the negative and question form of the past tense (with the auxiliaries did and didn't) the structure changes from “used to” into “use to”.

#### Negative form:

*I didn't use to play football when I was 15.*

#### Interrogative form:

*Did she use to smoke 5 years ago?*

### Present habits

Present habits use the present simple tense. Compare the past and present examples:

#### Past

*I used to like the Beatles.*  
*You used to eat organic fruit.*  
*They didn't use to smile a lot.*  
*She used to want a helicopter.*  
*We used to go to the beach everyday.*

#### Present

*Now I like heavy metal music.*  
*Now you eat whatever is cheapest.*  
*Now they smile all the time.*  
*Now she wants a jet plane.*  
*Now we go to the park every Sunday.*



## WRITING: BECOMING SUSTAINABLE

Imagine you are asked by a popular new sustainability magazine to write an article for their website. They want you to give suggestions to their readers about how they can change their habits to become greener and more ecologically sustainable in everyday life. Use the grammar you have practiced to talk about people's past habits and how people can alter their ways of doing things to create new habits that will reduce rather than increase their environmental impact.





### VOCABULARY: ARTISTIC

#### Masterpiece

A great book, painting, piece of music, movie, etc.

*The Mona Lisa is da Vinci's masterpiece.*

#### Collection

A group of interesting or beautiful objects brought together in order to show or study them.

*El Prado's permanent collection is really impressive.*

#### Artwork

A painting, sculpture, photograph, etc., that is created to be beautiful or to express an important idea or feeling.

*His artwork has been praised by critics all over the country.*

#### Exhibition

An event at which objects (such as works of art) are put out in a public space for people to look at.

*There were several famous paintings at the exhibition.*

#### Gallery

A room or building in which people look at paintings, sculptures, etc.

*She owns a gallery downtown.*

#### Studio

- (1) The building or room where an artist works.
- (2) A place where people go to learn, practice, or study an art (such as singing, dancing, or acting).

*(1) He had many unfinished paintings hanging up in his studio.*

*(2) I'm going to ballet classes at my local dance studio.*

#### Landscape

The geographical features that can be seen.

*She likes to paint desert landscapes.*

#### Abstract

Expressing ideas and emotions by using elements such as colors and lines without attempting to create a realistic picture.

*I don't really understand abstract art.*



**Realism**

A style of art or literature that shows or describes people and things as they are in real life.

*The stark realism of the painting was amazing.*

**Modern**

Relating to forms of art (such as dance, music, and architecture) in which the styles used are newer and very different from the older and more traditional styles.

*He liked ballet, whereas she preferred modern dance.*

**Still life**

A painting, drawing, etc., of a carefully arranged group of objects (such as flowers and fruit).

*He likes to paint still lifes of fruits and flowers.*

**Portrait**

A painting, drawing, or photograph of a person that usually only includes the person's head and shoulders.

*There was a family portrait hanging in the living room.*

**Collage**

A work of art that is made by attaching pieces of different materials (such as paper, cloth, or wood) to a flat surface.

*We had to make a collage from magazine clippings in art class.*

**Composition**

The way in which something is put together or arranged.

*The painting's unique composition was the first thing I noticed.*

**Palette**

(1) A thin board that has a hole for the thumb at one end and that is used by a painter to mix colors while painting.

(2) The range of colors used by someone — usually singular.

*(1) He had four different colors of paint ready on his palette.*

*(2) The designer's palette consists mainly of earth tones.*

**Mood**

The atmosphere or pervading tone of something.

*The mood of the painting was sad and depressing.*

**Brush**

A tool with many stiff hairs, fibers, etc., that is used for cleaning, smoothing, or painting something.

*When he was finished painting he cleaned his brushes.*



**Canvas**

A specially prepared piece of cloth on which a picture can be painted by an artist.

*The first thing she painted on the canvas was the background.*

**Painting/painter (person)**

A picture made by putting paint on a canvas, board, etc.

*There are over 3,500 paintings in the Museum of Modern Art.*

**(Picture) frame**

An open structure that holds something (such as a picture or a photograph).

*The picture frame was painted gold.*

**Sculpture/sculptor (person)**

A piece of art that is made by carving or molding clay, stone, metal, etc.

*The sculpture so realistic that it looked like it would move.*

**Pottery/potter (person)**

The art or activity of making objects out of clay.

*She studied pottery at university and specialized in plates.*

**Drawing**

A picture, image, etc., that is made by making lines on a surface with a pencil, pen, marker, chalk, etc., but usually not with paint.

*He had a drawing of a bear hanging in his room.*

**Carving**

To cut (a hard material) in order to produce an object, design, or inscription.

*There were intricate carvings on the large metal door.*



## LISTENING: THREE FRIENDS AT AN EXHIBITION

Derek: It's about time you two came along with me to an art gallery. You might learn something about culture.

Louise: Hey, that's not fair! I go to exhibitions. Just not the Modern art stuff that you like.

Peter: Yeah, and you're the one in Art College, Derek. No wonder you go to these things every week.

Derek: Ah, I'm only teasing you, take it easy. Okay, what do you think of this one? It's my favourite.

Peter: You mean this metal sculpture thing? It's ugly. I don't like it.

Derek: What do you mean, ugly? This is a masterpiece. It's a metaphor for life and death, and anyway, art is supposed to shock you. That's kind of the point.

Louise: I'm with Peter here. It looks awful. I don't get it. What's it supposed to be?

Derek: Well you're supposed to find your own interpretation of it, but I see two people dancing on this side and from the other side it looks like they're wrestling.

Peter: Two people? My god, is that supposed to be a person? Do you think the artist meant that?

Derek: Of course, it's called "The Dance". See there's a juxtaposition between life as a struggle and the beauty of existence. It's kind of like Beauty and The Beast. One of the dancers is Death, or the Grim Reaper, and the other one is us, human beings, and we're constantly fighting to survive, but in a kind of playful way. See a lot of his work is like that. This artist, Jonathan Kramer, is fascinated by life and death and the interplay between the two.

Peter: You're getting all that from just looking at it?

Derek: No, I've read up a lot about Kramer, and I'm pretty familiar with his work. It's all very abstract. He's one of the greatest contemporary artists, he's very interested in form and movement in his art. The critic James Hope says that Kramer doesn't really care much about color or beauty. His early stuff was more straightforward, but in the last few years, as he's matured as an artist, he's been experimenting with sculpture and the use of space. He's influenced by the artist Mark Rothko a lot too. He leaves a lot of room for the viewer to create the piece, so we're a part of the art. He wants you to be involved in the process. He makes you think. His style is really unique. There's no one quite like him.

Louise: Yep, unique, I'll give you that. Well, you sure know a lot about modern art Derek. All I see is a lump of weird metal.



## VOCABULARY: IDIOMS WITH COLOURS

### To feel blue

To be depressed or discontented.

*He said he's not coming to the party, because he's feeling a bit blue today.*

### To catch someone red handed

To catch someone in the act of committing a crime, or doing something they shouldn't be doing.

*Jessica was caught red handed with her hand in the cookie jar.*

### Out of the blue

For something to arrive unexpectedly or suddenly generally after a long period of absence.

*I got a phone call from James the other day. It came out of the blue. I hadn't heard from him for years.*

### Once in a blue moon

To occur extremely rarely or only once in a life-time.

*It's only once in a blue moon that Bob Dylan gives an interview to the press.*

### A grey area

An intermediate area, a topic that's not one thing or the other.

*The trouble is that politics is not just black and white, right and left, there are lots of grey areas.*

### Tickled pink

To be very pleased, thrilled or excited.

*I'm tickled pink that I've got tickets for the Champions' League Final.*

### To look through rose tinted glasses

To see something in an overly positive or optimistic light.

*Some people see the 60s through rose-tinted glasses, but it wasn't all good times.*

### To have green fingers / a green thumb

To have a talent for gardening or making things grow.

*He's got green fingers. His garden looks so much better than mine.*

### To be as white as a sheet

To be very pale because of shock.

*Are you okay? You're as white as a sheet. What happened?*



**A red letter day**

A memorably happy or significant day.

*Winning the gold medal is a real red letter day for her. She deserves it after all the work she's put in.*

**Black sheep (of the family)**

The child in the family who's a disgrace or embarrassment to the family or group.

*He's the black sheep of the family. His other brothers have great jobs as a lawyer and a doctor, and he's on unemployment benefit and living at home at the age of 40.*

**To be off colour**

To be or look a bit sick.

Are you sure you don't want to go home. You look a bit off colour.

**To paint the town red**

To go out partying.

*I can't wait till we get to New Orleans for Spring Break, we're going to paint the town red.*

**To black out**

To lose consciousness.

*I don't remember what happened. One minute I was going for a tackle and the next thing I knew I was being revived by the physio. I must have banged my head and blacked out.*

**To see red**

To lose control because of anger.

*He made me so angry, I saw red and have no idea what happened next.*



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## GRAMMAR: USEFUL PHRASES

### By and large

In general.

*The students at my university are, by and large, under 25 years old.*

### For the most part

Generally or mostly.

*For the most part, I was really happy with my presentation.*

### On the whole

In general, considering everything.

*On the whole, I would say that the trip was a great success.*

### As a rule

Usually.

*As a rule, the managers meet once a week to discuss company matters.*

### In fact

In truth — used to stress that a statement is true although it may be surprising or unlikely.

*He looks young but, in fact, he's almost 60 years old!*

### Indeed

Without any question — used to stress the truth of a statement.

*He is indeed a great poet.*

### As a matter of fact

Used to stress the truth of a statement, usually when contradicting a previous statement.

*As a matter of fact, I do know how to speak Japanese.*

### Actually

Used to stress that a statement is true especially when it differs in some way from what might have been thought or expected.

*I actually really love Korean food.*

### Arguably

It can be argued — used to say that a statement is very possibly true even if it is not certainly true.

*He is arguably the best writer of his generation.*



**Obviously**

Used to emphasize that you are talking about something that is easy to see, understand, or recognize.

*Obviously, that's not her real name.*

**Really**

Without question or doubt — used to make a statement more definite or forceful.

*You should really go to the doctor.*

**Funnily enough**

Curious (or funny or interesting or odd or strange) though it may seem.

*Funnily enough, we were just talking about you!*

**Surprisingly**

Something you wouldn't expect.

*She earns a surprisingly low salary.*

**Understandably**

Something that is easily understood.

*Understandably, she was very hurt by his comment.*

**Quite rightly**

Agreeing with someone's actions or opinion.

*He was convicted of burglary, and quite rightly sent to prison.*

**All things considered**

Taking everything into account.

*All things considered, I think she sang very well.*

**To be honest**

Speaking openly and honestly.

*To be honest, I don't really like my boyfriend's brother.*

**Strictly speaking**

To be more correct, exact or precise.

*They're still married, strictly speaking, but they've lived apart for years.*

**Believe it or not**

Used to stress that a statement is true when it might be surprising or unexpected.

*Believe it or not, I studied Russian at university.*



**As I said**

Used when referencing a previous statement.

*As I said, I think it's going to rain tomorrow.*

**As far as I know**

When stating something that you believe to be true but could easily be incorrect.

*She's still at home, as far as I know.*

**I'm afraid**

Used to express regret (usually in polite situations).

*I'm afraid he's not home right now.*





## READING: WHAT IS ART?

What is its purpose? These are questions that have been asked over and over again throughout the ages. Perhaps you have looked at a painting of abstract art in a museum and wondered how a red square with a yellow dot on it could possibly be worth a million dollars. Maybe Pollock and Warhol just don't do it for you. Art means different things to different people. Although you may find it difficult to define, many people know it when they see it. So we ask again: what is art?

Webster's dictionary defines art as "works produced by conscious use of skill and creative imagination especially in the production of aesthetic objects." This definition focuses on the fact that skill is required to create a piece of art and that the main goal is to produce something that is pleasing or beautiful. Others argue that art's impact is what's really important. Russian writer and scholar Leo Tolstoy argued that art is meant to make an emotional connection with its audience. That emotion can be pleasure, pain, love or hate. Sometimes that emotion moves us to act, other times it encourages us to reflect on the past or dream about the future.

Based on the first definition can we consider video games art? They are arguably created using skill and creative imagination and many are aesthetically pleasing. Therefore video games sit squarely within the realms of art based on Webster's definition. But would Tolstoy consider video games art? Many video games create a wide range of emotions including happiness, anticipation, surprise, anger, confusion, frustration, and the list goes on and on. Many argue that video games are not art. Is this because they are somehow not seen as profound as painting? It seems that here we find a grey area.

In mainstream society many people would not consider video games art yet many works of seemingly simple abstract art regularly sell for millions. Perhaps it's not so apparent that abstract art takes skill. Many people would look at an abstract painting and think, "I could easily draw a circle like that." However, would a circle that you made be aesthetically pleasing? The real question here is how does it make you feel? Maybe it makes you annoyed. Perhaps it makes you feel lonely, empty or sad.

Many people enjoy abstract art because it is more interactive than representational art. An artist can paint a picture of a scene and control the way that you react to the painting. The face of a woman could be mournful, the water flowing in a river calming, or the sky might look frightening. When it comes to abstract art the artist leaves the interpretation entirely up to you. Abstract art often plays with symbolism, history and theory. It's often enjoyed by high-brow art lovers and therefore seems inaccessible to the average viewer.

Whatever you consider art to be, few would disagree that the world would be a much more somber place without it. All signs would be simply informational with no graphics or style. Houses, furniture and cars would be completely utilitarian and dull. Art can make us happy; it can challenge us and change our point of view. Sometimes it's intended to entertain, other times to educate, but its lasting influence will always be its ability to make us question who we are and what the world around us is made of.



