

Delexical verbs: 'have', 'take', 'make', 'give', 'go' and 'do'

We often use common verbs like *have* and *take* with nouns like *a shower*, *a drink*:

I took a shower. (= I showered.)

She had a drink. (= She drank something.)

We call these **delexical verbs** because the important part of the meaning is taken **out** of the **verb** and put **into** the **noun**.

We often put **adjectives** in front of the noun:

I took a cold shower.

She had a nice, refreshing drink.

The verbs used most frequently in this way are:

have

take

make

give

have

We use *have* with:

food and drink: a meal, breakfast, lunch, dinner, a snack, a cup of tea

talking: a chat, a conversation, a discussion, a talk

washing: a bath, a shower, a wash, a scrub

resting: a break, a holiday, a rest

disagreeing: an argument, a dispute, a fight, a quarrel

*I **had a good breakfast** before I left home.*

*We **had a long talk** about the problem.*

*The kids should **have a bath** before they go to bed.*

*She generally **had a short holiday** in July or August.*

*They **had a serious quarrel** about their father's will.*

We also use **have** with **nouns formed from verbs**:

*I think you should **have a look** at this.*

*She **had a bite** of the cake.*

*I'm thirsty. I'm going to **have a drink** of water.*

*I **had a listen** to that new CD in the car.*

*They are going to **have a swim**.*

take

We use **take** with:

washing: a bath, a shower, a wash

resting: a break, a holiday, a rest

*I always **take a cold shower** in the morning.*

*You look tired. You need to **take a break**.*

and with **these words**:

*care
care of*

*a turn
turns*

*trouble
the trouble*

*a chance
a risk*

*a decision
a photograph*

*We **took hundreds of photographs** on holiday.*
*Jane always **takes a lot of trouble** with her homework.*

We also use **take** with some nouns formed from verbs:

*I think you should **take a look** at this.*
*Let's **take a walk**.*
*They are going to **take a swim**.*

give

We use **give** with:

noises: a cry, a laugh, a scream, a shout, a whistle

facial expressions: a smile, a grin, a look, a glance

hitting: a kick, a punch, a slap, a push, a knock, a blow

affectionate actions: a hug, a kiss, a stroke

talking: some advice, an answer, some information, an interview, a lecture, some news, a report, a speech, a talk, a warning

*She **gave a loud laugh**.*
*John **gave a happy smile**.*
*He **gave me a nasty kick** on the leg.*
*She **gave the children a goodnight kiss** and put them to bed.*
*I have to **give a speech** at the meeting tomorrow.*

make

We use **make** with:

talking and sounds: a comment, an enquiry, a noise, a point, a promise, a sound, a speech, a suggestion

plans: arrangements, a choice, a decision, a plan, plans, an appointment, a date

Try not to **make a noise**.

They **made arrangements** to meet the next day.

go

We also use **go** as a delexical verb:

Shall we **go swimming** this afternoon? Or shall we **go for a walk**?

Mum and Dad **have gone shopping**.

We're **going dancing** tonight. Do you want to come?

We use **go** with **-ing verbs** for **common activities**:

We usually **go walking** at the weekend.

He **goes running** every evening after supper.

Mum's out. She's **gone shopping**.

We use **go for a** with **verbs to do with moving**:

<i>a jog</i>	<i>a ride</i>	<i>a swim</i>	<i>a run</i>	<i>a stroll</i>	<i>a walk</i>
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I want to get out of here. Let's **go for a walk**.

He's **gone for a ride** on his bike.

do

We use **do** with **-ing nouns to do with work**, especially work in the house:

It's your turn to **do the cooking**.

You **do the washing up** and I'll **do the drying**.

and with **other nouns to do with work**:

I need to **do a few jobs** around the house.

I can't come out this evening. I have a lot of **work to do**.

We use **do** with nouns when it is obvious what the action is:

*I'll have to **do my hair** before we go out. (= I'll have to brush my hair.)*

*Have you **done your teeth**? (= Have you cleaned your teeth?)*

A question like

*Have you **done the car**?*

could mean

*Have you **washed the car**?*

*Have you **mended the car**?*

*Have you **put petrol in the car**?*

depending on the context.

As / Like

Do you know how to use *as* and *like* correctly?



Look at these examples to see how *as* and *like* are used.

*I worked **as** an actor for two years.*

*I went home early **as** I felt ill.*

*He looks **as if** he hasn't slept.*

As you know, this is the third time I've had to complain.

*He looks **like** his dad.*

*She's **like** a sister to me.*

*Try to do something relaxing, **like** reading a book or having a bath.*

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

as and *like* are often confused since they can both be used for comparisons. There are, however, important differences.

Making comparisons

as + adjective + as* and *as much as

We often use the structure *as + adjective + as* or *as much as* to say if something has, or doesn't have, the same amount of that quality as something else.

She loves curry as much as I do.

He's not as tall as his brother.

It's not as expensive as the other hotel.

That dog is as big as that child!

You also have to use *as* in the expression *the same as*.

Your phone is the same as mine.

Texting is not the same as speaking in person.

like + noun

In the following comparisons, *like* is followed by a noun or a pronoun to say that two things are similar.

He's like a father to me.

She's acting like a child.

It's like a burger but with big mushrooms instead of bread.

There are lots of people like us.

It is also common to make comparisons using *like* with verbs of the senses.

She looks like her mother.

It sounds like a cat.

Nothing tastes like homemade lemonade.

It smells like medicine.

It feels like cotton.

as if/as though + clause

As if and *as though* can be used to compare a real situation to an imaginary situation. They are followed by a clause (a subject and verb).

*You look as if you've seen a ghost.
I felt as if I was floating above the ground.
You talk as though we're never going to see each other again.*

Giving examples

We can say *like* or *such as* to give examples.

*You could try a team sport like football, basketball or hockey.
You should take something soft, such as a towel, to lie on.*

Talking about a job or function

We can use *as* + noun to talk about a job or function.

*I worked as a shop assistant for two years.
He used his coat as a blanket to keep warm.*

as to connect two phrases

as can be used as a conjunction to connect two phrases. It can have different meanings.

as = 'because'

*All the tickets were sold out as we got there too late.
As the road was closed, I had to park on the next street.*

as = 'while' or 'during the time that'

*She called as I was getting out of the bath.
As they were arriving, we were leaving.*

as = 'in the way that'

*As we expected, it started to rain.
As you know, classes restart on 15 January.
As I said, I think this project will be a challenge.*

**** Note that in informal speech, people sometimes say *like* for 'in the way that'.**

Like I said, I didn't know her.

Do this exercise to test your grammar again.

Enough

Do you know how to use the word *enough*?



Look at these examples to see how *enough* is used.

She's not old enough to walk yet.

We are not acting fast enough to stop climate change.

I don't read enough.

Is there enough coffee for everyone?

We've had enough of their lies.

Grammar explanation

enough means 'as much as necessary'. It can be used with an adjective, an adverb, a verb or a noun. It can also act as a pronoun.

With adjectives and adverbs

enough comes after adjectives and adverbs.

I'm not tall enough to reach the top shelf.

Your marks are good enough to study engineering at university.

I couldn't write quickly enough and I ran out of time.

I've helped at conferences often enough to know what can go wrong.

With verbs

enough comes after verbs.

*I make sure I drink enough during the day.
I don't read enough but I'm going to start downloading books to my phone.*

With nouns

enough comes before nouns.

*There isn't enough bread to make sandwiches.
Have you got enough money?*

As a pronoun

enough can also be used without a noun.

*I'll get some more chairs. There aren't enough.
A: Do you want more coffee? B: No, I've had enough, thanks.*

We know what the noun is because of the context.

With an adjective and a noun

When *enough* is used with an adjective and a noun, two positions are possible but the meaning changes.

*We haven't got big enough envelopes.
We haven't got enough big envelopes.*

When *enough* is after the adjective (*big enough envelopes*), it describes the adjective – the envelopes are too small. When *enough* is before the adjective (*enough big envelopes*), it describes the noun phrase – we have some big envelopes, but we need more.

enough of

We normally only use *enough of* when it is followed by a determiner or a pronoun (*a/an/the, this/that, my/your/his, you/them, etc.*).

*There isn't enough of that bread to make sandwiches for everyone.
I've seen enough of his work to be able to recommend him.
There's enough of us to make a difference.*

Contrasting ideas

'in spite of', 'despite', 'although', 'even though' and 'though'

Do you know how to connect two contrasting ideas?



Look at these examples to see how *although*, *even though*, *in spite of* and *despite* are used.

Although we don't agree, I think she's a brilliant speaker.

Even though we don't agree, I think she's a brilliant speaker.

In spite of the law, people continue to use mobile phones while driving.

Despite the law, people continue to use mobile phones while driving.

Grammar explanation

Although, *even though*, *in spite of* and *despite* are all used to link two contrasting ideas or show that one fact makes the other fact surprising. They can all be used at the beginning or in the middle of the sentence.

Despite the rain, we enjoyed the festival.

We enjoyed the festival, despite the rain.

The main difference between *although*, *even though*, *in spite of* and *despite* is that they are used with different structures.

in spite of / despite

After *in spite of* and *despite*, we use a noun, gerund (-ing form of a verb) or a pronoun.

They never made much money, in spite of their success.

In spite of the pain in his leg, he completed the marathon.

Despite having a headache, I had a great birthday.

The train was cancelled. In spite of that, we arrived on time.

Note that it is common to use *in spite of* and *despite* with the expression *the fact that*, followed by a subject and verb.

In spite of the fact that he worked very hard, he didn't pass the exam.

Despite the fact that he worked very hard, he didn't pass the exam.

although / even though

After *although* and *even though*, we use a subject and a verb. *Even though* is slightly stronger and more emphatic than *although*.

I enjoyed the course, although I would have liked more grammar practice.

Although we saw each other every day, we didn't really know each other.

Even though she spoke very quietly, he understood every word.

She didn't get the job, even though she had all the necessary qualifications.

though

Though can be used in the same way as *although*.

Though I wasn't keen on the film, I thought the music was beautiful.

Though can also go at the end of the second phrase. This way of expressing contrasting ideas is most common in spoken English.

We waited ages for our food. The waiter was really nice, though.

'just', 'yet', 'still' and 'already'.

Do you know how to use *just*, *yet*, *still* and *already* with the present perfect?



Look at these examples to see how *just*, *yet*, *still* and *already* are used.

I've just seen Sai. He's really enjoying his new job.

We haven't decided what to do yet.

I still haven't called Yumi to see how she is.

I've already had lunch but I'll join you for coffee.

Grammar explanation

We often use *just*, *yet*, *still* and *already* with the present perfect because they are related to the present moment. This page focuses on the meaning and use of these words when they are used with the present perfect.

just

Just used with the present perfect means 'a short time before'.

I've just seen Susan coming out of the cinema.

Mike's just called. Can you ring him back, please?

Have you just taken my pen?!

Just comes between the auxiliary verb (*have/has*) and the past participle.

yet

Yet used with the present perfect means 'at any time up to now'. We use it to emphasise that we expect something to happen soon. *Yet* (in this context) is only used in negative sentences and questions.

Have you finished your homework yet?
I haven't finished it yet. I'll do it after dinner.
A. Where's Sam? B: He hasn't arrived yet.

Yet comes at the end of the sentence or question.

still

Still used with the present perfect means that something hasn't happened. We use it to emphasise that we expected the thing to happen earlier. *Still* (in this context) is only used in negative sentences.

I've been waiting for an hour and the bus still hasn't come.
They promised me that report yesterday but they still haven't finished it.
She still hasn't replied to my email. Maybe she's on holiday.

Still comes between the subject (*the bus, they, etc.*) and auxiliary verb (*haven't/hasn't*).

already

Already used with the present perfect means 'before now'. We use it to emphasise that something happened before something else or earlier than expected.

I've already spent my salary and it's two weeks before payday.
He wanted to see Sudden Risk but I've already seen it.
The train's left already!

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



Christmas celebration

Christmas is celebrated on **December 25th** each year. It is originally a religious celebration, marking the day that Jesus Christ was born. Nowadays however, it is celebrated by both religious and non religious people alike. Usually people get together with family, friends and loved ones, enjoy a meal together and exchange gifts. It is, on the whole, a "warm and fuzzy" time of year.

Santa Claus

Santa Claus (alternatively known as Father Christmas, Saint Nicolas or the fat guy in the red suit) is an icon of the Christmas season. It is believed that he lives in the North Pole, and throughout the year has the magical ability to monitor the behavior of every child in the world. He then makes a list dividing the children into two groups, the naughty and the nice and those who have been nice get presents at Christmas time. How does he deliver the presents? He flies through the sky on a sleigh pulled by 9 reindeer with his large bag of presents. The most famous reindeer is Rudolf who has a red nose that shines and helps Santa guide his sleigh. At each house he goes down the chimney and leaves the presents under the Christmas tree or he puts them in stockings (if they can fit!) that are hung up by the fireplace. Before he leaves he enjoys a snack that the children have left for him and then goes on his merry way.

The Christmas tree

The Christmas tree is another important tradition at this time of year. It is a pine tree that is sometimes real but artificial trees are more common. The tree is put up and decorated with decorations of many sorts. Bells, shiny Christmas balls, colorful lights and sometimes

decorations made by the children at school. The final decoration is a star or an angel which is put up at the very top of the tree. The tree is traditionally kept up until the 6th of January. Mistletoe is another plant that is put up at this time of year and be careful, if you're caught standing under it, another person is allowed to give you a kiss, just hope it is someone you like!

Christmas food

As mentioned earlier this time of year is when families often get together and have a Christmas meal, either on Christmas eve (24th) or on Christmas day. It is a time where people forget about their diets and eat and drink a lot. They often complain that after this season they have acquired a few extra kilos! Traditional food is usually a large Christmas turkey or a huge leg of Christmas ham. Chocolates and sweets are also very popular and one in particular that stands out is called the candy cane. It is a red and white striped candy in the shape of a cane with a delicious Minty flavour.

Christmas gifts

For the children however the main focus of Christmas are the presents. This often causes a lot of stress for the parents and adults as they spend a lot of time running around trying to find the perfect gift as well as one that is within their price range. The shopping malls resemble mad houses for this very reason, with masses of people frantically rushing around like headless chickens! This is why many people dislike Christmas, feeling it has become a time for commercial propaganda and that the true Christmas spirit has been forgotten. Luckily not all people have been affected in this way and donate old toys to charities and orphanages and provide food to the homeless.

Christmas carols

Traditional Christmas songs are called 'carols' and are heard everywhere at this time of year. They use all kinds of instruments but are often accompanied by bells. Often choir groups will go door knocking around their local neighborhood and sing for the people in hope of a Christmas donation.

Christmas cards

A lot of people like to send cards to their loved ones to wish them a 'Merry Christmas', especially if they live far away and will not be able to see them at Christmas time. They come in a wide range of designs and colours although the traditional colours are red and green. You will find that more and more people send their Christmas message via e-mail because it's cheaper and easier.

Nativity play

The re-enacting of the birth of Jesus Christ is very typical in schools and churches during the Christmas holidays or a little before. They're usually held in schools before the holidays and at church on the special day itself of Christmas eve. Children usually dress-up in old rags and towels to play the important figures during the birth of Jesus, including the Virgin Mary, the three kings, Joseph and sometimes the animals in the barn.

Typical gifts

Children are forever nagging their parents for the latest toy, video game, bicycle and Christmas is the perfect moment to pile on the pressure. Parents find it hard getting something for their children that the children will appreciate and keeping within the price range. Gifts could range from remote control cars to doll houses. Adults on the other hand, don't have this problem. Sometimes adults are not too interested in presents and tend not to make a big fuss over the exchanging of gifts, although they buy something for their loved ones, the gifts tend to be somewhat low key and maybe a bit boring, such as ties, socks, jumpers, toiletries, calendars, diaries etc. Maybe Christmas should stay with the children, considering that they get better presents and have a lot more fun playing with them.

Boxing day

Boxing day, the 26th of December, is celebrated in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, Greenland, Hong Kong and a number of other countries. It is called this because traditionally it was the day for giving gifts to the less wealthy people and servants (who sometimes had to work on Christmas day). It doesn't happen much now and the day is mainly an extra holiday for many people to recover from their Christmas excesses! A common tradition (in New Zealand and Australia) is also to go to the boxing day races. People take a picnic and go to the race track to place a few bets on the horses or simply to enjoy the atmosphere in family.

Northern v Southern hemisphere

The boxing day races tradition is obviously only possible in the southern hemisphere, because Christmas is in the summer time. In this part of the world people often go to the beach, either for a day trip or rent a house to spend a few days.

In the Northern hemisphere many countries associate Christmas with snow and a time to go outside and build a snowman or have battles with snow balls!

Christmas Vocabulary

Advent Calendar: a calendar containing small numbered flaps which are opened one a day leading up to Christmas. Under each flap there may be a picture or a chocolate.

Angel: a spiritual being believed to act as a messenger of God. An angel is typically represented in human form with wings and a long white robe. Sometimes an angel is placed at the top of a Christmas tree instead of a star.

Candle: a cylinder (or block) of wax with a wick through the middle. This wick is lit to produce light as it burns.

Candy Cane: a cylindrical stick of red and white striped candy resembling a walking stick.

Carols: a religious folk song associated with Christmas and usually sung by groups of people outside houses. See an example of a Christmas Carol here: [The 12 Days of Christmas](#)

Chimney: a (typically brick) structure through which smoke is carried away from a fire and through the roof of a building. Santa Claus comes down the chimney to leave gifts under the Christmas tree.

Christmas Eve: the night before Christmas (the 24th)

Christmas Tree: a real or artificial tree which is decorated with lights and ornaments as a part of Christmas celebrations. Gifts are left at the bottom of the tree.

Elf: (plural: Elves) the Christmas elf is a small creature that lives with Santa Claus in the North Pole and acts as his helper by making toys and taking care of the reindeer. They are typically dressed in red and green with pointy hats.

Gift: something that is given to another person without payment in return. Another way to say gift is **present**.

Gingerbread: A type of cookie/biscuit made of ginger, nutmeg or cinnamon and sweetened with honey or sugar. At Christmas time you will see cookies in the shape of a person or houses made of gingerbread.

Holly: a shrub with prickly dark green leaves and red berries

Lights: An electrical source of illumination. Christmas trees, and sometimes houses, are decorated with lights.

Merry: happy, cheerful and lively. Full of joy.

Mistletoe: A plant that is used as a Christmas decoration. It is traditional to kiss someone when you are both under it.

North Pole: The icy region at the top of the planet Earth. Santa Claus lives in the North Pole.

Ornament: a thing that is used to make something look more attractive but usually has not practical purpose. Christmas trees are decorated with ornaments.

Pudding: a sweet food eaten at the end of a meal. Sometimes it is a dessert with a creamy consistency.

Reindeer: a deer from the subarctic regions of North America and Europe. Santa's sleigh is pulled by reindeer.

Rudolph: the reindeer that leads Santa's sleigh. He has a shiny red nose that is useful to guide the way in fog.

Santa Claus: A man with a white beard and a red suit who is said to bring gifts to the homes of children that are well-behaved. He is also known just as Santa.

Sleigh: a sled (form of transport) that is pulled by horses or reindeer and used to transport people across snow or ice.

Star: a shiny point in the night sky. A star is often placed at the top of a Christmas Tree.

Stocking: (Christmas stocking) a long sock that is hung up by children on Christmas Eve so that Santa Claus can fill it with small gifts.

Stuffing: a mixture of breadcrumbs, onion and spices used to fill (or stuff) poultry (= turkey or chicken) before cooking.

Tinsel: a form of decoration consisting of thin strips of shiny metal foil attached to a long thread.

Turkey: a large bird that is native to North America. It has a bald head and red flesh hanging from its neck. It is a typical dish for Christmas.

Wreath: an arrangement of flowers and leaves fastened to form a ring. They are used for decoration.



COLLECTIVE NOUNS

A **collective noun** is a word that refers to a set or group of people, animals or things.

Collective Nouns are sometimes called Group Nouns.

Collective nouns are often followed by OF + PLURAL NOUN

e.g. a bunch of flowers, a flock of seagulls, a set of tools.

Groups of people working together

Staff: the people who work in a company or place of work.

Cast: the actors in a certain movie or play.

Company: a group of actors that usually perform together in different plays.

Crew: all the working members on a ship or plane.

Team: a group of individuals playing on the same side generally with the same objectives.

Platoon: a group of soldiers being commanded by a lieutenant.

Groups of people in general

Gang: a group of organized criminals

Crowd: a group of people, gathered together

Throng: a busy group of people or animals

Mob: A large disorderly crowd

Movement: a group of (generally young) people with similar tendencies for political/musical/social factors affecting them. For example The Punk Movement

Party: a group of political people that have been organized with an intention.

Groups of animals and insects

Herd: a herd of cows, a herd of goats, a herd of deer

Flock: A flock of sheep, a flock of birds

Shoal / School: a shoal of fish, a school of fish

Swarm: a swarm of bees (swarm is used for a group of flying insects)

Pack: a pack of wolves, a pack of dogs

Litter: a litter of kittens (usually of baby animals)

Gaggle: a gaggle of geese

Pride: a pride of lions

Groups of things

Stack: a stack of chairs, a stack of books, a stack of work, a stack of plates

Set: a set of tools, a set of underwear, a set of compasses, a set of cutlery

Pile / Heap: a pile of clothes, a heap of bodies.

Bunch: a bunch of flowers, a bunch of grapes, a bunch of bananas.

Bundle: a bundle of newspapers, a bundle of sticks, a bundle of nothing.

Batch: a batch of homebrew, a batch of letters, a batch of recruits.

Stash: a stash of cash, a stash of beer, a stash of weapons. (usually the things are hidden)

Fleet: a fleet of ships

CONSTRUCTION SITES

When we work on a construction site, we need to know about a lot of things. Most of the things we need to know about are tools and things we use to do our job. For instance a **wire** is a long, thin, usually round piece of metal, most often used to conduct electricity. In these cases it is usually insulated with plastic or rubber **insulation** to stop the electric current passing through.

Wood is a specific type of material, but we also use the word **lumber** to refer to all wood products on the site, or in British English, the discarded products! Wood is a very common material used to construct smaller houses or buildings - a **beam** is a piece of wood or steel that goes right across a room, at the top, and is usually used in roofing, and in ceilings, to hold up other parts of the ceiling or roof. Some of those other parts will be the **rafters**, which are the beams that are usually in triangle shape which makes the roof. If you look up at the roof or ceiling of a big building or room, you can sometimes see the cross beams going from one side to the other. **Bricks** are the most common material that houses and other buildings are made from, and they are usually red or orange. Clay bricks are used in some countries. Workers use **trowels** to spread the cement on the bricks before they are put together.

A **backhoe** is a machine that is often used to dig holes for the **foundations** of the building, which usually go much deeper than the building itself. If the building is going to be very big, the **excavation site** may be very deep. A backhoe has a very big **shovel** that it brings toward itself -using a big mechanical arm - to dig a hole, and is sometimes the same machine used as an **excavator**. The difference is that a shovel tip is used on the backhoe. A **shovel** is the tool used to dig holes, and is very often used by people to dig small holes, while a **pickaxe** is like a shovel but is 'T' shaped. People swing it into the ground to break the ground, because it is steel on top, with a sharp end and a slightly rounded end. It has a spade-shaped head, and a long handle. A shovel is often used to put sand or dirt in a **wheelbarrow**, which is used to take away the sand or to carry things - it has one wheel and two handles so a person can take the handles and move sand or other things to somewhere else. It does require some balance, especially with a heavy load!

Vans are types of car that have a closed in space at the back for carrying objects or people, and they usually have a roller-door on the side. That is different to a **pickup truck** which has an open space at the back for carrying objects. Of course, a van or pickup truck has to ask someone to move a **barricade** which may be blocking the road. Places where barricades will be set up may be written in the **blueprints** - which detail the design for the entire building, but usually the barricade is temporary and not in the blueprints.

The van, and the people in the backhoe, and the other **construction workers** who are working on the building site usually communicate by **two-way radio**. People on the **scaffolding** - which is put up around the building for people to climb up and down and is usually made of steel, or bamboo in some Asian countries, have to be very careful that nothing falls from their **toolbelt**, which is worn around the waist like a normal belt, but is used to hang tools off.

A lot of machinery is used on a building site. A **cement mixer** churns up **cement**, which is used to stick bricks together. A **builder** is a person who works on a building site, who might lay bricks, build things or knock down walls using a giant heavy hammer, called a **sledge hammer**. A **bulldozer** is a powerful machine used to knock buildings down and push the rubble into a pile. A **digger** can then pick this up and drop it into a **dump truck** which will take the rubbish away. Diggers are also used to dig holes in an **excavation site**, which is an area that has large holes dug into the ground in which to put the buildings foundations. A **cherry picker** is a machine that is used to lift builders up to high places, such as to a tree or the roof of a house. If it isn't too high then a **ladder** will be used which is like a vertical set of steps. A crane is a huge structure, used to lift heavy objects, such as a crate of bricks, up very high, like to the tenth floor of a building.

A builder uses lots of small tools too. He uses a **spirit level**, which is a tool to make sure something is completely horizontal or vertical. A **tape measure** is a long flexible ruler which

winds up into a small metal casing, and is used to measure things. A bigger tool he might use is a **pneumatic drill** which is a tool about one metre high that drills down into concrete to break it up. It is very noisy, so builders use **ear protectors** to cover their ears and muffle the loud noise. To stop people walking where builders are working a **cone** is used, which is a brightly coloured plastic marker that looks like an ice cream cone. They also use a **hard hat**, which is a hat that covers most of the head and is made out of strong plastic so that if something falls it won't damage their head. To make sure people don't walk in the way of a piece of machinery people wave a **flag**, which is a piece of brightly coloured material on a stick. The man who waves it is called a **linesman**.

A **board** is a large, flat piece of wood, used for things like mixing cement on. It is often made out of **plywood**, which is a type of wood made out of lots of pieces of old bits of wood that are stuck together with glue. Some other material builders use is a **girder**, which is a large, heavy beam made out of strong metal. It is used to hold a building up, especially over a doorway or other weak area. A **pipe** is a long circular piece of metal which is hollow, so that water or gas can be pumped through it. **Shingle** is the name of the small stones that is mixed with sand and cement to make concrete. A **trailer** is attached to the back of a car and is used to carry materials around.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The world is full of magnificent and fascinating animals and creatures. Unfortunately many of them are endangered species which means that there are not many of them remaining in the world and there is a danger of them becoming extinct.

Below are some examples of endangered species.

Polar Bears

The Polar Bear is one of the many unique animals in the world. It has a beautiful white **coat of fur** for **camouflage** - partly for protection but largely to allow it to **sneak up** on its **prey**. Their typical prey are seals. The Polar Bear's coat also has guard hairs that are **water repellent** (they are excellent **swimmers**) and a **dense underfur** for warmth. But under their fur, polar bears have black skin to **soak** up the sun's **warming rays**. Other specialized characteristics of the Polar Bear are short and furred snout, short ears, teeth specialized for eating meat rather than for an **omnivorous diet**, and hair that covers the bottom of their feet. A **full grown** adult male Polar Bear will weigh approximately 650 kgs while a female will weigh about half as much to as little as a third as much. The Polar Bear can only be found in the Northern Hemisphere.

Tigers

Tigers are the largest member of the cat family and are **renowned** for their **power** and strength. They are in general **nocturnal** hunters and their striking **markings** enable them to **blend** in easily with their **habitat**. In the wild, tigers generally feed on larger and medium sized animals such as deer, water buffalo, wild boar and tapirs. Tigers hunt alone and ambush their prey like other cats do, **overpowering** them from any angle, using their body size and strength to **knock** large prey **off balance**. They are native to Asia but unfortunately hunting and forest destruction have reduced the tiger population to less than 2,500 today and they are now considered an **endangered species**. Tigers are hunted as **trophies**, and also for **body parts** that are used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Whales

Whales are large, magnificent, intelligent, aquatic mammals. They breathe air through a **blowhole** into their **lungs** (unlike fish who breathe using **gills**). Whales have **sleek, streamlined** bodies that move easily through the water. They are the only mammals, other than dugongs (manatees) that live their **entire** lives in the water, and the only mammals that have **adapted** to life in the open oceans. They are the biggest animal in the world (some as tall as a **nine-storey** building), even bigger than any of the dinosaurs were. Many whales **migrate** over long distances every year, sometimes in groups (**pods**),

from cold water **feeding grounds** to warm water **breeding grounds**. Some whale species are endangered because of hunting that still exists in countries such as Japan and Norway.

Gorilla

Gorillas are the largest of the living **primates** and very closely related to humans. They live in the forests of Africa and move by walking on their **knuckles**. Their **lifespan** is between 30-50 years and they are **omnivores** that eat fruit, leaves, **shoots** and sometimes insects. One other characteristic they share with humans is that they have individual **finger prints**. Silverbacks (adult male gorillas) are the strong **troop** leaders. Each silverback typically leads a group of between 5-30 gorillas and is the centre of attention. they make all the decision, **mediate conflicts**, determine the movement of the group, lead the others to feeding sites and take responsibility for the safety and **well-being** of the troop. Gorillas are considered an endangered species and have been the subject of intense **poaching** for many years.

Koala

The koala is a **marsupial** that is native to Australia. They live most of their lives in the eucalyptus trees of Australia and it is the only leaf that they eat. They do not drink but instead obtain the **moisture** they need from the eucalypt leaves. Because of the low protein content in these leaves and their slow **metabolic rate**, the koala usually sleeps for 19 hours per day. Contrary to popular belief their fur is **coarse** and not soft and **cuddly**. They are sometimes mistakenly called koala bears, but, in fact they are not members of the bear family. In recent years the koala population has come **under threat** from the ever increasing **encroachment** of humans into their habitat and the appearance of a disease, Chlamydia, for which there is no known **cure**.

Andean Condor

The Andean Condor is a vulture-like species of bird. It is one of the largest flying birds and **inhabits** the open **grasslands** and alpine areas in high mountain regions of western South America. The adult condor is of a uniform black, with the exception of a **fill** of white **feathers** nearly **surrounding** the **base** of the neck and, especially in the males, large patches or bands of white on the wings. it has a **wing span** of up to 3.5 meters and can **soar** incredibly gracefully up to heights of 5000 metres. They are experts at using the **updrafts** created by the mountains and valleys to cover large areas while **foraging**. Many condors have died from the pesticides that are carried through the food chains. The number of Andean Condors has decreased rapidly in recent years but **rescue** attempts are being made through **captive-breeding** programs.

ENGLAND

England is a country which is part of the United Kingdom, an island to the north-west of Europe. Many people get confused between the UK and England. The UK consists of four different countries; Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England. Great Britain (called Great Britain to distinguish it from Brittany in France) consists of Scotland, Wales and England. This is why the full name of the UK is 'The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland'.

The style of government is a constitutional monarchy and the Queen of England is the head of the constitutional monarchy. But in reality the Queen doesn't have any real weight in power. The country is actually governed by a Prime Minister.

The Flag

One of the biggest and most recognizable symbols that people generally associate with England is the flag. However, there is a difference between the English flag and the Union flag (the Union Flag is only called the Union Jack when it is sailed on a ship). The Union

flag consists of the Scottish, Northern Irish and English flag all in one. The English flag is actually the Saint George's flag, a white flag with a big red cross on it.

Saint George is the patron saint of England, and actually the patron saint of many other countries and regions around the world.

Typical Words used in England

The English use a lot of slang which varies from region to region and from city to city. For example, if you call someone a 'peach' in Ipswich you are saying they are very attractive, but if you call them that in Hampshire it means they are an idiot!

init - is a slang word for 'isn't it?', usually when asking for confirmation of something you just said.

Footy - is the abbreviation for football. In Australia it doesn't refer to soccer but to Australian Rules Football or Rugby League.

Mate - is a word we use for 'friend'. It is usually used to refer to male friends and not female friends.

Blinding - when something is blinding, it means that something is fantastic.

Lovely - is a very English word for something which is nice.

A cuppa - refers to a cup of tea.

English Icons



Houses of Parliament (Big Ben) - This is probably one of the most famous icons that people associate with England. People call the clock tower 'Big Ben' but in fact it's the bell inside the tower which is called 'Big Ben'.

Stonehenge - Stonehenge is in the south-west of England. Nobody knows exactly who or when Stonehenge was constructed. The standing stones attract a lot of tourists.

Tower Bridge - Tower Bridge is famous for its beauty. Its image has been used by many companies and business to exploit its English connection. The bridge was once used to store the heads of Henry the Eighth's ex-wives.

The London Underground - 'The tube' is the oldest underground transportation system in the world and now one of the largest. The shape of its tunnels is what has given it its name.

Double-decker Buses - These buses have two floors and they're a great way to see the city. Sometimes it's scary when they go round sharp corners since it feels like the bus is going to tip over. But don't worry, the only time buses ever get tipped over is in the middle of a storm.

Glastonbury - Glastonbury is a town in the south of England. It's famous for its mythology and spiritual past. It is believed that the nearby hill is thought to contain King Arthur's body. More recently Glastonbury has become one of the biggest rock festivals in the world. In the sixties it became popular for its free-thinking hippies and the huge amount of space in the countryside. Today it still has the festival, the most important in England, yet it also maintains its spiritual identity.

Animals of England

Foxes - Foxes are very notorious in major cities. England is a very green country and it is very common to have green space nearby. This is perfect for foxes as they have the greenery they need to feel at home and all the food from the streets. Sometimes rubbish bins have turned inside out, and they love to tease other animals, especially pets.

Squirrels - are small animals that live in the trees and eat lots of nuts, or any food that you give them. They hide their nuts in the ground and are known to have a fantastic memory, as they remember exactly where they buried them.

Badgers - Badgers are black and white animals that usually live in shrubs or bushes. They are harmless and it's very rare to see one.

Bulldogs - One of the most traditional dogs is the British bulldog. Known for its ugliness and brutal strength, it has become a symbol of patriotic English people.

Adder - England doesn't have many snakes and it only has one which is poisonous. It's name is the Adder and it usually lives in the lowlands where it is cool and moist. It's jet black scales makes itself easy to identify and hardly anyone gets bitten by them.

Lion - England doesn't have any lions running wild, but it is a national symbol. Throughout history saints, kings, princes and your average Joe has somehow been remembered for a fight against a dragon or a lion. The England football team has three lions on it's crest, and the lion also appears on many monarchical and juridical symbols.

Birds of England

Pigeon - London is the city in England that has the most Pigeons. Most of the pigeons are in the city centre where everybody feeds them. It has now been made illegal to feed pigeons because of the problem of the over population of the birds.

Robin - Robins are small birds which are usually found in gardens and the countryside. They are brown with a dark orange/reddish breast.

Blue Tit - A blue tit is very similar in size to a Robin but the colors are a mixture of grey and various shades of blue. It usually has a shiny blue helmet/head.

Ravens - Ravens are black birds, probably the same size as a pigeon. Some of them live in The Tower of London. It is said that if the Ravens leave the Tower of London the walls of the building would fall down.

Magpie - is a black and white bird that is found in all parts of the country. They have a distinctive 'warble' and are scavengers. You need to be careful during 'nesting season' as they are very protective and will 'swoop' on you if you venture into their territory.

English Sports

Cricket - Is a national sport of England. Most people learn to play it when they are young. It is played on a large oval field with everyone dressed in white. The games can last one day or up to five days.

Football - This is the most popular game in England and is where it was originally invented. The game has attracted many foreign players to play for English teams and now it boasts one of the most competitive leagues in the world. However, the national team hasn't made any real impact on the world stage since 1966. One of the most popular local football teams is Manchester United.

Rugby - This rough sport is very popular not only England but in the UK. Each team has 15 players and you win by scoring Tries (crossing the line with the ball) and by kicking the ball between the uprights (the top of the posts). At no time can you pass the ball forward, only backwards. The national rugby league isn't as big as the football one, but it is gradually becoming more and more popular among younger people.

Tennis - Tennis has always been a very popular sport. It used to be exclusive to the higher class. Wimbledon has become one of the most competitive and distinguished grand slam competitions in the world and is the only one played on grass. Every competitor has to wear the traditional white clothing.

English Food

England isn't known for its food but it actually does have a good selection of tasty dishes. Most of them are imported from other countries, especially Italy, Turkey, Greece and India.

Fish and Chips - the most traditional dish is fish and chips. It's the most common thing to eat when you're by the seaside.

Chicken Tikka Masala - Chicken Tikka Masala is an Indian dish which was invented in England, and is now the most commonly eaten dish when eating out in a restaurant

Special Days

Saint George's Day - England doesn't have an independence day but its national day is 'Saint George's Day' on the 23rd of April. It's the day that everybody celebrates with marches on the streets, food and obviously a lot of beer.

Queen's Birthday - While not the real date of her birthday, it is celebrated as a national holiday on the first or second Saturday of June.

Guy Fawkes Night - During the reign of King James I a group of Protestants tried to assassinate him by blowing him up with hundreds of barrels of gun powder under the houses of parliament. They failed and one captive called Guy Fawkes became famous. Now every November 5th, the English celebrate the day he tried to blow-up the houses of parliament by setting off fireworks and having big bonfires in their gardens or local parks.

ENVIRONMENT

The following is a list of vocabulary about the environment with the definition of each word or expression:

Acid rain: acidic precipitation (rainfall) that causes harm to the environment. It is formed in the atmosphere when industrial waste gases combine with water.

Activists: people who show their strong support of a cause through action, especially political action.

Animal rights: the natural rights of animals to live free of human dangers and exploitation.

Aqueduct: an artificial channel for transporting water, often in the form of a bridge.

Biodegradable: generally referring to packaging, it means something that can be decomposed by bacteria or other organisms.

Breeding in captivity: the reproduction of animals in confinement, not in their natural habitats.

CFC gases: (Chlorofluorocarbon) gases that are harmful to the ozone layer in the Earth's atmosphere.

Condensation: water that has been transformed from a gas to a liquid and appears on a cold surface.

Conservation: the protection and preservation of the natural environment.

Conservation program: a formalized action plan for protecting or restoring a natural area.

Conserve: to care for, preserve and protect.

Contaminated: polluted, usually by toxic waste

Decay: to rot or decompose; also, to decline in quality, energy, etc.

Drought: the continuous absence of rain, thus causing the land to dry up.

Ecosystem: the natural organisms and flora and fauna that constitute and sustain a particular area.

Emissions: toxic gases from factories and machinery that are then leaked into the atmosphere.

Endangered species: a species of plant or animal that are in danger of becoming extinct.

Environmentalist: a person who actively works to promote the protection of the environment.

Erosion: the process of the wearing away of land due to there being little to no vegetation.

Erupt: when a volcano becomes active and begins to eject lava.

Evaporation: the process of a liquid heating up and turning into a gas or vapor.

Extinct: when a plant or animal species ceases to exist entirely.

Fault line: a fissure in the Earth's crust where the tectonic plates move against each other causing an earthquake.

Flood: when a body of water, such as a river, becomes too full and water overflows beyond its normal confines.

Fossil fuels: fuel formed naturally over many years from the remains of animals, such as coal, oil, and natural gas.

Fumes: gases and vapor (usually harmful).

Genetically modified: normally related to food, it's when an object's genetic makeup has been altered.

Global warming: an increase in the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere, which is due to the greenhouse effect.

Greenhouse effect: the trapping of the sun's heat in the atmosphere caused by greenhouse gases.

Greenhouse gases: any gas, especially carbon dioxide, which contributes to the greenhouse effect.

Landfills: large areas of land where waste and garbage are disposed.

Landslide: when a large amount of land slides down from a mountain or cliff.

Natural resources: materials found in nature which are often exploited for economic gains.

Ocean: a large body of salt water spanning between continents.

Organic: without chemicals (such as sprays) or other man-made additives.

Organic farming: producing crops without the use of chemical pesticides or herbicides.

Ozone layer: the lower part of the atmosphere which contains a high level of ozone that absorbs the majority of the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Poaching: the illegal hunting of animals.

Pollute: to contaminate a natural area

Pollution: contamination or toxic bi-products from factories

Power Lines: they're used to conduct electricity to houses and buildings, and are often supported high above the ground by wooden poles or large metal structures.

Preserve: to not develop something so as to be maintained in its existing state.

Rainforest: a type of forest found in tropical climates with heavy rainfall.

Recycle: to convert or reprocess materials so that they can be used again.

Research: (verb) to investigate data, sources, material, or facts.

Research: (noun) the information and data gathered during an investigation.

Solar power: harnessing the Sun's energy to generate electrical power.

Species: a group of living organisms that are of the same type and can breed with each other.

Sustainability: maintaining an ecological balance by avoiding the depletion of natural resources.

Tectonic plates: the different sections of the Earth's crust that shift on the underlying mantle.

Tidal energy: using the energy produced by the changes in ocean tides to generate electrical power.

Toxic waste: poisonous byproducts of industrial manufacturing.

Underground aquifers: layers of rock or soil that can absorb and retain water.

Unleaded fuel: petrol that doesn't contain lead additives.

Untapped resources: materials that could be useful (i.e. for energy, for building, etc.) but have not yet been explored.

Wetlands: damp areas of land.

Wildlife: untamed animals (in their natural habitat).

Wipe out: to completely remove something from a place.

Expressions

the root cause: the main reason for something

- *The root cause* of the endangerment of condors is the development and destruction of their habitat.

to stem from: to be caused by

- Scientists say that global warming partly *stems from* emissions from the numerous cars driven.