

Register – formal vs. informal

There are a number of different words in English that mean the same thing. However, your choice of which one to use will depend on the register you are speaking or writing in.

Formal / neutral

Dan I want to go into town tonight – have some **food** in my favourite restaurant ... but I haven't got much **money**. So please don't **get angry** if I ask you this, but could I possibly **borrow** some from you?

Michelle Yes, of course. That's not a problem.

Informal / slang

Dan I want to go into town tonight – have some **nosh** in my **fave** restaurant ... but I'm out of **dosh**. Don't **go ballistic** if I ask you this, but can I **scrounge** some off you?

Michelle Sure – no worries.

Look at the table below. It shows what register you are likely to be speaking or writing in when you use each word or expression.

Formal	Neutral	Very informal (slang)
amelioration	improvement	
	borrow	scrounge
conceive	think up	
	courage	guts
denote	stand for	
deteriorate	get worse	
	disappointed	gutted
	doctor	quack
	food	nosh, grub
frequent	go to	
	get angry	go ballistic
go amiss	go wrong	go pear-shaped
	money	dosh, readies, dough
negate	wipe out	
notwithstanding	despite this	
repast	meal	
	terrible	lousy
thereby	in this way	
trigger	cause	
whereby	by which means, by which method	

amelioration / improvement	NOUN If there is an amelioration in something, it gets better or easier in some way.
borrow / scrounge	1 VERB If you borrow something that belongs to someone else, you take it or use it for a period of time, usually with their permission. 2 VERB If you borrow money from someone or from a bank, they give it to you and you agree to pay it back at some time in the future.
conceive / think up	VERB / PHRASAL VERB If you conceive a plan or idea, you think of it and work out how it can be done.
courage / guts	NOUN Courage is the quality shown by someone who decides to do something difficult or dangerous, even though they may be afraid.
denote / stand for	1 VERB / PHRASAL VERB What a symbol denotes is what it represents. 2 VERB / PHRASAL VERB What a word or name denotes is what it means or refers to.
deteriorate / get worse	VERB / PHRASE If something deteriorates , it becomes worse in some way.
disappointed / gutted	ADJECTIVE If you are disappointed , you are sad because something has not happened or because something is not as good as you had hoped.
doctor / quack	NOUN A doctor is someone who is qualified in medicine and treats people who are ill.
food / nosh, grub	NOUN Food is what people and animals eat.
frequent / go to	VERB / PHRASAL VERB If someone frequents a place, they visit it.
go amiss / go wrong / go pear-shaped	PHRASE If something goes amiss , it goes wrong.
go ballistic / get angry	PHRASE If someone goes ballistic , they get very angry.
money / dosh, readies, dough	NOUN Money is the coins or bank notes that you use to buy things, or the sum that you have in a bank account.
negate / wipe out	1 VERB / PHRASAL VERB If one thing negates another, it causes that other thing to lose the effect or value that it had. 2 VERB / PHRASAL VERB If someone negates something, they say that it does not exist.
notwithstanding / despite	PREPOSITION If something is true notwithstanding something else, it is true in spite of that other thing.
repast / meal	NOUN A repast is a meal.
terrible / lousy	1 ADJECTIVE If you feel terrible , you feel extremely ill or unhappy. If you tell someone that they look terrible , you mean that they look as if they are extremely ill or unhappy. 2 ADJECTIVE If something is terrible , it is very bad or of very poor quality.

Word Finder

thereby / in this way	ADVERB / PHRASE You use thereby to introduce an important result or consequence of the event or action you have just mentioned.
trigger / cause	NOUN If something acts as a trigger for another thing such as an illness, event, or situation, the first thing causes the second thing to begin to happen or exist.
whereby / by which	CONJUNCTION / PHRASE A system or action whereby something happens, is one that makes that thing happen.

Exercise 1

Find the words or phrases that do not belong, as shown.

1	bad	terrible	lousy	gutted
2	food	grub	guts	nosh
3	go amiss	go wrong	go ballistic	go pear-shaped
4	money	repast	dosh	readies

Exercise 2

Match the two parts.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 That doctor doesn't know what he's doing. | a He's always scrounging. |
| 2 She was very disappointed not to have made the team. | b She's definitely got worse. |
| 3 We often frequent that café. | c He's got real guts. |
| 4 He borrowed £30 from me, again. | d We go there most lunchtimes. |
| 5 He's got a lot of courage, that guy. | e He's a quack. |
| 6 She's deteriorated overnight. | f She was gutted. |

Exercise 3

Decide if the pairs of sentences have the same meaning.

- A She conceived the plan while sailing across the Channel.

B She thought up the plan when she was sailing across the Channel.
- A Steve has an intense dislike for George, notwithstanding their similar political views.

B Steve hates George, because the two of them have differing political opinions.
- A Taking vitamin supplements can lead to the amelioration of this skin condition.

B This skin condition will show improvement with the taking of vitamins.
- A They have devised a traffic flow system whereby people share private transport.

B By avoiding the use of private transport, the traffic system flows better.
- A I'm fairly certain it was cleaning out the dusty attic that triggered his asthma attack.

B I think his asthma attack was caused by cleaning out the dusty attic.

Exercise 4

Rearrange the letters to find words. Use the definitions to help you.

- 1 steper _____ (meal)
- 2 gnnidttasowhtin _____ (despite, in spite of)
- 3 rweyebh _____ (by which means/method)
- 4 eetgna _____ (wipe out)
- 5 needot _____ (stand for)
- 6 ybhreet _____ (in this way)

Exercise 5

Put the correct word or phrase in each gap.

grub | ballistic | scrounging | going pear-shaped | guts | lousy | dosh | gutted

Hi guys!

Having a fab time at the festival – wish you were here! Arrived a bit late and missed Jim’s favourite band – he was ¹ _____. Back to his cheerful self again now though. Steph went ² _____ at Neil when she found out he’d left her boots at home – the weather’s awful and it’s really muddy. The ³ _____’s good – tasty and cheap – we’ve hardly used the barbecue we brought. Tilly’s ⁴ _____ as usual because she didn’t bring enough ⁵ _____. She needs to get a better job and start paying for herself! Pete got up on stage and joined in the singing – he’s got ⁶ _____, that one!

See you next week,

Trix

Exercise 6

Which sentences are correct?

- 1 What does LASER stand on? I never remember, no matter how many times I ask.
- 2 A bunch of us were planning to make a bonfire on the beach, but it’s all gone pear-shaped because health and safety have interfered.
- 3 Bob, the dog, went ballistic overnight and passed away early the next morning.
- 4 The company negated her contract when they found out she’d lied about her experience.
- 5 The plan is to save more water, thereby avoiding such frequent shortages.
- 6 This food is absolutely deteriorating. I can’t believe they have the cheek to serve it.

Words that are used together (collocations)

Collocations are words that fit together to make new phrases.

For example, a minimal number of staff on duty during a public holiday could be described as **skeleton staff**, but not ~~thin~~ staff.

Tables can be effective in helping you remember different collocations. Look at the different verb + noun combinations below, which appear in the exercises in this unit.

claim	the life of someone
come	to light to terms with something under attack
get	to grips with something
pay	your respects
relish	an idea

Now look at some adjective + noun combinations that you can use.

a brisk	walk
an extinct	volcano
a feeble	attempt
a formidable	opponent
the genuine	article
in great	detail
a leisurely	walk
a lengthy	meeting
personal	effects
a vivid	description

Word Finder	brisk	ADJECTIVE A brisk walk is a quick and energetic walk.
	claim the life of	PHRASE If something such as a war or accident claims someone's life , they are killed by it.
	come to light	PHRASE If a fact comes to light , it becomes obvious or becomes known.
	come to terms with	PHRASE If you come to terms with something, you learn to accept and deal with it.
	come under attack	PHRASE If a place comes under attack , it starts to be attacked.
	death toll	NOUN The death toll of an accident, disaster, or war is the number of people who die in it.
	extinct	ADJECTIVE An extinct volcano is one that no longer erupts.

feeble	ADJECTIVE A feeble attempt to do something is not very good or likely to succeed.
formidable	ADJECTIVE Someone who is formidable is very great or impressive, and likely to be difficult to defeat.
genuine article	PHRASE If you say that something or someone is the genuine article , you mean that they are a real example of something and not false or an imitation.
get to grips with	PHRASE If you get to grips with something such as a problem, you start to deal with it or understand it.
leisurely	ADJECTIVE A leisurely walk is a slow and relaxed walk.
lengthy	ADJECTIVE A lengthy event or process lasts for a long time.
pay your respects	PHRASE If you pay your respects to someone, you go to see them or speak to them in order to show politeness.
personal effects	NOUN Your personal effects are things that belong to you and that you have or carry with you at a particular time.
relish	VERB If you relish something such as an idea or opportunity, you like, enjoy, or look forward to it very much.
skeleton staff	NOUN A skeleton staff is the smallest number of staff necessary in order to run an organization or service.
track record	NOUN If you talk about the track record of a person, company, or product, you are referring to their past performance, achievements, or failures in it.
vivid	ADJECTIVE A vivid description is very clear and detailed.

Exercise 1

Put the correct word in each gap.

volcano | article | toll | walk | attempt | record |
idea | staff | detail

- 1 a brisk _____
- 2 the genuine _____
- 3 in great _____
- 4 a skeleton _____
- 5 a track _____
- 6 a feeble _____

Exercise 2

Find the wrong or extra word in each sentence.

- 1 Unless the government gets down to grips with inflation in the very near future, they'll soon be completely out of favour with the electorate.
- 2 The true causes of the resignation of the entire committee became clear when certain irregularities in the accounts came to day light.
- 3 Joseph really relished in the idea of going to the fancy dress party disguised as an extra-terrestrial.
- 4 A large number of well-wishers waited patiently to pay their due respects at the memorial to those killed in the two world wars.
- 5 It can be very hard to come to favourable terms with being made redundant with little or no notice.
- 6 The sinking of the fishing vessel claimed for the lives of two members of the crew.

Exercise 3

Are the highlighted words correct or incorrect in the sentences?

- 1 The boxer looked the **genuine article** , but his looks belied him.
- 2 Colin visited the cemetery to **pay his respect** to the grandfather he had never known.
- 3 I **revelled the idea** of spending the next six months trekking across Africa.
- 4 During the night the factory operated with just **skeleton employees** .
- 5 As we approached the hive, we **went under attack** from a swarm of infuriated bees.
- 6 The presidential candidate faced a **formidable opponent** in the shape of the extremely popular leader of the opposition.

Exercise 4

Complete the sentences by writing one phrase in each gap.

great detail | lengthy meeting | feeble attempt | vivid description |
genuine article | death toll | personal effects

- 1 Gordon gave me a _____ of the woman he was to marry.
- 2 My aunt went into _____ about all her many ailments.
- 3 When the artist passed away at the height of his popularity, collectors competed to buy his _____.
- 4 It was a _____ but one in which not a single decision was reached.
- 5 One of the paintings was clearly a poor imitation by a student, the other was the _____ – a hitherto unknown masterpiece.
- 6 Despite the severity of the earthquake, the _____ was less than a dozen.

Exercise 5

Complete the sentences by writing one word or phrase in each gap.

- 1 The doctor went into far _____ detail about the disease than I could bear.
- 2 Not _____ respects when her uncle had died, Carla now took the opportunity to do so.
- 3 Harriet was offered the post as she was the candidate with by far the strongest track _____ in marketing.
- 4 It was many years before Misha fully came _____ with his ignominious expulsion from school.
- 5 So many people had gone down with flu that the office was being run by a skeleton _____.
- 6 Scientists do not agree with the common misconception that volcanoes that have not erupted in recorded history are _____.

Exercise 6

Decide if the pairs of sentences have the same meaning.

- 1 A The death toll in the epidemic reached over 5,000.
B Over 5,000 people died in the epidemic.
- 2 A The Roman army came under attack from a Celtic tribe as it crossed the river.
B The Roman army crossed the river in order to attack a Celtic tribe.
- 3 A Larry's jokes were a feeble attempt to make us all laugh.
B We all found Larry's jokes entertaining.
- 4 A I had a lengthy meeting with my solicitor about the status of my late mother's will.
B My solicitor and I spent a long time discussing the status of my late mother's will.
- 5 A The actor's personal effects were shared among his closest friends.
B The actor had a great effect on all his closest friends.

Phrases with *do*, *get* and *make*

There are a number of collocations in English that use different verbs such as **do**, **get** and **make**, where the verb itself carries no real meaning. These verbs used in this way are sometimes also called *empty verbs*, because the meaning often comes from the second part of the collocation, or the context.

- Lee** Phew! We **made it!** The restaurant's still serving.
- Clara** Well, what did you expect? You **did 100 mph** along the motorway! **It won't do**, Lee. One day, you'll be in trouble.
- Lee** What?? I don't **get it** – you said this place **did good food**, so I **did my utmost** to get us here.
- Clara** Yeah, I know... Sorry, Lee. Let's **make peace** before we go in. Anyway, you'll no doubt **make a fantastic racing driver** one day. The food here reminds me of when we **did India last year**. Come on, let's eat. I'm starving!

Look at some of the combinations with **do** and **make** that you will meet in this unit.

Verbs	Phrases
do	away with time (in prison) your utmost
make	a note of a point of an exception ends meet peace time to, time for war on yourself at home yourself understood

Word Finder	do away with	PHRASAL VERB To do away with something means to remove or get rid of it completely. To do away with someone means to kill them.
	do time	PHRASE If someone does time , they spend time in prison for a crime they have committed.
	do your utmost	PHRASE If you do your utmost , you try as hard as you can to do something.
	get it	PHRASE If you get something that is said, you understand it.
	make yourself at home	PHRASE If you make yourself at home , you behave in an informal, relaxed way because you feel comfortable and welcome in a place.

make ends meet	PHRASE If you make ends meet , you manage to make just enough money for the things that you really need, but no more.
make an exception	PHRASE If you make an exception , you allow someone or something not to be included in a general statement, judgment, or rule.
make it	PHRASE If you make it somewhere, you manage to arrive there in time for what you want to do.
make a note of something	PHRASE If you make a note of something, you write it down somewhere so that you will remember it.
make peace	PHRASE If you make peace with someone, you agree to stop arguing or fighting with them.
make a point of doing something	PHRASE If you make a point of doing something, you do it in a very deliberate or obvious way.
make time	PHRASE If you make time for something or make time to do something, you arrange to have some free time so that you can do it.
make war on	PHRASE If you make war on someone or something that you are opposed to, you do things to stop them succeeding.
it/that won't do	PHRASE If you say that something won't do , you mean that it is not good enough or not acceptable.

Exercise 1

Choose the correct word.

- I had to speak very slowly just to **make / get** myself understood.
- I've **done / made** a note of all the jobs that need doing.
- Come in! Sit down and **make / get** yourself at home.
- Luis was **making / doing** his utmost to appear cheerful, but I guessed he was feeling pretty anxious.
- These cars can **do / make** 120 miles per hour without any difficulty.
- Like everyone else, I'm busy, but I try to **make / do** time to see my friends.

Exercise 2

Match the two parts.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Most restaurants won't take on new staff for such short periods of time. | a You've got me there! |
| 2 How about Café Pisa for lunch? | b No, next week will do. |
| 3 So how many pounds is twenty-nine kilos? | c Yes, just to make ends meet. |
| 4 Marina is really good at explaining things. | d Is that the place where they do really good pizzas? |
| 5 Does the work need to be done right now? | e She'd make a good teacher. |
| 6 And Kurt has two jobs, does he? | f Perhaps they'll make an exception for you. |

Exercise 3

For each question, tick the correct answer.

- 1 If you make ends meet, do you
 - hold hands with someone?
 - have just enough money to pay for the necessities of life?
 - succeed in communicating with someone?
- 2 If someone does away with something, do they
 - abolish or get rid of something?
 - put something in a cupboard?
 - lose something?
- 3 If you say that someone makes it, do you mean they
 - pretend to be something they are not?
 - succeed in a particular activity or career in which most people fail, for example acting?
 - laugh very loudly?
- 4 If someone does time, do they
 - wait for someone?
 - do something very slowly?
 - spend a period in prison?
- 5 If someone does their utmost, do they
 - try extremely hard to do something?
 - die?
 - stretch their arm in order to reach something?

Exercise 4

Which sentences are correct?

- 1 I don't usually break for coffee when I'm working but I'll do an exception for you.
- 2 The government has called on the two sides to make peace.
- 3 We must continue the fight against those who make war on society.
- 4 Sara does a point of using people's names when she's speaking to them.
- 5 I hope you did a note of your password.
- 6 We helped ourselves to food and drinks and generally made ourselves at home.

Exercise 5

Are the highlighted words correct or incorrect in this text?

Spain was fabulous – Seville and Huelva the highlights of our trip (we thought we'd **do** both cities while we were in the south). Andrew seemed to know all about every church and castle that we visited – he'd **do** a good tour guide! Sadly, my Spanish is fairly poor and I had some difficulty **making** myself understood. Andrew, meanwhile, **did** a point of ordering in perfect Spanish everywhere we went. If you ever visit either city, btw, I've **done** a note of two restaurants in particular that **do** the best paella.

People – character and behaviour

Character reference

CONFIDENTIAL

Name of applicant: *James Macfarlane*

Post applied for: *Team leader*

How long have you known the applicant? *5 years*

In what capacity? *As his line manager*

Please use the space below to supply information that will support his/her application:

I have worked closely with James over the past five years, during which time he has shown himself to be a conscientious and trustworthy young man. He is an extremely gifted and knowledgeable scientist, but at the same time very modest about his talents. He has also proved to be extremely supportive of the PhD students who have worked with him. I would have no hesitation in recommending him for this post.

Look at the table below. It shows the adjectives you will learn in the unit, and whether they convey a positive or negative meaning.

Positive	Negative
alert	anti-social
chatty	introvert
courageous	narrow-minded
extrovert	
rational	
heroic	
sincere	
stable	
talkative	



alert	ADJECTIVE If you are alert , you are paying full attention to things around you and are prepared to deal with anything that might happen.
anti-social	ADJECTIVE Someone who is anti-social is unwilling to meet and be friendly with other people.
chatty	ADJECTIVE Someone who is chatty talks a lot in a friendly, informal way.
conscientious	ADJECTIVE Someone who is conscientious is very careful to do their work properly.
courageous	ADJECTIVE Someone who is courageous shows courage and bravery.
devastated	ADJECTIVE If you are devastated by something, you are very shocked and upset by it.
extrovert	1 ADJECTIVE Someone who is extrovert is very active, lively, and friendly. 2 NOUN An extrovert is someone who is extrovert.
frustrating	ADJECTIVE Something that is frustrating annoys you or makes you angry because you cannot do anything about the problems it causes.
gifted	ADJECTIVE Someone who is gifted has a natural ability to do something well.
heroic	ADJECTIVE If you describe a person or their actions as heroic , you admire them because they show extreme bravery.
introvert	NOUN An introvert is a quiet, shy person who finds it difficult to talk to people.
knowledgeable	ADJECTIVE Someone who is knowledgeable has or shows a clear understanding of many different facts about the world or about a particular subject.
modest	ADJECTIVE If you say that someone is modest , you approve of them because they do not talk much about their abilities or achievements.
narrow-minded	ADJECTIVE If you describe someone as narrow-minded , you are criticizing them because they are unwilling to consider new ideas or other people's opinions.
rational	ADJECTIVE A rational person is someone who is sensible and is able to make decisions based on intelligent thinking rather than on emotion.
sincere	ADJECTIVE If you say that someone is sincere , you approve of them because they really mean the things they say. You can also describe someone's behaviour and beliefs as sincere .
stable	ADJECTIVE If someone has a stable personality, they are calm and reasonable and their mood does not change suddenly.
supportive	ADJECTIVE If you are supportive , you are kind and helpful to someone at a difficult or unhappy time in their life.
talkative	ADJECTIVE Someone who is talkative talks a lot.
trustworthy	ADJECTIVE A trustworthy person is reliable, responsible, and can be trusted completely.

Word Finder

Exercise 1

Match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 He seemed very knowledgeable | a when he is driving long distances. |
| 2 He uses various strategies to stay alert | b when I spoke to him about the history of the castle. |
| 3 He was absolutely devastated | c when I called to congratulate him. |
| 4 I think he was being sincere | d when his marriage failed. |
| 5 He was modest about his achievements | e when he said he admired my work. |
| 6 He was extremely supportive | f when I was having problems at work. |

Exercise 2

Choose the correct word.

- Sadly, she lost her **concerted** / **courageous** / **crushing** fight against the disease.
- Despite his success, he remains **middling** / **marginal** / **modest** about his own work.
- A job in sales would be perfect for her because she is such an **enthusiast** / **extrovert** / **entrepreneur**.
- He often stays late at work because he's very **conscientious** / **conscious** / **conspicuous**.
- Your new friend is extremely **tentative** / **talkative** / **tenuous**.
- She seems to be incapable of **rational** / **residual** / **reciprocal** behaviour.

Exercise 3

Put the correct word in each gap.

stable | extrovert | anti-social | gifted | frustrating | supportive

Peter and Daisy

My brother Peter has always been a ¹ _____ pianist, but he never seemed able to settle down and was always moving from job to job. However, since 2005, when he met his future wife Daisy, his life has been much more ² _____. He and Daisy now have a lovely home in Devon, and she's very ³ _____ of his career.

I still worry about them though, because although Daisy's lovely, she's a great ⁴ _____. I sometimes think it must be ⁵ _____ for her to be married to someone like my brother, who is really terribly ⁶ _____ and would always rather sit at home than go out with friends.

Exercise 4

Put the synonym in each gap.

distraught | genuine | dependable | logical | talkative | informed | talented | heroic

- 1 devastated _____
- 2 sincere _____
- 3 courageous _____
- 4 knowledgeable _____
- 5 gifted _____
- 6 chatty _____
- 7 rational _____
- 8 trustworthy _____

Exercise 5

Complete the sentences by writing one word in each gap.

courageous | introvert | modest | frustrating | narrow-minded | trustworthy | talkative | devastated

- 1 She is an _____ by nature and finds the social aspects of her job very difficult.
- 2 He took the _____ decision to give up a well-paid job and train as an actor.
- 3 They are too _____ to accept that a different way of life can be just as valid as their own.
- 4 Although she's too _____ to admit it, she knows the company would never have succeeded without her.
- 5 Her inability to win a major tournament has been extremely _____ for her.
- 6 He needs to be sure that all his security staff are completely _____.

Exercise 6

Which sentences are correct?

- 1 He gave a very gifted performance of the Beethoven.
- 2 Over the summer, there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour.
- 3 It must be frustrating of you when nobody replies to your letters.
- 4 He was conscientious to work hard before the exams.
- 5 My parents were supportive to my decision to go to drama school.
- 6 I was shocked by their narrow-minded responses to my announcement.

Talking about experiences

I've always had an **aptitude** for managing people. So when the chance came to join the senior management team at my company, not long after I'd joined, I jumped at it. I was **highly ambitious**, I **excelled** at what I did, and I **fitted in** with the team immediately – I felt very **at home** in that environment. And as someone who was largely **self-taught** in terms of my **specialization**, I thought I'd done amazingly well. I loved the job, and **immersed** myself in it completely, and the **lifestyle** that went with it.

Imagine my dismay, then, when the company's fortunes took a downturn, and I was **made redundant** – last in, first out, as they told me, and that did make me feel rather an **outsider**. You can see the **impact** it would undoubtedly have on my life.

Anyway, I was at least **eligible** for some redundancy pay. I **opted for** some programmes that would help me **retrain**, and within no time at all I found another job – even better than my previous one. So the message is, if you find yourself in my position, don't give up. The **consequences** may not be as dire as you think!

ambitious	ADJECTIVE If you are ambitious , you have a strong desire to be successful, rich, or powerful.
aptitude	NOUN If you have an aptitude for something, you are naturally good at it.
consequence	NOUN The consequences of something are the results or effects of it.
distinction	NOUN Distinction is the quality of being very good or better than other things of the same type.
eligible	ADJECTIVE If you are eligible for something, you are qualified or able to have it.
excel	VERB If you excel at something, you are very good at it.
feel at home	PHRASE If you feel at home in a situation, you feel comfortable and relaxed in it.
fit in	PHRASAL VERB If you fit in with a group of people, you are happy and accepted in that group because you are similar to them.
immerse yourself	VERB If you immerse yourself in something, you become completely involved in it.
impact	NOUN The impact that something has on a situation, process, or person is a sudden and powerful effect that it has on them.
lifestyle	NOUN The lifestyle of a particular person or group of people is the living conditions, behaviour, and habits that are typical of them or are chosen by them.
be made redundant	PHRASE If someone is made redundant , they are asked to leave a company because there is no longer a job for them.
nurture	1 VERB If you nurture something such as a young child or a young plant, you care for it while it is growing and developing. 2 VERB If you nurture plans, ideas, or people, you encourage them or help them to develop.

Word Finder	opt for	PHRASAL VERB If you opt for something, you choose it or decide to do it.
	outsider	NOUN An outsider is someone who does not belong to a particular group or organization.
	retrain	VERB If you retrain , you learn new skills, especially in order to get a new job.
	self-made	ADJECTIVE Self-made is used to describe people who have become successful and rich through their own efforts, especially if they started life without money, education, or high social status
	self-taught	ADJECTIVE If you are self-taught , you have learned a skill by yourself rather than being taught it by someone else.
	specialization	NOUN Your specialization is a particular area of your work or subject that you know a lot about.

Exercise 1

Are the highlighted words correct or incorrect in the sentences?

- 1 When he arrived in Cambridge, he immersed himself **in** his studies.
- 2 After having children, Vicki decided to retrain **for** a social worker.
- 3 Watching these athletes winning Olympic medals made a big impact **of** me.
- 4 For her degree subjects, she opted **for** Philosophy with French.
- 5 Freya failed her exams and **as** a consequence, had to give up her plans to be a barrister.
- 6 Because she was so much older, she felt she didn't fit in **to** the other students.

Exercise 2

Complete the sentences by writing one word in each gap.

lifestyle | self-made | nurture | specialization | ambitious | redundant

- 1 She is a surgeon – her _____ is hands.
- 2 When orders started to drop, the company made over 40 people _____.
- 3 His family isn't wealthy – he is a _____ man.
- 4 She needs to earn plenty of money to fund her lavish _____.
- 5 Her drama teacher helped to _____ her talent.
- 6 My friend, Ruth, has always been highly _____.

Exercise 3

Choose the correct word.

- 1 I went to Italy in order to immerse **me / myself / I** in the language.
- 2 Problems at home had a negative impact **in / of / on** Wendi's studies.
- 3 Peter was made **retired / redundant / sacked** at the age of 50.
- 4 My new colleagues did their best to make me **feel / seem / make** welcome.
- 5 Many of these students are **deeply / absolutely / highly** ambitious.
- 6 Parker soon **showed / found / got** an aptitude for the work.

Exercise 4

Put the correct word in each gap.

eligible | distinction | aptitude | raised | outsider | excelled

Scottish lass wins piano prize

Yesterday, Rosie McBride, ¹ _____ by her grandparents in the tiny Scottish village of Cairbridge, won the prestigious Chopin Prize for young pianists.

Rosie showed an ² _____ for music early on. Although her family didn't have much money, they discovered that if she could win a place at a specialist music school, she would be ³ _____ for a grant.

The school Rosie went to was in London. Coming from a small village in Scotland, she says she felt something of an ⁴ _____, but she loved her studies and ⁵ _____ at the piano.

Today, Ms McBride is already a pianist of great ⁶ _____ and is in demand for performances all over the world.

Exercise 5

Put each sentence into the correct order.

1 carpenters who / use the / are self-taught / may not necessarily / best techniques /.

2 a plumber / made redundant / after he was / to retrain as / Michael decided /.

3 nurture the / these specialist camps / talent of / help to / young sportspeople /.

4 of copyright / the area / is in / as a lawyer / her specialization /.

5 service, employees / two days of holiday / after ten years' / an extra / are eligible for /.

6 and will / do anything / my boss is / to get promoted / highly ambitious /.

Natural phenomena

Read the report about the different natural phenomena:

A major clean-up operation is under way in the capital today, in the aftermath of the earth tremors over the weekend that reduced some older buildings to rubble. The death toll was low, as there were few casualties, but authorities say they have detected continued seismic activity in the area, and aftershocks continue to be felt across the city.

Due to its proximity to an area of tectonic plate movement, the city has excellent emergency measures in place in the event of earthquakes. However, city authorities are now concerned about available water supplies, as the recent drought has put increased demands upon reserves, and also the increased risk of mudslides. Neighbouring countries have already pledged support for a relief operation if the alarm is raised and one becomes necessary in the event of further tremors. Arrangements have been made for an air drop of food and medicine.

Meanwhile to the north of the capital, eruptions are continuing from the steaming crater of the country's biggest volcano, with a steady flow of molten lava raising concerns for the safety of small villages close to the volcano.

aftermath	NOUN The aftermath of an important event, especially a harmful one, is the situation that results from it.
aftershock	NOUN Aftershocks are smaller earthquakes which occur after a large earthquake.
air drop	NOUN An air drop is a delivery of supplies by aircraft to an area.
death toll	NOUN The death toll of an accident, disaster, or war is the number of people who die in it.
desertification	NOUN Desertification is the process by which a piece of land becomes dry, empty, and unsuitable for growing trees or crops on.
drought	NOUN A drought is a long period of time during which no rain falls.
grieve	VERB If you grieve over something, especially someone's death, you feel very sad about it.
lava flow	NOUN Lava flow is the movement of very hot liquid rock coming out of a volcano.
molten lava	NOUN Molten lava is very hot liquid rock that comes out of a volcano.

Word Finder	mudslide	NOUN A mudslide is a large amount of mud sliding down a mountain, usually causing damage or destruction.
	petrified	ADJECTIVE A petrified substance or object has gradually turned to stone.
	pledge	1 NOUN When someone makes a pledge , they make a serious promise that they will do something. 2 VERB When someone pledges to do something, they promise in a serious way to do it. When they pledge something, they promise to give it.
	raise the alarm	PHRASE If you raise the alarm , you warn people of danger.
	relief operation	NOUN A relief operation is an organized attempt to bring help in the form of money, food, or clothing to people in an area that has suffered war or a natural disaster.
	rubble	NOUN When a building is destroyed, the pieces of brick, stone, or other materials that remain are referred to as rubble .
	seismic activity	NOUN Seismic activity is the movement of parts of the Earth's crust, for example in an earthquake.
	sleet	NOUN Sleet is rain that is partly frozen.
	stalactite	NOUN A stalactite is a long piece of rock which hangs down from the roof of a cave, formed by the slow dripping of water containing minerals.
	stalagmite	NOUN A stalagmite is a long piece of rock which sticks up from the floor of a cave, formed by the slow dripping of water containing minerals.
	tectonic plate	NOUN Tectonic plates are the large sections of the Earth's crust.

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences by writing one word or phrase in each gap.

tectonic plates | seismic activity | molten lava | relief operation | death toll | rubble

- Houses and schools were reduced to _____ in the earthquake.
- A massive _____ is under way to help survivors of flooding in the region.
- Astonishingly, it is thought these animals can detect _____ days in advance of an earthquake.
- An earthquake occurs at a fault line when _____ collide.
- The _____ has risen to over 420 in the days since the quake.
- _____ ran downhill from the vents and surface cracks on the eastern side of the volcano.

Exercise 2

For each question, choose the correct answer.

- 1 What might occur after a major earthquake?
 aftermaths
 aftershocks
- 2 What do you call rain that is partly frozen?
 sleet
 rubble
- 3 What do you call a long piece of hardened minerals which hangs from the ceiling of a cave?
 stalactite
 stalagmite
- 4 When a building is destroyed, what is left behind?
 rubble
 lava
- 5 What do you call a plan to provide assistance, like food, clothing and medicine, to people who have been affected by a natural disaster or war?
 seismic activity
 relief operation

Exercise 3

Rearrange the letters to find words. Use the definitions to help you.

- 1 ificatsedertion _____ (the process by which a piece of land becomes dry, empty and unsuitable for growing plants or crops on)
- 2 alva wolf _____ (the movement of very hot liquid rock out of a volcano)
- 3 dieteprif cork _____ (a piece of very old wood that has gradually turned into stone)
- 4 tietsaltca _____ (a long piece of hardened minerals which hangs from the ceiling of a cave)
- 5 saltgatime _____ (a long piece of hardened minerals which forms on the floor of a cave)
- 6 fatrechsok _____ (a smaller earthquake which occurs after a large earthquake)
- 7 sliddume _____ (a large amount of mud sliding down a mountain, usually causing destruction)

Exercise 4

Match the words and phrases with their definition.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 death toll | a one of the very large areas of rock forming the earth's crust |
| 2 drought | b a long period of time during which no rain falls |
| 3 molten lava | c the number of people who die in a natural disaster, accident, etc. |
| 4 seismic activity | d movement below the earth's surface, usually the movement of tectonic plates |
| 5 tectonic plate | e the very hot liquid rock that comes out of a volcano |

Words and phrases for linking ideas

Tom and Marta are both law students and are talking about a seminar they need to prepare for.

- Marta** So, Tom – ready to discuss the case study for tomorrow’s law seminar?
- Tom** Well, I’ve worked through it, and **by and large** I understand it but it’s heavy going, and **on top of that**, I’m not that familiar with the jargon.
- Marta** **All the same**, we have to prepare it for tomorrow. **Otherwise** the seminar will be a nightmare, **in a word**.
- Tom** OK, well, let’s see ... the lawyer’s client – let’s call him Mr X – was owed some money by one of his customers, Mrs Y, and took action **accordingly**. He consulted his lawyer about legal proceedings. **Nonetheless** the lawyer counselled caution. Yes, the woman owed him a sizeable sum for some books he’d sold her on the internet, but **for all that**, the lawyer warned against going to court.
- Marta** Hmm, he feared negative repercussions, **namely** damage to Mr X’s reputation. **Better**, he felt, to explore other avenues first. **Moreover**, he was concerned that Mrs Y might have a case against Mr X – she had **correspondingly** alleged that the books she’d bought from him were of very poor quality – not fit for purpose, **in short**.
- Tom** Hmm ... **mind you**, if the enclosed photos were accurate, she had a point. They were quite worn, **whereas** he’d apparently told her they were brand new.
- Marta** ... Or **rather**, ‘in very good condition’, as he’d written in the seller’s description...

Word Finder	accordingly	ADVERB If you consider a situation and then act accordingly , the way you act depends on the nature of the situation.
	all the same	PHRASE You can say all the same to introduce a statement which indicates that a situation has not changed, in spite of what has just been said.
	better	ADJECTIVE You can say that it is better to do something when you are advising someone to do it.
	by and large	PHRASE If something is true by and large , it is generally true.
	conversely	ADVERB You say conversely to indicate that the situation you are about to describe is the opposite or reverse of the one you have just described.
	correspondingly	ADVERB You use correspondingly when describing a situation which is closely connected with one you have just mentioned or is similar to it.
	for all that	PHRASE You can use for all that when you accept that something is true, but want to introduce another statement which partly contradicts it.

Word Finder	in a word	PHRASE You can use in a word when you are going to describe a situation in one word or in a very short phrase.
	in the same way	PHRASE You use in the same way when mentioning a fact or situation that is similar to the one that you have just mentioned.
	likewise	ADVERB You use likewise when you are comparing two methods, states, or situations and saying that they are similar.
	mind you	PHRASE You use mind you to emphasize a piece of information that you are adding, especially when this explains what you have said or contradicts it.
	moreover	ADVERB You use moreover to introduce a piece of information that adds to or supports the previous statement.
	namely	ADVERB You use namely to introduce detailed information about the subject you are discussing, or a particular aspect of it.
	nonetheless	ADVERB You use nonetheless when saying something that contrasts with what has just been said.
	on top of that	PHRASE You can use on top of that to indicate that a particular problem exists in addition to a number of other problems.
	otherwise	ADVERB You use otherwise after stating a situation or fact, in order to say what the result or consequence would be if this situation or fact was not the case.
	rather	ADVERB You use rather when you are correcting something that you have just said, especially when you are describing a particular situation after saying what it is not.
thus	ADVERB You use thus to show that what you are about to mention is the result or consequence of something else that you have just mentioned.	
whereas	CONJUNCTION You use whereas to introduce a comment which contrasts with what is said in the main clause.	

Exercise 1

Choose the correct word or phrase.

Course outline: 20th century literature

The purpose of this short course is not to cover every aspect of 20th century literature.

¹**Likewise / Rather / Whereas**, it will focus on a few key writers, ²**namely / thus / conversely** Proust, Kafka, Steinbeck and Woolf.

³**Accordingly / Whereas / Otherwise** the two-year course is designed for students who have already studied literature, this course is suitable for beginners, and the level will be set

⁴**conversely / namely / accordingly**.

⁵**Whereas / Rather / Nonetheless**, students will be encouraged to produce work of a high standard. ⁶**Otherwise / In short / By and large**, this is the perfect introduction to modern literature for the intelligent non-specialist.

Exercise 2

Put the correct word in each gap.

nonetheless | likewise | otherwise | namely | correspondingly | thus

Dear Sir,

My wife and I ate at your new restaurant last week. The food was excellent, but our evening was spoiled ¹_____ by several other factors.

Firstly, when paying such high prices, one expects a ²_____ high level of service. Standards of decoration and cleanliness, ³_____, should be high. None of these things were the case.

One other issue caused me particular distress, ⁴_____ the lack of facilities for the disabled. Huge vases of flowers were positioned at the door to the restaurant, ⁵_____ making wheelchair access extremely difficult.

I hope that you will act promptly to make improvements; ⁶_____ I fear your new venture will not be successful.

Yours,

Michael Manners

Exercise 3

Which sentences are correct?

- 1 Jake's brother is very confident, whereas Jake himself is quite shy.
- 2 Some of our workers are more skilled and thus better paid than others.
- 3 In real life, nobody is all bad, or, otherwise, all good.
- 4 Sometimes we were given bread to eat or, better still, pizza.
- 5 People with more experience were nonetheless given more responsibility.
- 6 The hall was not intended for concerts, but better for religious worship.

Exercise 4

Match the two parts.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Tobias often stays out late. | a Mind you, she can afford it. |
| 2 She has her own cook and gardener. | b For all that, I wouldn't do any other job. |
| 3 Susana did all the driving and cooking on the trip. | c On top of that, everyone expected her to translate for them too. |
| 4 What did I think of the play? | d In a word: fantastic! |
| 5 Carol wasn't too much trouble. | e By and large, she behaved pretty well. |
| 6 Being a poet is a lonely life and I have almost no money. | f All the same, I was worried when he wasn't back by midnight. |