



B2.III

Global English

2nd
edition

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



CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE

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VOCABULARY: COLLOCATIONS WITH GIVE AND TAKE

Give advice

To give suggestions to a person about what he or she should/shouldn't do.

*I **give** my friends **advice** when they need help.*

Give someone a chance

Provide an opportunity.

*There was only one place left for the job, and I said, "**give** me **a chance!**"*

Give details

Add information.

*At the end of their presentation, she was a little confused; when they **gave** more **details** she understood.*

Give something a go

Try something.

*I was hesitant at first, but I finally decided to **give** parasailing **a go**.*

Give someone a hand

Help someone.

*Can you **give** me **a hand** carrying these boxes?*

Take care

Look after yourself; used as a goodbye. / Be careful.

*So we have the meeting on Monday? Ok, see you then. **Take care**.
Take care when opening the box.*

Take control

Assume authority over something, possession or responsibility for something.

*When the owner of the company retired, his son **took control** of daily operations.*

Take part in something

Participate.

*The team will **take part** in the tournament next week.*

Take pride in something

Feel proud of.

*I **take pride** in my work.*



Take advantage of something/someone

Use for a benefit.

*They **take advantage** of all the opportunities that are available to them.*

GRAMMAR: I WISH

Wishes are used to talk about imaginary situations. They may speak about the present, where someone wishes a hypothetical change. They also may speak about the past, where the wish expresses regret. They also may speak about a general situation where someone would like something to change.

Wishes about the present are expressed with the **simple past** (or **subjunctive past** when using the verb “to be”).

*I wish I **spoke** more languages. (If I make a change the wish is still possible to come true).*

*I wish she **knew** the directions. (She doesn't know the directions right now).*

*I wish I **were** taller. (I am not tall).*

Wishes about the past are expressed with the **past perfect**.

*I wish I **had gone** to the party. (I didn't go, and I can't change it now).*

*I wish we **had booked** a nicer hotel. (The one we stayed in looked good on the webpage, but was awful when we got there).*

To express dissatisfaction and/or annoyance about something that happens quite often, and we would like to be different but that probably won't happen or that we can't control, we use **I wish + would + infinitive without 'to'**:

*I wish my older brother **wouldn't treat** me like a child. (but he does and I can't change him)*

*I wish you **wouldn't leave** your clothes on the floor. (This person does this regularly and I can't control it).*

To talk about something we are unable to do, we use **I wish + could + infinitive without 'to'**:

*I wish I **could be** more brave. (I'm not brave in general, but I can't).*

'If only' can replace 'I wish'. It is usually more emphatic:

***If only** she had given me her number!*

Or

***If only** they would stop making noise, we could get some sleep.*

Careful: We use 'hope' to talk about events that are possible and 'wish' to talk about events that are unlikely or impossible:

*I **hope** you liked the present. (It's possible you liked it)*

*I **wish** you had liked the present (But I know you didn't)*



LISTENING: PET PEEVES

Speaker 1: My biggest pet peeve is when people are driving and doing something else at the same time. There are so many things that are important to pay attention to on the road, it is very dangerous to be doing something else. Whether it is talking on a mobile phone, doing your makeup, or actually trying to READ while driving, it is something that really bothers me. I wish people would pay attention more!

Speaker 2: I can't stand it when people talk in the third person. It is definitely my biggest pet peeve when someone says, for example, "Mark doesn't like that," when they are talking about themselves. It is like they think they are better than other people. Once, I did this on accident, and thinking back on it, I wish I hadn't said it. It made me look like a hypocrite.

Speaker 3: The thing that bothers me the most is when my husband uses the toilet and forgets to put the seat down. It is such a big pet peeve when I have to remind him that I have to sit down to use the bathroom! When he says he is sorry, he is sincere about it, but I wish he would listen to me more often.

Speaker 4: My biggest pet peeve is when I can't remember where I put something. Every week it is either I can't find my keys or my cell phone or something like that. It is really frustrating because I think when I put them away I never thought I wouldn't be able to find them. I wish I wasn't so forgetful.

READING: SUGGESTIONS FOR PATIENCE

Pet peeves are a fact of life. We may be bothered more by some things than other people, and vice-versa, but becoming annoyed at people and situations is universal for everyone. However, to be successful we will most likely have to overcome the fact that we don't get along with some people. Even if that is the case, there are lines of communication that can't be completely stopped. We have to be patient, and endure (to a point) things that really get on our nerves. Luckily, there are some methods that work for a lot of people.

In a situation where your pet peeves are being tested, first breathe. When anger escalates between two people in an uncomfortable situation, the worst thing to do is to get angry. Relax, and take a deep breath. It is amazing what taking a moment to step away from the situation can do to calm someone down. Although the other person in the situation may not want to relax, start the process and slow down. This is also very useful when you are the only person involved. Don't make yourself angrier when there is no one else around, it won't help.

One way to potentially curb a pet peeve you have of someone else is to tell them what is bothering you. It may be a pet peeve to you, but if you don't say anything, how are they going to know? Tell them what bothers you, and why. They might then realize what they are doing, and they can change their behavior. Likewise, be aware that other people may have pet peeves about you that you may not realize. Be open to suggestions, and others will be more willing to do something about problems that you have.



VOCABULARY: HISTORICAL

Ancient

Being a part of the very distant past.

*The ruins date from **ancient** times, though the precise period is unknown.*

Heir

Someone who is legally entitled to property or rank from someone else once that person dies.

*As the **heir** to the throne, he will one day become king.*

Empire

A large group of states or a large geographical area ruled by another state, usually as a result of conquest.

*The Roman **Empire** existed from 27 BC to 476 AD.*

Descendant

To be a blood relative of a specific ancestor.

*He claims to be a **descendent** of royalty, but he has never backed this up with any evidence.*

Generation

All of the people born and living around the same time.

*The **generation** of people born in the '80s and '90s are sometimes referred to as "Millennials".*

Era

A long and distinct period of history.

*The medieval **era** lasted from the 5th to the 15th century.*

Historic

An event, person or place that is well-known or important in history.

*8th May 1945 was a **historic** day, as it marked the end of World War 2.*

Historical

Belonging to the past.

*The researchers used **historical** records to work out the population of the town 100 years ago.*

Century

A period of 100 years.

*Over a **century** has now passed since the start of World War One, which began in 1914.*



Ancestor

Someone, older than a grandparent, from whom someone descends.

*Many people find it interesting to trace their family history and find out who their **ancestors** were.*

Civilization

An advanced state of human society, featuring high levels of culture, science, industry and government, or populations that display these characteristics.

*The Mayan **civilization** covered a large area in Central America.*

Antique

An object, such as furniture or art, which has a high value due to its age and quality.

*His house contains many priceless **antiques** handed down through the generations.*

Archaic

Very old or old fashioned.

*Thankfully, the **archaic** practice of burning witches was consigned to the history books a long time ago.*

Relic

An object, especially of historical interest, that has survived from a long time ago.

*Many old churches are said to contain religious **relics**, such as items that belonged to saints.*





READING: IRELAND

Ireland is a country noted for its natural beauty. It is also a country with an astounding history. The island is the third largest in Europe and has seen numerous changes. It was inhabited by the Celts and was not conquered by the Romans. During the 9th century Vikings began to raid the island and established some permanent settlements, including Dublin.

The Norman invasion of England influenced Ireland and by the end of the 13th century a feudal system was established. During the 16th century England began a series of conflicts that led to the Tudor conquest of Ireland. From this point Ireland was directly under the rule of the English crown.

The 18th century saw a great frost that killed many crops and a fierce famine ensued. One in eight Irish people died during the crisis and many others emigrated. In 1801 Ireland merged with Great Britain through the Acts of Union.

By the start of the 20th century movements for independence from Great Britain gained speed and by 1922 Ireland had seceded from Great Britain. In recent times Ireland was known for having a strong economy. In 2000 the Celtic Tiger, as the economic boom was known, provided Ireland with the 6th richest economy in the world.

The economic crisis of 2008 brought a reversal to Ireland's success and the country has struggled with austerity since then, but has recently shown signs of recovery.





GRAMMAR: NARRATIVE

Narrative tenses

When we narrate or tell a story we use narrative tenses.

When we talk about events that happened in specific moments of the past or a sequence of events we use the **simple past**.

(verb+*ed* and irregular verbs)

*When I was 15, I **ran** a marathon.*

*Jenny **won** the prize, **grabbed** her stuff, and **ran** away.*

When we give background information and describe actions in progress in specific moments of the past we use the **past continuous**. This tense is normally combined with a past simple interruption of the action in progress.

(was/were + verb+ing)

*I **was having** lunch, when my father called me.*

We use the **past perfect** for things that happened before the time being narrated, this means that we use it when we talk about actions that happened earlier than other actions in the past (also combined with a past simple main clause).

(had + past participle)

*We visited the places that my best friend **had recommended** me.*

We use **would** when we talk about what characters in the narrative **used to/didn't use to**, but only if the verbs are not state verbs. With state verbs we can only use *used to*.

*When I was a child, I **would** walk to school every day.*

*When I was a child, I **used to** be very shy. (not "would be very shy")*

Adverbs of time

before / after / as soon as / while are adverbs of time and show the time link between two actions.

Before precedes a specific time or event and **after** is the time following.

As soon as means that one event will occur immediately after another.

While means that an action is happening during the time of another action.

*Thomas prepared the vegetables **before** he sautéed them.*

*Rachel checked her email **as soon as** she got home.*

*She started to clean the living room **while** I mopped the kitchen floor.*



LISTENING: IDES OF MARCH

Leroy: Hey Raquel, guess what I just read about.

Raquel: I don't know, what's going to be on TV tonight!

Leroy: Haha, you're too funny. No. I read about an event from ancient history, the Ides of March.

Raquel: You've told me this story before and also about the whole era.

Leroy: Did I?

Raquel: You're going to tell me anyway.

Leroy: Pretty much. So, it's when they killed Julius Caesar.

Raquel: Yes, it was a historical event. He was stabbed....

Leroy: He was stabbed to death on the 15th of March in 44 BC. He was having problems with the Senate because he wanted more power. This was while Rome was still a republic.

Raquel: We always want more don't we?

Leroy: Anyway, Ides is actually idus in Latin and it dealt with the full moon, which in March was on the 15th in the Julian calendar. Guess who introduced that.

Raquel: Tom Jones.

Leroy: No silly, Julius Caesar.

Raquel: (sigh)

Leroy: Well, Caesar was walking by the Theatre of Pompeii and as soon as he arrived to the Senate a group of senators surrounded him and started to stab him. Marc Antony would have come to Caesar's aid but the Senators had already pulled the ruler aside. While Caesar was being stabbed he said...

Raquel: "Et tu, Brute?"

Leroy: No that's from Shakespeare.

Raquel: Whatever.

Leroy: Actually, no one is sure if he had any last words. After he was stabbed his body was left on the Senate floor for three hours. You know, Rome civilization is fascinating. After the assassination there were civil wars and the Roman Empire was founded. What a generation to be a part of! So what do you think?

Raquel: It's a bygone era, and the evolution of man seems to have moved at a snail's pace.



WRITING: Now You

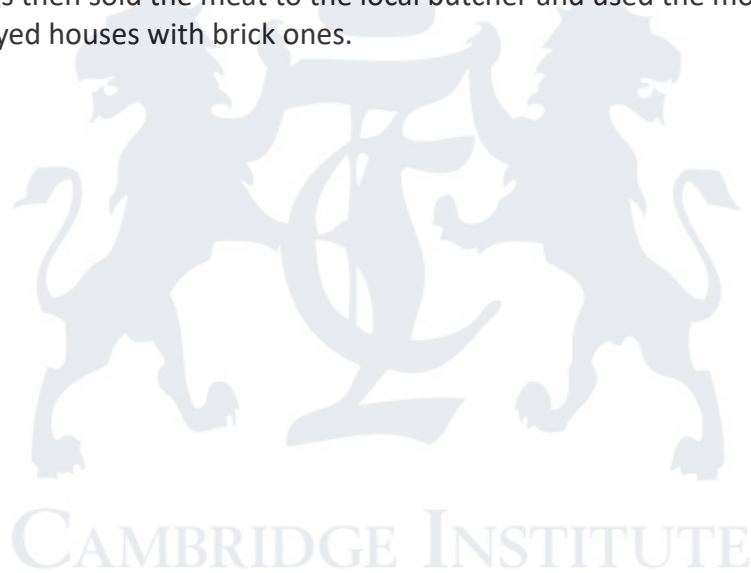
Once, there were three pigs: Buster, Johnny, and Rex. They were living in a field when they decided to build houses in order to protect themselves from a pork-loving-wolf named Chops. Before they started building, the pigs had an argument about the materials to use. "I want straw," said Buster. "I want wood," said Johnny. "Well, I want brick," said Rex.

After they had decided on the materials, they built their houses. As soon as they finished building, Chops came by. The wolf had been in the woods when he heard all of the construction noise; he went to see what happened.

First Chops went to Buster's straw house. "Little pig, little pig, let me in," Chops said. "Not by the hairs of my chinny chin chin," replied Buster. "Then I'll huff and I'll puff and blow your house down!" raged Chops. Then he blew and the straw house collapsed. As soon as the house fell the wolf attacked, but Buster got away and went to Johnny's house.

Chops then went to Johnny's house and said the same thing he had said to Buster. Johnny replied in the same manner as his friend, and Chops started to blow. This time it took him a little longer but the house still fell and Chops tried to eat the two pigs, who fled to Rex's house.

The wolf went there and taunted "Little pigs, little pigs, let me in," and he started to blow. The house would not fall and the wolf began to grow tired. Chops then decided to climb up the roof and enter through Rex's chimney. However, Rex was clever and while Chops was climbing up the house the pig placed a large kettle of boiling water in the fireplace. Down went Chops into the kettle where he was cooked. The pigs then sold the meat to the local butcher and used the money from the sale to replace the two destroyed houses with brick ones.





VOCABULARY: ADVERTISING METHODS

Word of Mouth

Advertising that relies on people telling others about a product or service. An informal method that requires little investment.

*Because the company was just starting out, they had to depend on **word of mouth** to reach more customers.*

Guerrilla

Similar to word of mouth, however there is an increased effort of delivering the product information to the consumer in an unconventional way. For example, passing out flyers to people on a street corner.

*They have a lot of young employees with endless energy, and are using it to increase their **guerrilla** marketing efforts.*

Newsletter

A mass marketing system most often targeted at returning customers or customers connected by limited degrees of separation.

*We send a monthly **newsletter** to any previous customer or website subscriber complete with promotions, discounts, and exciting news about upcoming product details.*

Print

Advertisements located in magazines, newspapers, or other printed publications.

*The magazine she reads every week is beginning to sell more and more **print** advertising space as the number of readers grows.*

Television

Usually referred to as a commercial, it takes place during a break of a scripted or live event.

***Television** advertisements continue to increase in price as more people watch the show.*

Radio

Similar in nature to a television commercial, radio advertisements usually add detail with more words to make up for a lack of visual presence.

*Sometimes when I am listening to my favorite **radio** station, I get frustrated with all of the commercials they play in between songs; sometimes, I enjoy them because they give a really detailed description of what they are trying to sell.*

Billboard

A giant 'poster' usually on the side of the road on a busy street, or in an area with a lot of foot traffic.

*I saw some new **billboards** as I was driving on the highway this morning to work.*



Point of Sale

Promotions, products, and other forms of advertising designed to entice someone just before they pay for something else they have bought.

*I was about ready to pay, but decided to add to my bill when I saw some cheap batteries at the **point of sale** display at the supermarket.*

Endorsements

Endorsements are usually done by celebrities or those in the public eye to encourage the general public to buy a product.

*He wasn't really interested in what they were selling until Lionel Messi did an **endorsement**, after which he bought the football for all of his nieces and nephews.*

Sampling

To give away a small portion of the product for free, in the hopes the consumer will then purchase the full item.

*At the supermarket they had a **sampling** of chicken bites, and it definitely persuaded me to buy the frozen package to cook for my kids.*

Product Placement

Intentionally showing a service or product in a fictional medium of a movie or a television show.

*Clearly the Heineken beer in Austin Powers was an example of **product placement**. It definitely was no accident.*

Digital

Any type of online, or mobile form of advertising.

*There is so much **digital** advertising on the websites I visit that I can't tell what is connected to the website and what is just trying to sell me something.*

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LISTENING: THE BILLBOARD

John: Hey, has anyone seen that new billboard right up the street from the main hotel in the plaza?

Mary: No John, what is it advertising?

John: It's a billboard for this deodorant and it has this guy wearing nothing but his underwear. It's a little strange, and you know, billboards are huge spaces for advertising, so it really stands out.

Mark: That does sound a little strange. Speaking of advertisements, I just saw a new one on television for the latest Apple iPad. It looks amazing, and it has all the cool new features. I think I'm going to try and save up my money to get one.

Mary: Sounds like it was a good ad Mark, they've already got you hooked!

Mark: And you've never seen an ad Mary, and thought, I really wanted that?

Mary: Well, now that you mention it I remember this radio commercial I heard last year. At first, I didn't think anything of it, but I kept hearing it over and over, and eventually I went to this jewelry store and bought a bracelet!

John: Hey Sophie, how are you? We were just talking about different ads that we've seen recently.

Sophie: Yea, we overheard a little bit. I remember this movie I went to and noticed a blatant product placement. I didn't really understand it though because it had nothing to do with the plot, and it seemed like they really forced it in there during an awkward spot. It was for a new sports car, and you could tell the camera zooms in on the brand on the side of the car when two people were having a conversation for no reason.

Mark: You know, that reminds me of an example where more than not understanding the intentions of the advertisement, it just really turned me off to this company. I saw this print ad the other week, and I must say the artwork was so repulsive that it actually made me not want to continue buying their product. Disappointing...

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GRAMMAR: HAVE OR GET SOMETHING DONE

If we say we are going to ‘have something done,’ it means that someone else is going to do it for us. It functions in the **passive voice structure**, with ‘done’ being substituted with the action replacing ‘done’ with its own **past participle**. For example ‘to cut’ your hair (by someone else), would be ‘I have my hair cut.’ The full structure is as follows:

Subject + ‘have’ + object (if necessary) + past participle

*She **has** her house **cleaned** every week.*

‘*Get something done*’ means the same thing, but it is used as informal language. However, with imperatives the usual form is with “get”. (Get your hair cut!)

*She **gets** her lawn **mowed**.*

*He **gets** his heart **checked** every six months.*

Both ‘have’ and ‘get’ can be conjugated in all tenses.

Present – I have my hair cut.

Future – I’m going to have my hair cut.

Past – I had my hair cut.

Present – They get the dishes washed.

Future – They are going to get the dishes washed.

Past – They got the dishes washed.

Both examples express that, instead of the subject washing the dishes, someone else accomplishes the task for them.

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VOCABULARY: ADVERTISEMENT

Advertisement

An announcement, which is paid for by the owners of the product or company, that generates interest in the goods for sale. In informal English it can also be put into short-forms as ad or advert.

*The **ad** that ran in the NY Times last weekend was very provocative; it should create debate at the very least.*

Brand

Something that distinguishes one seller's product from other sellers' products.

*Coca-Cola is one of the most recognizable **brands** in the world. Its long, red, cursive print is hard to miss.*

Promotion

A tactic used to try and increase demand for a certain product.

*They are doing a **promotion** where, if you buy two dresses, you get the third one for free.*

Marketing

The process by which companies go about advertising their product.

*Their **marketing** strategy was to target younger people who would be more interested in what they were selling.*

Jingle

A short music tune attached to a radio or television advertisement produced to supplement the message. It is most often catchy, so people can remember the lyrics or the music.

*I couldn't get the **jingle** for the new restaurant in town out of my head, so my wife and I finally went to eat there. We are glad we did because it was delicious!*

Slogan

A small phrase designed to describe a product or a service that is easy to remember. Many times part of the lyrics of a jingle will be the product slogan.

"Mmm Mmm Good" (Campbell's Soup)

"What can brown do for you?" (UPS shipping)

*The McDonald's **slogan** is really short and simple, but it always makes me want to eat a hamburger.*

Logo

A visual representation (emblem) of a company to induce recognition. A logo is part of a product or company's brand.

*The Facebook **logo** is very easy to recognize. One letter, lowercase, with white font and a blue background.*



Target Audience

The ideal customers you want to be influenced by your advertising. A toymaker's target audience would most likely be children, or parents of children looking to buy something they will like.

*In the United States, the **target audience** for any alcohol product should be those over 21. It may not always be that way, but it is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone under that age.*

Campaign

An advertising campaign is a series of advertisements encompassed in a single idea.

*They had 5 or 6 separate advertisements in the **campaign** to promote their new T-shirts for the summer.*

Testimonial

Part of an advertisement that has someone who used the product in the past, and is giving a good review.

*I wasn't sure about whether I wanted to buy the remote for the television until I heard the other women's **testimonial**. What's so compelling is how easy it is to use.*





READING: ADVERTISING FAILURES

Be Careful What You Wish For

There was an advertising campaign that started about six or seven years ago in the United States. The company, LifeLock, had its CEO's social security number posted on the side of a large van, as a way to persuade customers to use their identity theft protection service. The idea was that if everyone knew this man's social security number, and he could protect himself, then people would feel more than comfortable being protected with their information which would of course not be plastered in public.

However, sometimes ideas are better in theory than in practice. In 2010 it was revealed that someone in the state of Texas successfully secured a \$500 loan using Todd Davis's (the CEO) social security number. Furthermore, a few months later it came out that Davis had been the victim of identity theft over 12 times since 2007. In the initial advertisements, Davis was begging criminals to take advantage of personal information. While he thought they wouldn't be able to touch him, they laughed and turned the ads and the company into a failure.





LISTENING: MY CAR WON'T START

Engelbert: Oh man! My car won't start!

Sheila: You should have taken it to the garage yesterday like I told you. I knew those sounds the engine was making were trouble.

Engelbert: Thanks Sheila, that's something I need to hear right now. It must have been the alternator; Tom told me I needed to change it. I could have gone to see him yesterday.

Sheila: But it can't be the alternator, you already had that replaced and you shouldn't have to do that more than once to a car. Maybe the spacing on the spark plugs isn't right. You might have messed that up when you changed them.

Engelbert: It can't have been that. I have a spacing tool for that.

Sheila: The coin looking one.

Engelbert: Yeah.

Sheila: Well, we should call a taxi then or we'll be late to work. Can I use your cell phone, mine isn't working.

Engelbert: Oh no! I should have charged it last night, the battery is dead.

Sheila: Boy, when it rains, it pours. I can still use it when it's plugged into the outlet can't I?

Engelbert: Yeah, you can.

Sheila: Well, I'll go plug it in and make the call.

Engelbert: Ok. I guess there's no use in fiddling with the car now. I'll just take it to the garage this weekend. I hope it's nothing major, that's another expense that I don't need.



GRAMMAR: MODAL PERFECT

Modal perfect is formed by taking a **modal verb + have + past participle**.

The meaning of modal perfect depends on the modal verb used.

Should / Shouldn't have

I should have studied harder; I would be in law school now. (to express regret).

It's obvious that you are tired. You shouldn't have spent the night watching tv-series. (to express criticism)

Could have

Why did you stay at a hotel when you were in London? You could have stayed with Jane. (you didn't stay with her: it was possible, but did not happen.)

I didn't like the way she talked to her colleagues. She could have been nicer. (to express mild criticism)

Must have

I must have made a wrong turn at Smith street. (degree of certainty about the past-strong)

May / Might have

We may have used the wrong ink cartridge in the printer. (degree of certainty about the past: medium)

Roger might have put mayonnaise in your sandwich. (degree of certainty about the past: medium)

Can't / Couldn't have

Lauren couldn't have done that, she's too nice a person. (to express impossibility in the past)

Would / Wouldn't have

Sarah helped me a lot with my exam. I don't know what I would have done without her help. (imaginary situation in the past; it didn't happen)

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VOCABULARY: AGREEING AND DISAGREEING

See eye to eye

If you see eye to eye with someone you agree with them.

*I totally **see eye to eye** with you on the issue of tax cuts.*

*They don't always **see eye to eye** (with each other) which can be detrimental to the team dynamic.*

Share one's opinion

If you share another person's opinion you agree with them completely.

*I **share your opinion** that the speed limit should be raised.*

*John and Michelle **share the same opinion** of it being better to wait a bit longer.*

Part company on something / Part ways

This idiom means to disagree about something; discontinue relationship.

*We **parted company on the issue** of increased benefits for part-time workers.*

*In the end we decided to **part ways / company** for the good of our friendship. It's true what they say. Don't go into business with friends or family.*

Beg to differ

This idiom is used to politely disagree.

*I'm sorry but I **beg to differ** with you. They should not have been allowed to go out that late.*

*Sorry but on that matter, I **beg to differ**.*

(On) common ground

To be on common ground with someone means to share an opinion with someone that you usually don't agree with.

*Although I disagreed with Tom a lot, we were on **common ground** on the issue of educational cuts.*

Be on the same page

To be on the same page as someone means to think in a similar way.

*We have to be aggressive if we want to make this sale. **Are we on the same page?***

Agree to disagree

When you agree to disagree with someone it means that you do not want to argue about something anymore.

*Well, I guess we don't see eye to eye on this topic. Let's just **agree to disagree**.*



WRITING: WRITING ESSAYS

Read the following sample of an essay, analyzing its structure and style:

Are dogs any better than cats?

“A dog is man’s best friend.” That common saying may hold some truth, but dogs are not the only friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, a cat is their best friend. Despite what dog lovers may believe, cats make excellent house pets as they are good companions, they are civilized members of the household, and are easy to care for.

In the first place, people enjoy the companionship of cats; all cats are affectionate. They will snuggle up and ask to be petted, or scratched under the chin. Who can resist a purring cat? If they’re not feeling affectionate, cats are generally quite playful. They love to chase balls and feathers, or just about anything dangling from a string. They especially enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. Contrary to popular opinion, cats can be trained. Using rewards and punishments, just like with a dog, a cat can be trained to avoid unwanted behavior or perform tricks. Cats will even fetch!

Secondly, cats are civilized members of the household. Unlike dogs, cats do not bark or make other loud noises. Most cats don’t even meow very often. They generally lead a quiet existence and don’t often have “accidents.” Mother cats train their kittens to use the litter box, and most cats will use it without fail from that time on. Even stray cats usually understand the concept when shown the box and will use it regularly. Cats do have claws, and owners must make provision for this. A tall scratching post in your cat’s favourite area of the house will often keep the cat content to leave the furniture alone. As a last resort, of course, cats can be declawed.

Lastly, one of the most attractive features of cats as house pets is the lack of care needed. Cats get plenty of exercise in the house as they play, so they never need to be walked, and they do their business in the litter box. Cleaning a litter box is a quick, painless procedure. Cats also take care of their own grooming. Bathing a cat is almost never necessary because under ordinary circumstances cats clean themselves. Cats are more particular about personal cleanliness than some people are. In addition, cats can be left home alone for a few hours without fear. Unlike some pets, most cats will not destroy the furnishings when left alone. They are content to go about their usual activities until their owners return.

Cats are low maintenance, sophisticated companions. People who have small living quarters or less time for pet care should appreciate these characteristics of cats. However, many people who have plenty of space and time still opt to have a cat because they love its personality. In many ways, cats are the ideal house pet.

A good essay must contain:

1. A thesis:

Before you begin writing, it is important to have a thesis. This is a central idea you will “defend” throughout the text. It should be a simple statement and must be used in the first paragraph.

“Despite what dog lovers may believe, cats make excellent housepets as they are good companions, they are civilized members of the household, and they are easy to care for.”

2. An outline:

You should plan your essay before you write it. List the arguments in favour/against your thesis and decide which ones you will use and in which order they will appear in your text.

3. An introduction:

Now sit down and write the essay. The introduction should grab the reader’s attention, set up the topic, and lead in to your thesis. Your intro is merely a buildup of the issue, a stage of bringing your



reader into the essay's argument.

(Note: The title and first paragraph are probably the most important elements in your essay. In the first paragraph you either hook the reader's interest or lose it. Of course your teacher, who's getting paid to teach you how to write an essay, will read the essay you've written regardless, but in the real world, readers make up their minds about whether or not to read your essay by glancing at the title alone.)

4. Paragraphs:

Each individual paragraph should be focused on a single idea that supports your thesis. Begin paragraphs with topic sentences, support assertions with evidence, and express your ideas in the clearest, most sensible way you can. Speak to your reader as if he or she were sitting in front of you. In other words, instead of writing the essay, try talking the essay.

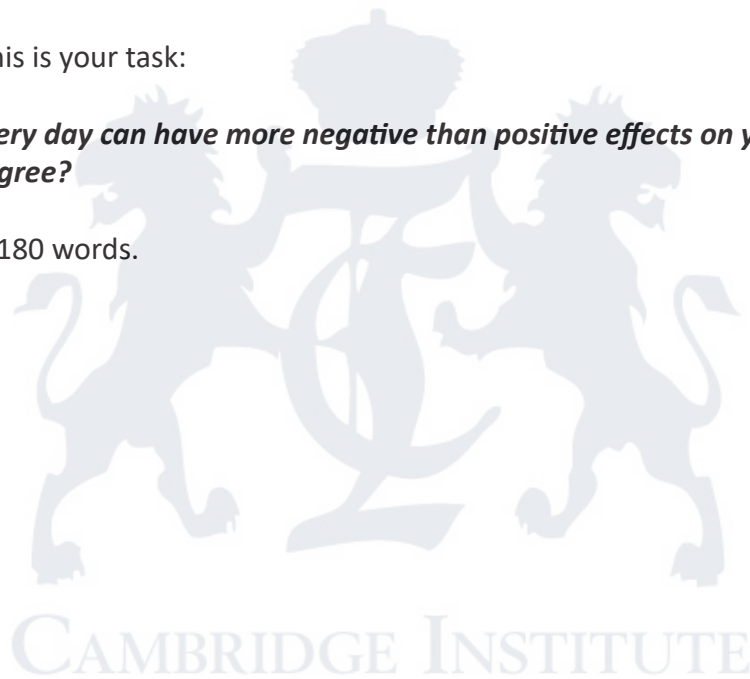
5. Conclusion:

Gracefully exit your essay by making a quick wrap-up sentence, and then end on some memorable thought, perhaps a quotation, or an interesting twist of logic, or some call to action. Is there something you want the reader to walk away and do? Let him or her know exactly what.

Now it's your turn. This is your task:

Using a computer every day can have more negative than positive effects on your children. Do you agree or disagree?

Write approximately 180 words.





LISTENING: LIFE ASPIRATIONS

You'll listen to John, Tess, Saffron and Lucas, exactly in that order. They are all about to start or finish college and they are sharing with us their life aspirations.

Speaker 1 - John

John: I'm going to Glasgow Caledonian University to do Business and Management, but before that, I am planning on a gap year and it would be cool to meet some people that are planning on doing the same as I am. First, I will be off to Singapore where I hope I'll be able to meet some travel companions; next I will be traveling for about 3 to 4 months around Asia, er... Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. I will most likely have run out or be running out of money by then. So, er... I hope I will be able to find work as an ESL teacher in either Japan or Korea, spend another three to 6 months abroad and finally return home late spring or early summer, next year.

Speaker 2 - Tess

Tess: Well... I'm going to the University of South Carolina in January to do a major in psychology. I will be spending the next 4 to 5 years of my life preparing for adulthood... uhm, by the time I finish, I'll be 25 or 26 years old, and... I'll probably be married and be bringing up a couple of children. Or... er... maybe, just maybe, I'll be working as a lecturer back at home in L.A.

Speaker 3 - Saffron

Saffron: I will soon be a college graduate so I have lots of plans for my immediate future... First, er... I will be going on a long holiday to the Caribbean with some of my schoolmates. Then, I will come back and I am going to start looking for a job, I am going to buy a car and find living accommodation and share with two of my best friends. By the end of next year I'll have finished paying my student loan and all my cards.

Speaker 4 - Lucas

Lucas: I am not going to go to "uni". I have contacted various companies and I will be going straight into an apprenticeship, I'm going to spend the next two years working on becoming a bookkeeper. I'll start first as a bookkeeping assistant, and eventually, I hope to work as an accounting technician. I'll then return home... er... and as I promised my folks before leaving, I am going to start helping with the running of the family business.



GRAMMAR: FUTURE PLANS

We use different verb forms to talk about our plans for the future – depending on what kind of plan it is.

Will

We use **will** to talk about plans decided at the moment of speaking.

I forgot to phone my mum. I'll do it after dinner.

She decides to phone her mum as she is speaking – She didn't have a plan.

I can't decide what to wear tonight. I know. I'll wear my black dress.

There's no milk in the fridge. I'll buy some when I go to the shop.

Going to

We use **going to** to talk about plans decided before the moment of speaking.

I'm going to call my mum after dinner. I told her I'd call at 8 o'clock.

He decided to call his mum before making the statement.

I'm going to the cinema tonight. I need to make a booking.

There's no food at home, I'm going to get some bits in the supermarket now.

Present continuous

We can also use the **present continuous** to talk about future plans.

We usually use it when the plan is an 'arrangement' – more than one person is involved and we know the time and place.

We're going camping on the 16th. Would you like to come?

Are you doing anything interesting this weekend?

We often use the present continuous to ask about people's future plans.

I'm meeting Maria at 9 o'clock on Monday evening.

Present simple

We do not normally use **present simple** in reference to the future.

However, we can use it for events which have been timetabled (programmed).

The flight arrives at 7.15 this evening.

I start my new job on Monday.

1) Future perfect

We can use the **future perfect** to say that something will be finished or complete by a certain time/date.

I will have finished by the time you come back.

She will have completed the report by tomorrow.



The verb **shall** is generally used with the first person (singular and plural) **I** and **we**.

*I **shall have forgotten** you by then.*

2) Future continuous

We use the **future continuous** to talk about something that will be in progress at or around a time in the future.

*Don't ring at 8 o'clock. **I'll be watching** Dr Who at that time.*

*This time tomorrow **we'll be flying** to the Caribbean.*

We use the **future continuous** to talk about something that will be in progress at or around a time in the future.

*Don't phone your sister now, **she'll be sleeping**.*

*Indigo is being very quiet. **She'll be doing** something wrong, I know it!*

Note

The sentences above-mentioned are not actually about the future but we can use the future continuous to talk about what we assume is happening at the moment.





VOCABULARY: MARKERS OR TIME EXPRESSIONS

Time expressions are used to indicate the time at / during which an action took place. Common time expressions used with future tenses are:

Any minute/moment/second/time now

Very soon

Any minute now the train will be here.

As soon as possible

In or within a short time.

We will bring forward an amended proposal as soon as possible.

In no time

Very quickly or very soon.

I'll be finished in no time at all.

In the long/medium/short term

For a long, medium, or short period of time in the future.

In the short term money will come into the coffers but then...

The near future

At a time that is not far away

I won't be going anywhere in the near future.

The sooner the better

The more quickly you do it, the better the result is.

The sooner you start the better it will be for you.

On schedule

At the expected or desired time.

The plane will be leaving on schedule.

Every now and then/again

Sometimes.

I will be giving you a call every now and then.

In X years' time

At the end of X years.

This city will totally be different in 10 years' time.



X years from now

At the end of X years.

***20 years from now** this city will be completely different.*

Next

Immediately after

*If you allow this, **next** he will be jumping on the tables.*

Short(ly)

Soon

*The train will be leaving **shortly**.*





READING: CAREERS OF THE FUTURE

As people are living longer, the demand for products and services geared towards the elderly is increasing; the lower demand for retailers will increase the demand for delivery services-drivers, couriers, distribution companies and airline workers. This means that job agencies specialising in face to face interaction, writers, inventors, strategists, carpenters, physicians, dentists, car mechanics, hair stylists and construction workers will grow in demand.

Energy saving products and recycling initiatives will create a new sector and increase jobs in this field, and the increasing need to save energy and protect the environment will ignite a boom for environmental health workers.

According to the Department for Social Affairs and Inclusion and its Happiness Index, if you wish to be happy in a job then you should get a job in the caring for children sector. Childcare workers are among Europe's happiest. Meanwhile HR managers are among the most miserable. A cheerful 50 percent of childcare workers said that they looked forward to going back to work after a day off. Hairdressers also scored highly in the workplace happiness rating. A poll of 1,000 European employees found low earners to be happiest, with those on incomes of less than 15K a year far happier in their jobs than those in the 40k to 45k bracket. But the survey also revealed that 32 percent of people were unhappy at work. A mere 2 percent of HR managers said they were happy in their jobs

It is not easy to build a career to last throughout your working life, but any future success will depend on how well you prepare yourself and the decisions you take now.





LISTENING: WORK GOSSIP

Interviewer: Today we are here with David James, author of “Fostering the Environment”, a book about how to create a positive working environment. David, thanks for joining us. My first question for you would be to ask how you got started in this field in the first place.

David: Well, a lot jobs that I had when I first started to work full time had either unhelpful or even toxic working environments that led to many negative consequences. I observed that the work being done was not very efficient, and because no personal relationships were being fostered among the employees, if someone saw a better opportunity, they jumped at it. Employees would come in and go out at an alarming rate, there wasn't any stability. Based on this, I took a step back and thought, what would happen if some of these places had a healthier working environment? So I went back to graduate school and began to do some research.

Interviewer: In your research, what were you able to find?

David: I actually was able to observe some companies that had very efficient operations along with high employee loyalty. In these situations, there is a defined hierarchy or responsibility; however it is normally not used to leverage power. People are able to separate work and home life, however they build trusting friendships within the office environment. Managers and bosses are able to highlight the strengths of employees and use them to the company's advantage. It was a real juxtaposition to see some positive work environments against what I had ingrained in my mind from my earlier personal experiences.

Interviewer: That is really fascinating. How did the book come about in all of this?

David: I started to give talks at some business conferences about the different things I had observed in these well-run companies with healthy and positive working environments. At some point along the way, some of the people I came in contact with suggested that I take all of the different aspects I talked about and put them on paper. So, I received a grant from a publishing company and took about two years to come up with the very best practices in terms of having this idea of a positive working environment. I really wanted to make it authentic and I'm very happy with the result. The feedback has been wonderful, and I feel very fortunate and grateful to all those who have helped me.

Interviewer: David James, thanks again for joining us today. Next week on the program...

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GRAMMAR: REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

We use reflexive pronouns to explain an action that a person does to themselves. Singular reflexive pronouns (I, you, he/she, it) end in **- self**. Plural reflexive pronouns (we, you (all), they) end in **- selves**.

Singular: myself, yourself, herself, himself, itself

Plural: ourselves, yourselves, themselves

Again, a reflexive pronoun is used when a subject does something to themselves.

*Jonathan sent **himself** an email.* (Reflexive – the email was not sent to a different subject, it was sent to Jonathan by Jonathan)

*Jonathan sent an email **himself**.* (Not reflexive – the email was sent to a different subject = Jonathan sent an email – but not to himself – to someone else.)

There are some verbs that do not collocate with a reflexive pronoun. These include **feel**, **concentrate**, **relax**, and **meet**.

*This weekend I **relaxed**.*

*She **feels** bad. She has a headache.*

Additionally, verbs that usually are done reflexively do not use a reflexive pronoun. If they do, it is added for emphasis. These verbs may include actions of daily routines like **dress**, **shave**, and **wash**.

*He **dresses** for work every morning.* (Normal use)

*He **dresses himself** for work every morning.* (Emphasis use)

A common mistake is to use **each other** in a reflexive way. We use *each other* and *one another* to show that each person in a group of two or more people does something to the others. There is no difference between *each other* and *one another* and we can normally use them in the same places. *Each other* is more common than *one another*. They are not reflexive - they are reciprocal.

*They looked at **themselves** in the mirror.* (This is **reflexive**)

*They looked at **each other** lovingly.* (This is **reciprocal**. He looked at her and she looked at him)

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VOCABULARY: WORK

Roadblock

In a conceptual sense, something that prevents a task from being accomplished.

*The biggest **roadblock** for the conference was raising enough money.*

Confidence

Faith to act in an effective way.

*My **confidence** grew with more experience.*

Focus

To concentrate or think on one matter for a period of time and with great intent.

*I know if I want to get a good mark on the exam I will have to **focus**.*

Tangible

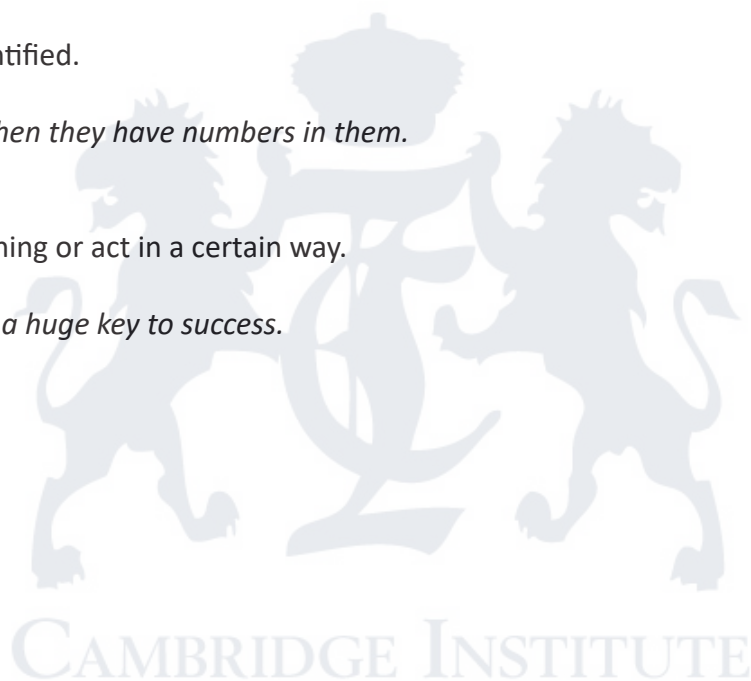
Capable of being identified.

*Goals are **tangible** when they have numbers in them.*

Motivation

A desire to do something or act in a certain way.

*Having **motivation** is a huge key to success.*





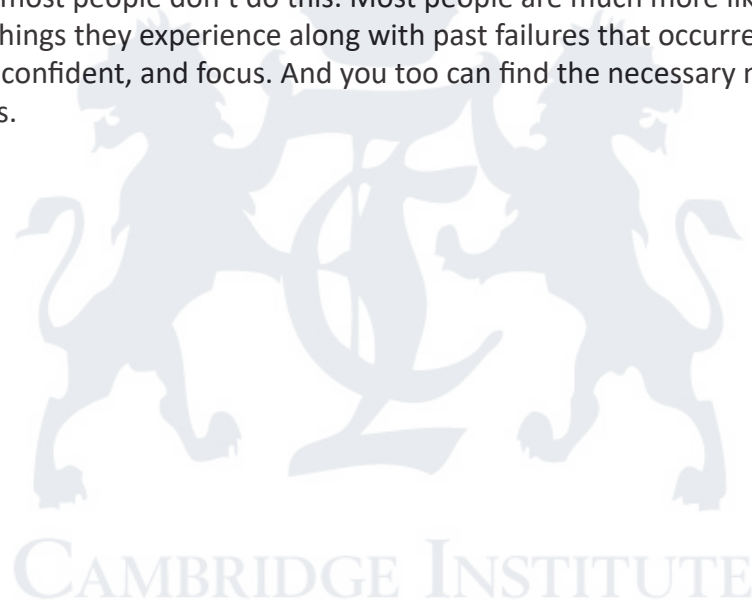
READING: SELF-MOTIVATION

Sometimes not staying motivated is a result of not doing anything, and how easy that can be. Let's see, I could stay here and watch television, or I could do something productive for work. Choosing to watch television is so easy. It takes a great deal of both confidence and the ability to eliminate negative thoughts to stay consistently motivated. However, are there certain specific ways that we can block negative thoughts and take advantage of the positive ones?

If staying motivated is the key to success with reaching your goals, a huge roadblock is, as was mentioned before, a lack of confidence. If you don't actually believe that you will accomplish your goals, it is incredibly easy to lose any, or all, of your motivation. If you think that you will fail, then why even try? You have to believe in yourself and your own abilities to accomplish a set of goals that you have. Similarly, along with confidence you need focus. You have to be clear with yourself about what you want to accomplish. If you lack focus, it will be extremely difficult to find any motivation to finish the task.

Confidence comes from focus. Furthermore, that particular focus comes from a positive place. We all have both positive and negative aspects to our current position in life, but it is the person that chooses to focus on all of the positive things who can form confidence. This can sometimes be done by making a tangible list of the things that can give you confidence. Write down the specific positives that exist for you. This will help you focus on your strengths and the things that make you happy. As hard as it is to believe, most people don't do this. Most people are much more likely to constantly focus on the negative things they experience along with past failures that occurred.

So stay positive. Stay confident, and focus. And you too can find the necessary motivation to accomplish great things.





LISTENING: FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

Dan: So, I moved into this new house, and it didn't have any furniture.

Jason: Did you buy some of your own, Dan?

Dan: Yes, Jason. Jennifer and I went to Ikea to help complete the bedrooms and the kitchen and the living room. I've got two problems. First, I don't know where to start. There are so many different tables, chairs, couches, beds, and everything else, it seems like an impossible task. Second, I haven't found anyone professional to help me. Either they are charging too much money, or they don't really have that much experience, so it isn't worth it hiring them. I don't know if I can do it all myself.

Jason: How good are you at following directions?

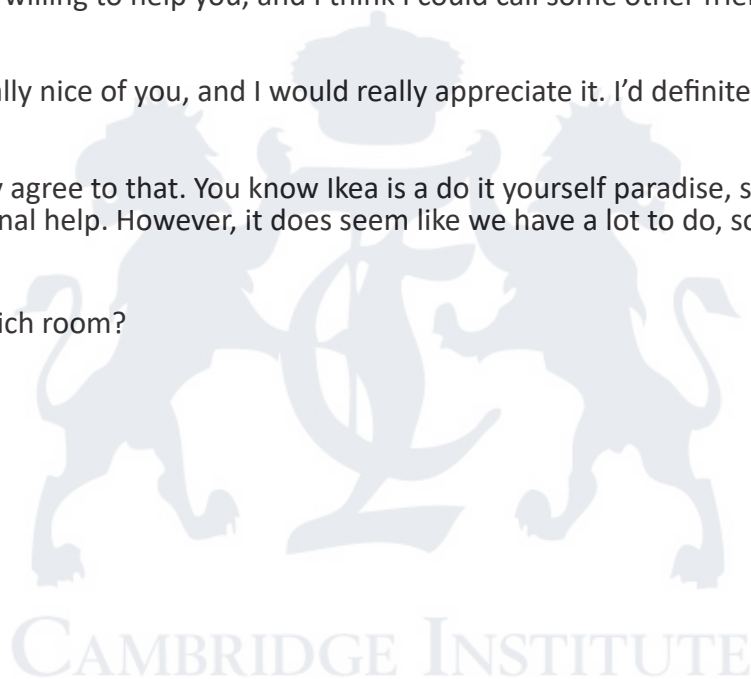
Dan: I think I'm pretty good at that. Why do you ask?

Jason: Well, I would be willing to help you, and I think I could call some other friends to lend some of their time.

Dan: That would be really nice of you, and I would really appreciate it. I'd definitely get you guys a round of drinks later.

Jason: I could definitely agree to that. You know Ikea is a do it yourself paradise, so I don't think we will need any professional help. However, it does seem like we have a lot to do, so why don't we get started?

Dan: Definitely, but which room?





VOCABULARY: TOOLS

Hammer	Screwdriver	Saw	Drill
Shovel	Measuring tape	Wheelbarrow	Sander

READING: FENG SHUI

Sometimes “do it yourself” isn’t referring to a physical process. Sometimes “do it yourself” is looking internally and using your own makeup to find inner peace. Feng Shui is a complex and long standing system of self-help that dates back over 3,000 years. There are many different ways to look at and describe the intricacies of Feng Shui, an Eastern art form that literally means wind-water in Chinese. Wind and water are thought to be signs of good health. Central to the idea of Feng Shui is the concept of balance. Achieving a balance of both body and mind is key to achieving Chi, a Chinese cultural form of energy. Feng Shui is also based on the principles of humans and nature co-existing in balance. It aims to create an environment where the inhabitants of a particular incarnation of nature are in harmony with their land.

Many may not be familiar with Feng Shui. However, they may be more familiar with the previously mentioned Chi, as well as the concept of yin and yang. Just like everything else, it all works together.

Although an ancient practice, many still use Feng Shui today, and it is becoming increasingly popular in the West. By applying some of the basic Feng Shui principles, many are finding it easier to assist processes that can promote self-improvement. And just as there are directions to assemble a new washer and dryer, there are rules to follow to try and achieve balance on an internal level with Feng Shui. A do-it-yourself emotional activity that can lead to a better life.



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GRAMMAR: SO AND SUCH

The words **so** and **such** in English most often imply emphasis; they function to show the extreme of something one way or another. The choice of whether to use **so** or **such** many times depends what part of speech it intends to amplify. **So** is used with adjectives, adverbs, and uncountable nouns. **Such** is used with countable and judgmental nouns for emphasis, and with an exclamation mark.

*That house is **so** big!* (Adjective – Big)

*That is **such** a big house!* (Noun – House)

*He wastes **so** much time.* (Adverb – Much)

*He takes **such** a long time.* (Noun – Time)

*He is **such** an idiot! He says the stupidest things.* (Judgmental noun - Idiot)

So + adjective

Used to show extremes. This form is often used in exclamations.

*The music is **so** loud! I wish they would turn it down.*

*The meal was **so** good! It was worth the money.*

So + adverb

Used to show extreme actions. This form is often used in exclamations.

*She spoke **so** quickly! She sounded like an auctioneer.*

*He paints **so** well! I am sure he is going to become a famous artist.*

So + many / few + plural noun

Used to show extremes in amount. This form is often used in exclamations.

*I didn't know you had **so** many brothers!*

*She has **so** few friends! It's really quite sad.*

So + much / little + non-countable noun

Used to show extremes in amount. This form is often used in exclamations.

*Jake earns **so** much money! And he still has trouble paying the rent.*

*They have **so** little food! We need to do something to help them.*

So + Much / Little / Often / Rarely

Used to describe how much or how often someone does an action. This form is often used in exclamations.

*Earl drinks **so** much! It's not good for his health.*

*My sister visits us **so** rarely! I really miss her.*



VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

Idioms are words, phrases and expressions that cannot be taken literally. Sometimes the meaning can be understood directly in context and some others need an explanation to be fully understood.

To be sick as a dog

To be very ill.

*He's not going to work tomorrow. He's **as* sick as a dog**.*

To be fit as a fiddle

To be in terrific shape or condition.

*Don't worry about me; I'm **as fit as a fiddle**.*

To kick the habit

To manage to stop/quit a bad habit.

*Brian smoked for over 15 years. Last summer he finally **kicked the habit!***

To be up and about

To be active and doing things (usually used after an illness or a problem).

*After the divorce Ann was really down, but now she's **up and about**.*

To be out of sorts

To be mildly unwell; not in one's usual health (physically or psychologically).

*I apologize if I seem distracted. It's just that I'm a bit **out of sorts** today.*

To feel as right as rain

To feel in perfect condition.

*I woke up this morning **feeling right as rain!***

To have a clean bill of health

To be perfectly healthy.

*I had a check up last week and the doctor said I **had a clean bill of health**.*

To stick/stand out like a sore thumb

To be noticeable in public because you look or act differently.

*With that purple hair she **sticks out like a sore thumb!***

To be/feel under the weather

To not feel well; to feel sick.

*I'm **feeling a bit under the weather** this evening.*



To be a pain in the neck

To be annoying; do things others don't like or consider inconvenient.

*Josh is such a **pain in the neck**! No one can stand him in the office.*

To feel fresh as a daisy

To feel rested and lively.

*After a nap I usually **feel fresh as a daisy**.*

To be coming down with something

To start to get sick (usually feel the first symptoms of cold or flu).

*I'm pretty sure I'm **coming down with a cold**.*

Something is going around

An illness (usually a virus) that people around have been catching recently.

*There's a nasty **stomach flu going around**.*

To call in sick

To call someone at work (usually a superior) and inform them you are not going to work because of health problems.

*We know John **calls in sick** every Monday because he actually oversleeps.*

Just what the doctor ordered

Exactly what you want or need.

*That ice cold lemonade was **just what the doctor ordered!***

To be on one's last legs

To be close to exhaustion or close to death/end.

*This mobile phone **is on its last legs**.*

Note

The first "as" in the comparative is optional. Some people say it and some people don't. Of course, this rule applies only to idioms, not to ordinary comparatives.



VOCABULARY: WHAT THE BODY DOES

Hiccup

A quick, involuntary inhalation that follows a spasm of the diaphragm and is suddenly checked by closure of the glottis, producing a short, relatively sharp sound.

Burp

To eject gas spasmodically and noisily from the stomach through the mouth.

Blush

To redden, as from embarrassment or shame.

Itch

To have or feel a peculiar tingling or uneasy irritation of the skin that causes a desire to scratch the part affected.

Shiver

To shake or tremble with cold, fear, excitement, etc.

Sneeze

To emit air or breath suddenly, forcibly, and audibly through the nose and mouth by involuntary, spasmodic action.

Sniff

To smell by short inhalations.

Sweat

To perspire, especially after exercise or when it's hot.

Tingle

To have a sensation of slight prickles, stings, or tremors, as from cold, a sharp blow, excitement, etc.

Swell

To increase abnormally in size, as by inflation, distention, accumulation of fluids, or the like.

Yawn

To open the mouth somewhat involuntarily with a prolonged, deep inhalation and sighing or heavy exhalation, as from drowsiness or boredom.

Cough

To expel air from the lungs suddenly with a harsh noise, often involuntarily.

Go to the bathroom

To use the toilet; urinate or defecate.

Chills

Sudden coldness of the body, usually with shivering.

Choke

To become unable to breathe usually because something gets stuck in your throat or because the air is not good for breathing.



Gargle

To clean your throat and mouth with a liquid that you move around in your throat and then spit out.

Indigestion

An unpleasant feeling (such as pain or a burning sensation) in your stomach or chest that is caused by difficulty in digesting food.

Chew

To use your teeth to cut food into small pieces before you swallow it.

Inhale

To breathe in.

Exhale

To breathe out.

Swallow

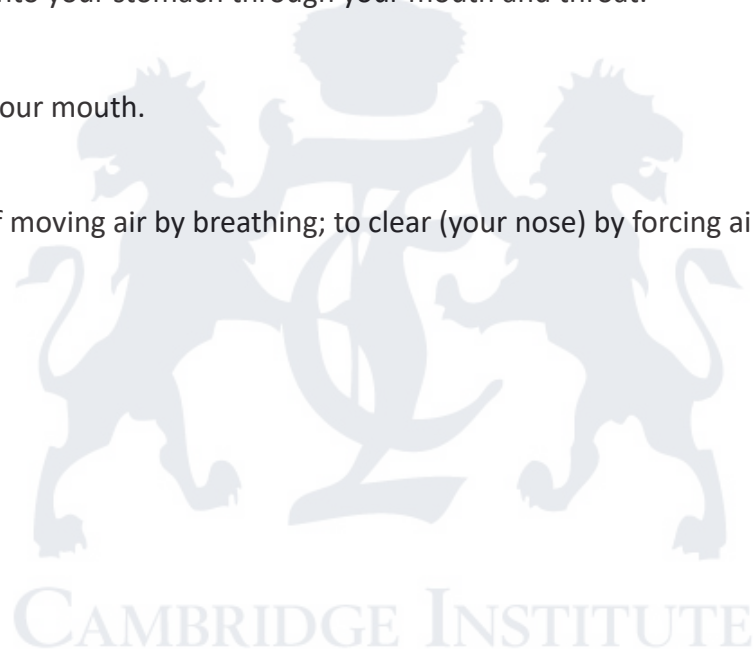
To take (something) into your stomach through your mouth and throat.

Spit

To force saliva from your mouth.

Blow

To create a current of moving air by breathing; to clear (your nose) by forcing air through it quickly.





GRAMMAR: LIKE OR AS

Both *like* and *as* are commonly used to talk about how things are similar:

Like means “same form, appearance, kind, character” and is followed by a noun or noun phrase.
*My sister is **like** me.*

As means “in the manner” and is followed by a clause (subj + verb) .
*My mother thinks **as** I do.*

Like

The structure of the sentence is usually: VERB + LIKE + NOUN / PRONOUN.

*He speaks **like** a native speaker.*
*She looks **like** a supermodel.*

As

The structure of the sentence is usually: AS + SUBJECT + VERB.

*Nobody sings **as** she does.*
*They went to the party **as** they were.*

It is very common in American English to use *like* instead of *as*. However, it is generally considered informal to use it in this way.

*We play football **like** champions do.*

Another use of *as* is to say what the role/function of a person/thing is.

*He started work **as** a carpenter.*
*She used the tapestry **as** a decoration in her living room.*

As if

In English we also use *as if* to make comparisons. However it has a few distinct characteristics to its use:

1. The verb after *as if* is always in the past subjunctive, no matter what tense the sentence is.
2. If the verb *be* directly follows *as if*, we use *were* for all personal pronouns.

*He looks **as if** he knew the answer.*

Like vs. As

Be careful, in similar sentences that use *like* and *as*, the meanings of each sentence are very different. For example:

As your boss, I must warn you to be careful. (I am your boss.)
Like your boss, I must warn you to be careful. (I am not your boss, but he/she and I have similar attitudes.)



However, there are many more uses for *like* or *as*, other uses for like:

Comparing the same shape (adj.) - *I've never seen a **like** car.*

Comparing the same shape (noun) - *I haven't seen its **like** . We collect CDs, tapes, records and their **like** .*

Expressing the character of something or someone (prep.) - *It would be **like** him to go out with my best friend.*

Similar (prep.) - *There is nothing **like** a beautiful summer day.*

Showing an example (adv.) - *You could play a sport, **like** basketball or tennis.*

Similar (adj.) - *This portrait is really **life-like**.*

To feel inclined (idiom-prep.) - *Do you **feel like** going to a movie?*

Seems (idiom- prep.) - *It **looks like** it might rain.*

Making a request (idiom-verb) - *I'd **like** you to make me dinner.*

According to your preference (idiom-verb) - *You can come or you can go **as you like**.*

Informal uses of *like*:

Used to get someone's attention - *Like, has anyone seen my glasses?*

Reported speech - *He's like, "Get out of here!"*

As if - *I felt like I was drowning.*

Approximately - *Are you like 40 years old?*

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More uses for *as*:

Giving an example (adv.) - *Some cars, **as** the Mustang, consume a lot of gas.*

To consider (adv.) - *We view the president **as** the leader of our country.*

That (adv.) - *He took me to the movies, **as** agreed. (as we had agreed)*

At the time(conj) - *Hang up your coat **as** you come inside.*

With the purpose (conj.) - *The singer sang so loud **as** to rattle the windows.*

Since (conj.) - ***As** you are awake, will you make me some coffee?*

Though (conj.) - *Rich **as** he is, he still looks like a bum.*



That (pronoun) - *I have the same degree **as** you have.*

To the extent (idiom.) - ***As far as** I know, we finish at 5:00 today.*

While (idiom.) - ***As long as** you are going to the store, will you pick me up some milk?*

In its current condition (idiom.) - *The car is for sale **as is**. (in a non-negotiable, no-guarantee condition)*

Also (idiom.) - *They are smart **as well as** friendly.*

In respect to (idiom.) - ***As for** Australia, I'm not interested in going there.*

Starting on this particular date (idiom.) - *We will not accept credit cards **as of** June 1st.*





LISTENING: CONVERSATION

Fred: Hey Jane, you're not still smoking are you?

Jane: Yeah, a little, just when I drink.

Fred: I thought you'd given up.

Jane: I did, but I'm just having a few when I'm out.

Fred: You're buying packs again I see.

Jane: Yeah, I know.

Fred: How long did you give up for?

Jane: Half a year.

Fred: Did you try nicotine patches or gum or anything?

Jane: Yeah, but I didn't like the taste of the gum. The patches are annoying as well, and I kept forgetting to put them on. I mostly missed the feel of a cigarette in my hands too.

Fred: Yeah, I've heard people say that. Well, I gave up and I went completely cold turkey. I didn't touch a cigarette. If someone offered me one, I'd just say no. That's my trick. Just say no every time you think of having one.

Jane: Yeah, it's difficult. I can do it sometimes, except if I've been drinking, then it's harder to say no.

Fred: Yeah, I'll bet!

Jane: Ha ha, shut up. You know what I mean. I might try the hypnosis method. That could work.

Fred: Yeah, I've heard hypnosis works for some people. What about the Allen Carr book? I think it's called "The Easy Way to Stop Smoking". You're supposed to keep smoking while you're reading it, then as soon as you finish, you quit.

Jane: Okay, I'll check it out. Thanks for the tip. Okay, this is my last one for tonight!



WRITING: Now You

Josh has written you a letter detailing some health problems he has had since travelling. Read the letter and answer his requests, based on what you have learned in this unit in about 150 words.

Hi,

How are things there? Have you finished the exams already? Have you had any difficult subject this term? I hope you are fine and on vacation, as I wish I were.

Since I arrived in Canada I've been in and out of hospitals... I think my body did not get used to the weather and I feel tired and under my breath at all times. I had to miss a lot of classes and now, of course, my summer will be spent at school, making up for everything I missed because of my poor health.

I am writing to ask you to talk to your father about my case. I know he is an awesome GP and he can give me good advice about my health. Could you do that for me? Tell him I'm also getting a bit blue... I don't know if it's the constant health problems or just the weather that is making me feel down in the dumps. The truth is that I need my energy back to take the exams and pass. Please help me! I'm happy for having come on this exchange student program, but I'm beginning to regret the choice of country. If I had gone somewhere else I'd probably be healthier now.

Well, I've got to go now. I'll be waiting for your letter.

Take care,
Josh



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LISTENING: A RECENT TRIP

Janice: Hey Tim! What did you think of the trip we just got back from?

Tim: Hey Janice. I had a fantastic time. I haven't been able to kick back like that in a while. What did you think?

Janice: I can't say I was happy the whole time. I was fighting with my boyfriend some days and that was a shame. However, being on the beach and catching some rays was great. Look at this tan I have!

Tim: You are really lucky. I tried to go to the beach most days, but I didn't spend all of my time there. Each day there was something different to do, and when we hit the town some of those nights it was a blast.

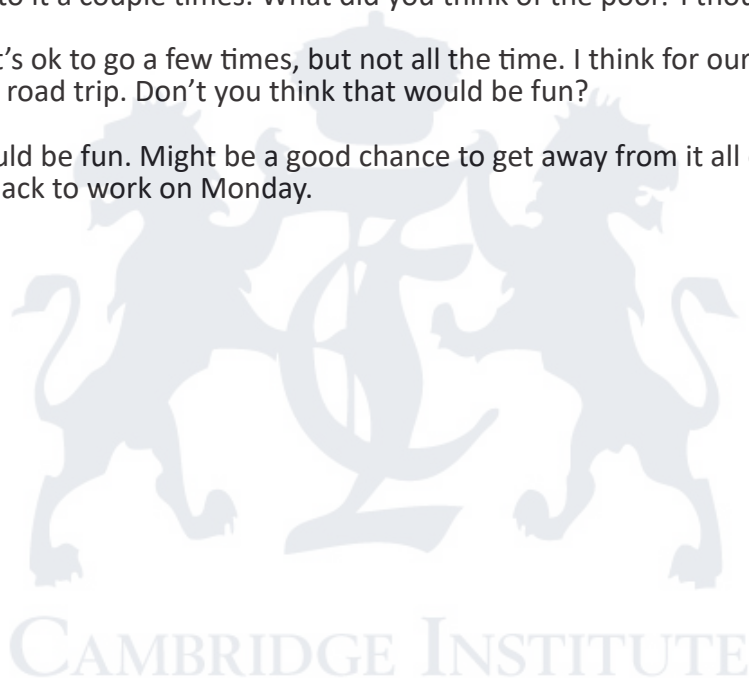
Janice: Yeah that was fun. Did you ever take a dip in the hotel pool?

Tim: Yeah I got around to it a couple times. What did you think of the pool? I thought it was too small.

Janice: I agree. I think it's ok to go a few times, but not all the time. I think for our next holiday we should plan on taking a road trip. Don't you think that would be fun?

Tim: I do think that would be fun. Might be a good chance to get away from it all on the open highway. But for now, back to work on Monday.

Janice: What a shame!





VOCABULARY: IDIOMS – VACATION

Some R & R

The two R's are for 'rest' and 'relaxation'.

*I can't wait to not work for one week and finally get **some R & R!***

Hit the town

Another way to say 'go out' for a party or night out.

*After dinner in the hotel, we are going to **hit the town** tonight.*

Take/go on a road trip

Travelling a long distance by car.

*They are planning on **taking a road trip** that will last 6 days and go through 7 different states.*

Take a dip

Another way to say go swimming.

*The hotel has a really nice pool, so I think I'm going to **take a dip** later.*

Catch some rays

To go sunbathing.

*This beach is beautiful! Let's go **catch some rays**.*

Get away from it all

Go somewhere and escape everyday life.

*We are not going to bring our mobiles this holiday, so it will be easier to **get away from it all**.*

Head for (somewhere)

To go in a certain direction.

*We are **heading for** the beach in about 10 minutes.*

Kick back

To relax.

*My only goal for this vacation is to **kick back**.*

Line (something) up

To organize.

*We have the flights and hotel **lined up**. Now we just need to rent a car.*

Booked up/solid

Something that is totally full.

*They weren't able to stay at their preferred hotel because it was **booked solid**.*



GRAMMAR: ALL, WHOLE, EACH, EVERY

All and **whole** are used to describe 100% of something. The main difference is that we usually use 'all' with countable nouns, and 'whole' with uncountable nouns.

All the stars in the sky could not match your beauty. (countable)

The **whole dinner** lasted around 2 hours. (uncountable)

Many times 'all' will take the preposition 'of' but it is not always required.

All of the stars in the sky could not match your beauty.

'All of' is required when it is used with object pronouns.

All of *them*, All of *us*, All of *it*...

'All' and 'the whole' can sometimes be used interchangeably with time expressions: day, month, year, season (spring, summer...), etc.

All day = The whole day

All summer = The whole summer

Each and **every** can have the same meaning to say all of something.

Each morning I drink coffee.

Every morning I drink coffee.

When talking about a routine, they are both acceptable, but 'every' sounds more natural.

However, at times they can be slightly different. 'Each' talks about the idea of a group but a one-by-one counting of what makes up the group. 'Every' refers to the general group without separating anything. Furthermore, if we are talking about 2 things, 'each' must be used because 'every' must be 3 or more.

Read **each** paragraph. (Read all the paragraphs but go through them separately)

Do **every** exercise. (Finish the assignment in general)

There are two books. **Each** one is a different color.

There are seventy books. **Every** one is a different color.

All

We use **all (of)** to express the total number or amount of something.

We usually use **all (of)** with uncountable nouns.

We usually use **all of** with personal pronouns *it*, *them*, etc.

All is usually placed after the personal pronoun *we*, *they*, *them*, *us*.

all (of) my friends, all (of) the time

All (of) my friends visited me in the hospital.

all (of) the money, all (of) the oil

She has spent all (of) the money on cosmetics.

all of them, all of it

Have you invited all of them?

we all, they all

We all enjoyed the concert.



The whole

We usually use **the whole (of)** with singular countable nouns. the whole meeting, my whole life

The can be replaced by a possessive pronoun *our, my, etc.* *She lived in the same house her whole life.*

All or the whole

All or the whole can be used with time expressions.

all day / the whole day
all morning / the whole morning
I was there all day.
I was there the whole day.

Each, every

Each is used if we mean an individual member of a group.

Every can also be used.

*We have send the invitation to **each / every** business partner.*

Each of is used if we mean all members of a group and we include a possessive pronoun like *our, my, their*, etc.

Every cannot be used in this case.

*We have sent the invitation to **each of our** business partners.*

Every is used with a plural noun when it is followed by a number.

Each cannot be used in this case.

*I visit my mother **every** two months / **every** other day / **every** second week.*

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READING: 5 PLACES TO SEE BEFORE YOU DIE

The following is a description of 5 places to try and visit during your lifetime. Of course there are many more locations worth seeing, but this is just a sample of amazing places to see.

The Great Wall of China – A testament to the strength of human labor, the Great Wall of China stretches over 8,000 km east to west. To think that the process to build the wall started as early as 7th century BC is truly astonishing. For its sheer magnitude and what the idea of the Great Wall has meant to the culture and history of China, this is a must visit. Luckily, because of its length it is accessible at many different points along the way.

The Colosseum in Rome – Built around the turn of the millennium (starting around 72 AD), the Colosseum is a grand spectacle. The circular amphitheater can seat over 50,000 people and was initially used to host gladiator battles as well as other forms of public entertainment. Considering the influence of the Roman Empire, and the fact that the Colosseum was its greatest architectural achievement, a visit here is required for any history enthusiasts.

The Grand Canyon – To see the power of nature on display, you need to visit the Grand Canyon. It is a steep-sided canyon that is parted by the Colorado River. It is located in the state of Arizona, not in Colorado as commonly thought because of the river. The canyon is considered to be one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, and is a beautiful sight to see.

The Eiffel Tower – When the Eiffel Tower was first built in 1889 it was never meant to be a permanent landmark in Paris. Over a hundred years later, the tower is very permanent, and a staple of the Parisian image. It is the most visited landmark in the world, and well-worth the title. Being able to ride the lift all the way to the top and look over its beautiful host city is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Machu Picchu – An icon of the Incan world of the past, Machu Picchu stands alone in historical importance in South America. It was thought to be an estate for an emperor sometime during the 15th century, and sits atop a mountain ridge almost 2,500 kilometers above sea level. Modern attention was brought about by an American historian in the early 1900s and it has been a very popular tourist destination ever since.

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WRITING: Now You

Hawaii Spring Cruises

“Spring cruises” offer fine quality cruises around Hawaii. Our ships are designed with comfort in mind; you and your family can spend your days relaxing on deck or participating in our unforgettable events.

You will be sailing on one of our most luxurious ships, Beauty of the Ocean. Whether you love being active or crave tranquility, our luxury liner offers everything you could possibly need on board. This includes a wide variety of freshly prepared cuisine as well as your pick of innovative experiences, designed to give you the trip of a lifetime.

Immerse yourself in the Polynesian culture ashore on a variety of optional shore excursions. If that isn't your cup of tea, then sit tight and we will bring the culture to you! On our Aloha Spirit Programme, you can experience traditional luaus, lei making demonstrations, traditional performances and much more.

Sail for 14 or 15 days from Los Angeles or San Francisco, visiting four of the Hawaiian Islands. What better way to travel, when you can save more money than you could on land-based vacations? Contact us at www.hawaiianspringcruises.net and make the vacation of your dreams come true. Aloha!

You have just been hired by a hotel/resort on the beaches of Ibiza to work in public relations. Your first task is to write an information sheet designed to attract people to want to stay at your establishment. In the information sheet include:

- Services offered by the hotel
- Activities to do in Ibiza
- Promotions that you are giving first time customers





LISTENING: SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE

Lucy: I went to Russia last summer and I swear they're the most superstitious people I've ever met!

Tom: Really, what do they believe?

Lucy: Well, for one thing, they have a really strange practice when taking exams. On the day of the exam you shouldn't make your bed, wear anything new, or cut your fingernails. My roommate almost had a heart attack when I tried making my bed!

Edward: That's weird. I've heard that they also spit over their shoulders when knocking on wood. Is that true?

Lucy: Yeah, if you have some good news or you're about to go on vacation, they don't want to jinx it so they'll appear to spit over their left shoulder three times. Supposedly the devil sits on your left shoulder so this keeps you safe against the evil eye. They'll do this when you compliment them, too. Then they'll usually knock on wood three times.

Tom: Wow, I can't imagine doing that! I thought my grandmother was superstitious when she wouldn't let my baby cousin look at a mirror until she was a year old. To be honest I was a little worried that it would bring bad luck so I hid all the mirrors in the house when the baby came over, just in case!

Edward: Do you really believe in all that? I think it's kind of silly. All these things that are supposed to be bad luck like breaking mirrors, Friday the 13th, passing under ladders, black cats. I don't buy any of it. Look, I've got an umbrella right here. You're not supposed to open an umbrella indoors, are you? Well, I'll open it and you'll see that nothing bad will happen!

Lucy: I'd rather you not do that. It probably won't bring bad luck but why do you want to tempt fate?
Edward: Oh, alright. But I'm not doing it for your sake, just so you know.

Lucy: Oh yeah, there was another really strange superstition in Russia that I came across all the time. You're not supposed to hand money directly into someone's hands. If you're at a cash register they'll usually have a little tray where you set the money. Apparently they believe that money can transmit evil or negativity from its owners. Once you move away from the till the spell is broken and the cashier can then touch the money without fear.

Tom: I remember I went out with some Russians from my university and they told me that it was bad luck to put an empty bottle on a table. Did you come across this in Russia?

Lucy: Yeah, they would usually put an empty bottle of wine on the floor or look for the waiter to take it away. I won't even get into their traditions with alcohol. It would make your head spin!



GRAMMAR: INVERSION

Inversion happens when we reverse (invert) the normal word order of a structure, most commonly the subject-verb word order. For example, a statement has the subject (s) before the verb (v), but to make question word order, we invert the subject and the verb, with an auxiliary (aux) or modal verb (m) before the subject (s):

(S) *She (V) sings.*

(AUX) **Does** (S) *she (V) sing?*

(S) *They (AUX) are (V) working.*

(AUX) (S) **Are** *they (V) working?*

(S) *Joe (M) can (V) swim.*

(M) **Can** (S) *Joe (V) swim?*

They are often used to give emphasis or to be rhetorical in more formal situations like political speeches, news stories or in literature. Some native speakers may also use them occasionally in day-to-day conversation but it does sound more formal. They are outlined below:

After the following negative adverbials:

In formal styles, when we use an adverb with negative meaning (e.g. *never (before), seldom, rarely; scarcely/hardly/barely...when/before; no sooner...than*) in front position for emphasis, we invert the subject (s) and auxiliary (aux) / modal verb (m):

We don't have goods returned to us because they are faulty.

Seldom (AUX) do (S) we have goods returned to us because they are faulty.

~~*Seldom we do have goods returned to us because they are faulty.*~~

I had got onto the motorway when I saw two police cars following me.

Hardly (AUX) had (S) I got onto the motorway when I saw two police cars following me.

~~*Hardly I had got onto the motorway when I saw two police cars following me.*~~

After only + a time expression

Only after, only later, only once, only then, only when:

She bought a newspaper and some sweets at the shop on the corner. **Only later (aux) did (s) she realise** that she'd been given the wrong change.

Only once (aux) did (s) I go to the opera in the whole time I was in Italy.

After so + adjective...that

So exciting was the movie that I forgot to call my friend.

After only + other prepositional phrases

Only by..., only in..., only with..., etc.:

Only by chance had Jameson discovered where the birds were nesting.

Mary had to work at evenings and weekends. **Only in this way was she able** to complete the report by the deadline.



After expressions with preposition + no

At no time, in no way, on no account, under/in no circumstances:

At no time *did they* actually ***break*** the rules of the game.

Under no circumstances *are passengers permitted* to open the doors themselves.

After expressions beginning with not...

Not only, not until, and also not + object:

Not until August *did the government order* an inquiry into the accident.

Not a single word *had she written* since the exam had started.

After *little* with a negative meaning:

Little *do they know* how lucky they are to live in such a wonderful house.

Little *did I realise* the day would come when Michael would be famous.

Notice that inversion can occur after a clause beginning with the following:

Only after/if/when, nowhere or not until:

Only when the famine gets worse *will world governments begin* to act.

Nowhere *had she seen* a prettier room.

Not until the train pulled into Euston Station *did Jim find* that his coat had gone.

Inversion and tenses

In most English verb tenses, when we want to use inversion, we just move the verb to before the subject. If there's more than one verb, because a verb tense has auxiliary verbs for example, we move the first verb.

With two verb tenses where we just change the order of the verb and subject:

Present simple with 'be': **am** I / **are** you / **is** he

Past simple with 'be': **were** you / **was** she

With other verbs tenses, we change the order of the subject and the auxiliary verb (the first auxiliary verb if there is more than one). We don't move the other parts of the verb:

Present continuous: **am** I going / **are** you going

Past continuous: **was** he going / **were** they going

Present perfect: **have** we gone / **has** she gone

Present perfect continuous: **has** she been going / **have** they been going

Past perfect: **had** you gone

Past perfect continuous: **had** he been going

Future simple: **will** they go

Future continuous: **will** you be going

Future perfect: **will** they have gone

Future perfect continuous: **will** she have been going

Modal verbs: **should** I go / **would** you go

There are two tenses where we need to add 'do / does / did' to make the question form. We also need to change the main verb back to the infinitive. This is usually still called inversion.

Present simple with any verb except 'be' (add 'do' or 'does'): **do** you go / **does** he go

Past simple with any verb except 'be' (add 'did'): **did** we go / **did** they go



VOCABULARY: REACTIONS

Shock

Sudden upsetting or surprising event or experience.

*It was a **shock** to face such hostile attitudes*

Outrage

An extremely strong reaction of anger, shock, or indignation.

*Her voice trembled with **outrage**.*

Dismay

Concern and distress caused by something unexpected.

*She was in **dismay** after hearing the bad news.*

Outcry

Strong expression of public disapproval or anger.

*There was a public **outcry** over the bombings.*

Delight

Please (someone) greatly.

*She **was delighted** to hear the good news.*

Amazement

A feeling of great surprise or wonder.

*She shook her head in **amazement** after her team won a miraculous game.*

Astonishment

Great surprise.

*She looked at him in **astonishment** after he broke up with her.*

Backlash

Strong negative reaction by a large number of people, especially to a social or political development.

*There was a public **backlash** against racism.*

Overreact

Respond more emotionally or forcibly than is justified.

*The authorities are urging people not to **overreact** to the problem.*

Provoke

Stimulate or give rise to a reaction or emotion, (typically a strong or unwelcome one) in someone.

*The decision **provoked** a storm of protest from civil rights organizations.*



Be taken aback

To be suddenly checked, baffled, or discomfited.

*I **was taken aback** when I saw the accident on the side of the road.*

Welcome

An instance or manner of greeting someone.

*You will receive a warm **welcome** when you arrive to the conference.*

Reply

Say something in response to something someone has said.

*He was gone before we could **reply** to his last remark.*





VOCABULARY: IDIOMS – SUCCESS AND FAILURE

Get off on the wrong foot

Make a bad start to a project or relationship.

*Rasheed and I **got off on the wrong foot** when we first met, because I insulted him by mistake by mentioning the civil war in his country.*

Put your best foot forward

To try to make a good impression.

*When I was an intern at Microsoft, every day was about **putting my best foot forward** to get good references from my employer.*

Get up on the wrong side of the bed

To begin the day feeling unhappy and grouchy.

*I **got up on the wrong side of the bed** today.*

Work like a charm

When a plan or method has exactly the effect that you want it to.

*Your plan **worked like a charm**.*

(verb) Like a dream

So well or so good that it cannot quite be believed.

*This dress **fits like a dream!***

Work wonders

To improve a situation significantly (often with + **for**).

*This face cream **works wonders** (for the skin).*

Miss the mark

To be wrong, to not convey properly.

*He completely **missed the mark** when he answered incorrectly.*

Get (something) off the ground

To get (something) started.

*I really want to get **my business off the ground!***

Fall flat

To fail completely.

*All of his jokes **fell flat**.*



Draw a blank

To be unable to get information, think of something, or achieve something.

*When he asked me my age I **drew a blank**.*

Come to nothing

To amount to nothing; to be worthless.

*All my work **came to nothing**.*

Fight an uphill battle

To struggle against unfavourable conditions.

*In 2010 the unemployed **fought an uphill battle** when seeking work.*

Fight a losing battle

To try hard to do something when there is no chance that you will succeed (usually in continuous tenses).

*For years it seems like we've been **fighting a losing battle** against poverty.*

Make it big

To become successful, especially financially.

*I always knew that someday I would **make it big**.*

Sink or swim

A situation in which we must save ourselves by our own means or else fail.

*I have to take the test and **sink or swim**.*



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READING: ON SUPERSTITIONS

You may read in Thucydides of battles being postponed and lost because of some omen that had no more relation to the event than that black cat on the roof. When Pompeii was afraid that the Romans would elect Cato as magistrate, he shouted to the Assembly that he had heard thunder, and got the whole election postponed, for the Romans would never transact business after there had been thunder.

African leader, Idi Amin surrounded himself with fortune-tellers and took counsel from them, the same way as modern rulers take counsel from spin doctors. Even the great Caesar confided his fate to predictions and omens. Sometimes the omens are right and sometimes they are wrong, but whether right or wrong they are equally futile.

Cicero lost his life by trusting the wisdom of crows. When he escaped from Anthony and Caesar Augustus, he put to sea. He would have made it if it had not been for some crows which chanced to circle round his vessel, and he took the circumstance as to be inauspicious to his venture, returned to shore and was murdered.

Even farmers from ancient days consulted the oracles where today's farmers are only careful to check the weather forecast.





VOCABULARY: HUMOUR

Pun

The humorous use of a word or phrase to suggest it has a different meaning.

*"Did you hear about the guy whose whole **left** side was cut off? He's all **right** now."*

Limerick

A witty poem.

***Limericks** come from the Irish town of the same name.*

Anecdote

A short story of a humorous nature.

*No one understood why Justin was telling the story, but when he finished his **anecdote** it was so funny!*

Joke

Something with a humorous intention.

*John tells the best **jokes**!*

Riddle

A statement or question with something to solve.

Q: Why didn't the **chicken** cross the road?

A: Because it was **chicken**. (if you are "chicken" you are scared)

Punchline

The part of a joke that makes it funny.

*If you miss the **punchline** of a long joke, you won't understand why it was funny.*

Satire

Something that is funny and meant to be a social criticism.

*Many late-night television presenters use **satire** to challenge the political system while also being funny.*

Irony

A statement that is meant to imply the opposite of its literal meaning.

A large person whose name is "tiny." (tiny means small)



Sarcasm

A sharp remark to mean the opposite of what you are saying.

You are SO smart. (the person is actually dumb).

*Sarcasm often uses irony, and both are very common in satire.

Black humor

A situation that is funny even though it is sad or hopeless.

*Making jokes during a recession in the economy is an example of **black humor**.*

Dry humor

Usually told by someone who doesn't acknowledge the fact that it is funny on purpose. When a joke is meant to be funny, the person doesn't change their expression.

*A television series that uses **dry humor** would be *The Office*.*

Make fun of someone

Use someone else as the reason the joke is funny.

"I heard that Brian's mom still makes his lunch for him" (everyone laughs at Brian)

*"Oh stop **making fun of me!**"*

Pull someone's leg

To tell someone something that isn't true in order to be funny.

*Josh was just **pulling my leg** when he told me my favourite concert had been cancelled. He had me very scared!*



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LISTENING: GOOD ONE!

Funny Story 1: My friend lost his keys. He was looking everywhere. In his bedroom, in the bathroom, and even in the cooker in the kitchen! He said that he needed to be somewhere for a meeting so he was very worried. He asked us if we could take him to the meeting if he could not find his keys. We said, of course! However, he told us that he had one last place to look. He went out the front door, and my other friend and I didn't understand what was happening. About two minutes later, he called us and said that he found his keys. We asked: "where were they?" He said, this is a little embarrassing, but I left them in my car, in the ignition! The car had been running for over two hours.

Funny Story 2: My friend's birthday was coming up. We told him there was going to be a big party for him the next weekend. He started to get really excited, and started to tell different people about it. However, they said they didn't know anything about it, and he started to get suspicious. On the day of his birthday, the host of the party called us to tell us that he had to cancel because he had an emergency and he had to leave the city. Our friend was really disappointed, but we told him we would have a fun night at our house together. Later, we told him we were going to dinner. We got in the car and put a blindfold on him. Why? We were taking him to a surprise party at a different friend's house. The first party was fake the whole time to try and confuse him! Everyone had a great time.

Funny Story 3: One summer my family and I went on holiday to a resort in Mexico. They had a great pool in the hotel, and so each day the whole family would go down for hours and hours just to relax. After a few days, my cousin was coming up with a plan to play a joke on my brother. My brother was standing on the edge of the pool, very close to the water. My cousin looked at me, and put his finger over his mouth, basically telling me to be quiet. He went up to my brother and tried to push him into the pool. However, when he pushed my brother he lost his own balance and also fell into the pool! Everyone in my family was making fun of him the rest of the day.



CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE



VOCABULARY: PUNS AND HOMOPHONES

What is a pun?

A pun is a linguistic resource we use when someone plays either with the sound of a word (homophones) or with its meaning to make a joke. Check the following examples:

Question – *What color is the wind?*

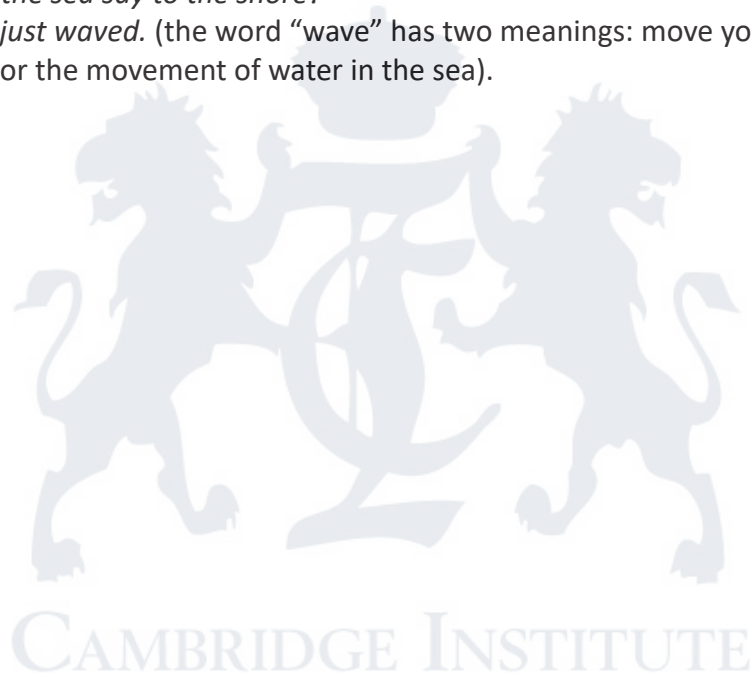
Answer – *Blew* (the past simple form of the verb “to blow” is a homophone of the adjective “blue” as both words have the same pronunciation).

Thus, a homophone is a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning, and may differ in spelling:

“Rose” (flower) and “rose” (past tense of the verb “rise”) – Difference in meaning. “Two” and “too” – Difference in meaning and spelling.

Question – *What did the sea say to the shore?*

Answer – *Nothing. It just waved.* (the word “wave” has two meanings: move your hand to say “hello” and “goodbye” or the movement of water in the sea).





VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

As blind as a bat

Bats are blind, so this is meant to describe someone who can't see very well.

*I tell my dad he needs glasses. He says no, but I swear, he's **as blind as a bat**.*

As cool as a cucumber

Used to describe someone who is very relaxed, even in a stressful situation.

*He remained **cool as a cucumber** even when the bank was getting robbed.*

As dead as a dodo

Dodo birds are extinct, so this means very dead or not working anymore.

*I tried to turn on my old computer this morning, but I think I have to say that it's **dead as a dodo**.*

As free as a bird

As a bird can fly wherever it wants, this means you can make your own decisions.

*After he was released from prison, he was again **as free as a bird**, and promised to make better decisions this time.*

As fresh as a daisy

Something to describe someone who is ready and revived.

*I feel **as fresh as a daisy** after that wonderful shower this morning.*

As light as a feather

Light in weight.

*Luckily my sister is still **as light as a feather**, so when she fell asleep in the car I could carry her back to the house.*

Like chalk and cheese

Two things that are different.

*They are twins, but they are **like chalk and cheese**. They have really different interests.*

Like two peas in a pod

Two things that are very similar.

*I'm glad they are a couple. They are **like two peas in a pod**, so they get on very well.*

Like a fish out of water

To be in an uncomfortable situation.

*During his first day of his new job, he felt **like a fish out of water**.*

Work like a dog

To work very hard.

*I need to make some money, so I have been **working like a dog**.*

