



Advanced *grammar & vocabulary*

Student's Book

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1 Adjectives I (Behaviour and Traits)

Note: Adjectives with a negative connotation are followed by (-), those with a positive connotation are followed by (+), and those that are neither negative nor positive are followed by (-/+). All the adjectives below can be used before a noun or after it, often with the verb *to be*.

blunt: (-/+) if sb is blunt, they say what they really think, even if what they say is impolite and will hurt or offend someone

a blunt reply/ remark/refusal

To be blunt, I think that what he did was cowardly and pathetic.

brash: (-) if sb is brash, they are annoyingly loud, overconfident and aggressive

That TV presenter is far too noisy and brash for my liking.

calculating: (-) if sb is calculating, they get what they want by careful and clever planning, without caring about anyone else

Percy is disliked by most of his colleagues because of his sly and calculating ways of getting what he wants.

callous: (-) if sb is callous, they are cruel and heartless

His callous disregard of her feelings upset her.

cantankerous: (-) if sb is cantankerous, they are bad-tempered and tend to argue with people about insignificant things

Paul is not an easy person to have as a friend, because he is so cantankerous.

cheerful: (+) if sb is cheerful, they are happy and in a good mood

Why are you so cheerful today?

curt: (-) if sb is curt, they are very abrupt (and rude, as a result) when they talk to another person

I knew from his curt tone that he was angry.

fickle: (-) if sb is fickle, they are not faithful or loyal to their friends

How can you have trusted someone as fickle as Joan?

inquisitive: (i) (-) if sb is inquisitive, they are always trying to find out about other people's lives, often by asking a lot of questions (ii) (+) interested in many different things and always wanting to know more about them (often used about children)

She was nervous. The man in front of her was being unusually inquisitive.

He is a very inquisitive child. He's going to love school.

meticulous: (-/+) if sb is meticulous, they are very careful about what they do, paying attention to small details and making sure that everything is correct or in order

Mother was always meticulous about her appearance.

persistent: (-/+) if sb is persistent, they refuse to give up, despite difficulties or opposition

The customer was most persistent and refused to speak to anyone but the manager.

reckless: (-) if sb is reckless, they do dangerous things without thinking about the consequences of their actions (a reckless driver) [Note: **reckless driving** also used to describe actions]

That was a very reckless thing to do. Do you realise you put your own life in danger?

ruthless: (-) if sb is ruthless, they are cruel and cold and have no mercy or feelings for others [Note: also used to describe actions]

a ruthless decision/(in football) a ruthless tackle

The dictator was ruthless in silencing opposition and had the mass media strictly censored.

squeamish: (-/+) if sb is squeamish, they do not like the sight of, and are usually upset by, unpleasant things such as blood or needles

This horror film is not for people who are squeamish.

sullen: (-) if sb is sullen they are bad tempered and do not speak much

Rob sat in his room, in one of his sullen moods again.

unscrupulous: (-) if sb is unscrupulous, they are prepared to act in an immoral and dishonest way to get what they want

He's probably the most unscrupulous businessman I've ever met. He'd do anything to make a profit.

volatile: (-) if sb is volatile, they lose their temper very quickly and very easily

We need someone who is calm, patient and level-headed. Joe is far too volatile.

withdrawn: (-/+) if sb is withdrawn, they are very quiet and do not like talking to others

Katy is so withdrawn and introverted that you can hardly get a word out of her.

Practice

1. Read the text and decide whether the statements that appear below are true (T) or false (F).

Bob,

Can you arrange a meeting with Joe Figgis? I think the three of us should get together. I've just received another script from him. It's terrible. I can't believe we are paying

him to produce this kind of rubbish. Below is a copy of his character outlines, which should give you an idea of what the rest of the script is like.

Scarlet

Known as the Black Widow, she is beautiful and sophisticated. She is also poison. Driven by money and power, she will do anything to get what she wants. She lets nothing stand in her way. Everything is for the taking. Immoral, heartless and utterly unfeeling.

**Vance**

Scarlet's right-hand man. Cold, cruel and callous. Steel blue eyes, steel cold heart. The man in black. A man of few words and no emotion, who shows no mercy. He is meticulous, efficient and dangerously loyal to Scarlet. He can neither understand nor tolerate weakness.

**D'Avila**

Also works for Scarlet. Built like a truck, he is loud-mouthed, flashy and swaggeringly arrogant. He drips gold. He likes to take risks in every area of his life. Violent and volatile.

Jansen

A rugged, handsome cop who is no longer the guy every cop wants for a partner. He keeps himself to himself, is curt and sullen. He doesn't seem to value his life anymore and often takes outrageous risks in his quest to discover the true identity of the Black Widow.

Captain Bonomi

Thirty years on the force. A big man. A blunt man. He has seen it all. Only truly happy when he is shouting. He will argue for argument's sake. Known as Captain Outburst, he is in fact fiercely protective of his men. The booming voice behind the door.

Laura Hyde

Young, blonde and beautiful. A crime reporter with the LA Mercury. Curious, and at times foolhardy. Always on the lookout for a ground-breaking story. Obsessed by the Black Widow, who is responsible for the disappearance of her brother. She will not give up until she finds the truth about the Black Widow and her story.



See what I mean? We must sort this out. Is 10 o'clock okay? Fax me to confirm.
Tony.

- 1 Scarlet has moral scruples.
- 2 Scarlet is calculating.
- 3 Vance is ruthless.
- 4 Vance is squeamish.
- 5 Vance is very thorough and is careful that mistakes are never made.
- 6 Vance is fickle.
- 7 D'Avila loses his temper easily.
- 8 D'Avila is brash.
- 9 Jansen is withdrawn.
- 10 Jansen is reckless.
- 11 Jansen is cheerful.
- 12 Bonomi is cantankerous.
- 13 Bonomi will not say what he thinks to avoid hurting sb's feelings.
- 14 Laura Hyde is inquisitive.
- 15 Laura Hyde gives up easily.

2. a. Match the extracts as you hear them with the speakers (A-H).

- A a photographer
- B a stuntman
- C a film director
- D a librarian
- E a book dealer
- F an accountant
- G an antiques dealer
- H a physician

Extract 1 ☐Extract 2 ☐Extract 3 ☐Extract 4 ☐Extract 5 ☐

- b. Listen to the short extracts again and match each speaker with one of the adjectives (A-H).

- A reckless
- B meticulous
- C blunt
- D withdrawn
- E cantankerous
- F squeamish
- G persistent
- H unscrupulous

Extract 1 ☐Extract 2 ☐Extract 3 ☐Extract 4 ☐Extract 5 ☐

2 Adjectives II

Note: * = used before a noun, ** = used after a noun, generally with the verb to be, *** = can be used before or after a noun

Adjectives in collocations

avid: * very enthusiastic (for people)
an avid reader/football fan/stamp collector

blatant: * very obvious, done without shame or embarrassment (used to describe bad things)
a blatant lie/foul

brehtaking: *** very beautiful, surprising or impressive
brehtaking view/scenery
For a child of his age, his knowledge of the subject was breathtaking.

gripping: *** very exciting; for films and books
It was a gripping tale of murder and intrigue.

harrowing: *** shocking, making you feel very upset (not used to describe people)
a harrowing film/tale

lax: *** not strict or not careful enough (for safety measures, security, morals, discipline, laws, etc)

lenient: *** not strict; used to describe people in a position to punish (parents, teachers, etc)
The judge was lenient and let him off with a fine.

meteoric: *** very sudden and very quick (generally used with the noun *rise*)
He was unprepared for his meteoric rise to fame.

misleading: *** giving the wrong idea or impression
misleading information/advertisements/comments, etc

piercing: * loud and high-pitched (for noises)
She let out a piercing scream of terror.

prolific: *** producing a large number of works (for artists, composers and writers)

sporadic: *** happening at irregular intervals
sporadic fighting/shots/violence/outbreaks

staunch: * very loyal
staunch supporter/friend/ally/Democrat, etc

sweeping: * (i) too general and therefore not valid (for statements and generalisations) (ii) large and affecting everyone (for changes and reforms)

'Women are bad drivers' is a sweeping generalisation that is all too common these days.

He proposed sweeping changes to the country's electoral system.

watertight: impossible to prove wrong or argue against
watertight arguments/court case/alibi

*

Adjectives with similar meanings

dreary: *** boring and depressing
a dreary day/life/town

Her apartment was dreary and depressing.

dull: *** boring, without life, excitement or colour
dull afternoon/people/colour/weather

mundane: *** ordinary, boring, giving little satisfaction; often used to describe jobs
He had a mundane job in a local bank.

tedious: *** boring, and often frustrating
tedious journey/task/job

*

atrocious: *** extremely bad
atrocious film/mess/game, etc

dreadful: *** very bad
dreadful weather/mistakes/acting

lousy: *** (informal) very bad
lousy day/hotel/teacher/singer

*

flawless: *** perfect, with no faults
flawless complexion/performance

impeccable: *** perfect, faultless
impeccable appearance/reputation/taste in clothes

unblemished: * sth that has not been spoilt or harmed
unblemished record/reputation/character

*

arduous: *** tiring and involving a lot of effort

arduous journey/task

gruelling: *** tiring and lasting a long time
gruelling schedule/day/race

strenuous: * needing a lot of physical effort
strenuous activity/trip/effort/objection

*

bedraggled: *** untidy, dirty and wet (for people)
The two bedraggled children trudged into the house.

dishevelled: *** untidy
dishevelled clothes/hair/appearance/man

scruffy: *** untidy (for people/places) old and worn out (for clothes)
scruffy pair of jeans/flat/boy

*

astute: *** clever at understanding people and situations
astute politician/decision

crafty: *** clever and good at using deception to achieve success
crafty man/plan/look

shrewd: ** clever and showing good judgement of other people and situations
shrewd businessman/investment/eyes

wily: * clever, experienced at deceiving people and not easily deceived (for people/behaviour)
wily businessman/manoeuvring

*

conventional: *** ordinary, normal
conventional people/opinions/ideas

mainstream: *** ordinary, conventional, neither strange nor extreme
mainstream beliefs/ideas / organisations/politics

middle-of-the-road: *** ordinary, not extreme
middle of the road ideas/beliefs/music, etc

run-of-the-mill: * ordinary, nothing special
run-of-the-mill computer/supermarket

Practice

1. Match the nouns with the adjectives.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 a breathtaking | a view |
| 2 a blatant | b fighting |
| 3 a prolific | c documentaries on |
| 4 a gripping | animal experiments |
| 5 misleading | d judge |
| 6 a piercing | e lie |
| 7 sporadic | f novelist |
| 8 a sweeping | g reader |
| 9 a staunch | h security |
| 10 a watertight | i Republican |
| 11 harrowing | j information |
| 12 a lenient | k generalisation |
| 13 a meteoric | l rise |
| 14 an avid | m alibi |
| 15 lax | n film |
| | o scream |

2. Group the adjectives in the box into categories by putting them next to the appropriate heading.

flawless – arduous – dreadful – dreary – impeccable –
disbevelled – middle-of-the-road – dull – tedious – strenuous –
astute – mainstream – gruelling – mundane – shrewd – wily –
run-of-the-mill – lousy – atrocious – unblemished – crafty –
scruffy – bedraggled – conventional

Boring:

Difficult:

Untidy:

Bad:

Clever:

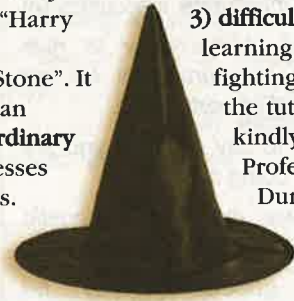
Ordinary:

Perfect:

3. Read the following review and replace the adjectives in bold with more sophisticated ones from exercise 2.

SPELLBINDING HARRY

For an entertaining evening, I highly recommend the film version of the first J.K. Rowling book, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone". It is the story of an otherwise **1) ordinary** boy who possesses magical powers. Orphaned as a baby when his parents were killed by an evil wizard, Harry is brought up by his **2) bad and unpleasant** relatives, the Dursleys. Everything changes, however, when an untidy stranger turns up on his doorstep. His name is Hagrid and he happens to be the keeper



of keys at Hogwart's School for magicians. So begins Harry's education at the school and the **3) difficult** task of both learning magic and fighting evil. Under the tutelage of the kindly but **4) clever** Professor Dumbledore and with the help of his two faithful friends, Ron and Hermione, Harry achieves his goal. Daniel Radcliffe (as Harry) and his co-stars give **5) perfect** performances in this refreshing new film in which there's never a **6) boring** moment.

4. Decide whether the following adjective-noun combinations are possible or not. If you think that the combination is possible, tick the box that follows it. If not, correct it replacing the noun with an appropriate one. Then use the correct combinations in sentences.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 a gruelling shirt | ☐ |
| 2 a staunch enemy | ☐ |
| 3 a flawless performance | ☐ |
| 4 a scruffy pair of jeans | ☐ |
| 5 a crafty plan | ☐ |
| 6 a shrewd businessman | ☐ |
| 7 strenuous exercise | ☐ |
| 8 a tedious room | ☐ |
| 9 an atrocious driver | ☐ |
| 10 an astute look | ☐ |
| 11 an arduous journey | ☐ |
| 12 impeccable taste | ☐ |
| 13 mainstream politics | ☐ |
| 14 a mundane job | ☐ |
| 15 a dreary journey | ☐ |

3 Adjectives III (Word formation)

accessible: sth that can be easily reached/entered/obtained/used; accessibility (n) **Opp:** inaccessible, inaccessibility (n)

The northern part of the park is virtually inaccessible unless you have a four-wheel drive.

accurate: precise/correct; accuracy (n) **Opp:** inaccurate, inaccuracy (n)

It is not always easy to give accurate measurements for the strength of an earthquake.

apologetic: to say or show you are sorry for doing sth

Audrey was extremely apologetic for having kept us waiting so long.

arguable: debatable, may be questioned [Note: it is arguable that: it can be argued that]

Whether or not this is the way forward is arguable.

It is arguable that education leads to higher income.

argumentative: quarrelsome; always ready to disagree

I've never met anyone more argumentative than Jenny; she will tell you that black is white.

coherent: well-planned, clear and sensible; coherence (n) **Opp:** incoherent, incoherence (n)

This is a clear and coherent explanation of the workings of the internal combustion engine.

decisive: able to make quick decisions in a difficult situation; decisiveness (n) **Opp:** indecisive, indecision (n)

Winston Churchill's decisive policies rallied the country round him at a difficult and dangerous time.

discreet: careful in order to avoid embarrassing or offending sb; discretion (n) **Opp:** indiscreet, indiscretion (n)

Try to be as discreet as possible as he's very sensitive and easily upset.

excessive: more or higher than is necessary or reasonable

Don't you think that a 25% price increase is excessive, even allowing for inflation?

knowledgeable: well-informed

Malcolm is knowledgeable about computer hardware and will tell you everything you want to know.

legible: clear enough to read; legibility (n) **Opp:** illegible, illegibility [(n)-not common]

I can't possibly read this; her handwriting is illegible.

logical: reasonable/sensible; logic (n) **Opp:** illogical

There is no logical explanation for his behaviour.

loyal: faithful; loyalty (n)

Opp: disloyal, disloyalty (n)

A loyal friend will stand by you through good and bad times.

normal: usual/ordinary; normality (n) **Opp:** abnormal, abnormality (n)

It's not abnormal for boys of his age to want to join the army.

obedient: sb who does what they are told to do; obedience (n) **Opp:** disobedient, disobedience (n)

Jo is a very disobedient child and refuses to do what she is told.

official: approved by sb in authority **Opp:** unofficial

This is the only official biography of the author currently on the market.

orthodox: accepted or used by most people; orthodoxy (n) **Opp:** unorthodox, unorthodoxy (n)

He always gets outstanding results, despite his unorthodox teaching methods.

plausible: likely to be true, valid; plausibility (n) **Opp:** implausible, implausibility (n)

The special effects in the film were excellent but I didn't think the plot was very plausible.

polite: with good manners, courteous; politeness (n) **Opp:** impolite, impoliteness (n)

Timothy was a polite young man with impeccable manners.

practical: down-to-earth (for people); effective/likely to be successful; practicality (n) **Opp:** impractical, impracticality (n)

(im)practical person/idea/plan

Banning all vehicles from the city centre is a lovely idea but I don't think it's practical at all.

precise: exact; precision (n) **Opp:** imprecision (n)

This machine has brought an unprecedented degree of precision to the business of dating trees.

preferential treatment: (to be) treated better than other people

Harry gets preferential treatment at work, with an office all to himself, just because he is the boss's nephew.

replaceable: disposable; **Opp:** irreplaceable

Many of the paintings lost in the fire were irreplaceable old masters.

responsible: behaving sensibly and properly; responsibility (n) **Opp:** irresponsible, irresponsibility (n)

Sharon is the perfect employee; hardworking and responsible.

ripe: fully grown, ready to eat (fruit, grain); ripeness (n), ripen (v) **Opp:** unripe, unripeness [(n)-not common]

I'm not buying these tomatoes; they're unripe.

scrupulous: sb who takes great care to do what is fair, honest or morally right; scruples (n) **Opp:** unscrupulous

Socrates was known for his scrupulous adherence to the truth and his refusal to compromise.

Practice

1. Make the opposites of the adjectives below by adding one of the following prefixes: **un-, dis-, ir-, il-, ab-, im-, in-**

- | | | |
|----------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 plausible | → | plausible |
| 2 polite | → | polite |
| 3 scrupulous | → | scrupulous |
| 4 ripe | → | ripe |
| 5 decisive | → | decisive |
| 6 accessible | → | accessible |
| 7 normal | → | normal |
| 8 orthodox | → | orthodox |
| 9 logical | → | logical |
| 10 replaceable | → | replaceable |
| 11 practical | → | practical |
| 12 accurate | → | accurate |
| 13 discreet | → | discreet |
| 14 obedient | → | obedient |
| 15 loyal | → | loyal |
| 16 precise | → | precise |
| 17 coherent | → | coherent |
| 18 legible | → | legible |
| 19 responsible | → | responsible |
| 20 official | → | official |

2. Complete the sentences by using the word that appears at the end of each line to form an appropriate adjective. Remember that you may have to add a prefix from exercise 1 or a suffix from the following: **-ish, -ial, -ed, -able, -ive, -less, -ible, -ic**

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 I may be related to the Managing Director, but believe me, I don't get treatment. | PREFER |
| 2 You are 25 years old and you are acting like a spoilt schoolboy. Stop being so | CHILD |
| 3 Ben hated it, but I thought it was a very interesting and programme. | INFORMATION |
| 4 This is the worst crisis that this country has had to face in over 100 years. | ECONOMY |
| 5 Why are you being so? You're disagreeing with everything I say. | ARGUE |
| 6 Appearances can be He might look aggressive but really he is as gentle as a lamb. | DECEIVE |

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 7 with the money he was receiving, Sid decided to leave the company. | SATISFY |
| 8 For some reason, she gave up her job, sold everything she owned and went to live on a desert island. | EXPLAIN |
| 9 All the judges gave her ten out of ten. She had given a performance. | FLAW |
| 10 He looked terrible. Too much work and too many nights. He had to get away. | SLEEP |
| 11 He can be very when he wants to. He can talk you into anything. | PERSUADE |
| 12 The best man was very embarrassed and very about forgetting the time that the wedding was to take place. | APOLOGISE |

3. Read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form an adjective that fits the space in the same line.

What kind of **0)** experience and background should we be giving our children? In a **1)** western economy, they need to be well-informed and **2)** In a complex ever-changing modern world, it is **3)** that the task of preparing the next generation cannot be carried out within the **4)** classroom framework, because acquiring a proper education in this way is simply **5)** This is where computer-aided learning steps in, providing children with the skills that they will need in tomorrow's world, in a one-to-one learner-centred environment. There are those who claim, however, that **6)** exposure to computers may prove to be harmful rather than **7)** to children and that it is more **8)** for education to take place in the classroom. They say that, although computers seem to hold a(n) **9)** appeal for some people, particularly young children, it is **10)** for children to have a person, rather than a machine, for a teacher.

EDUCATION

COMPETE

KNOW

ARGUE

TRADITION

POSSIBLE

EXCEED

**BENEFIT
PRODUCE**

RESIST

PREFER



to double-cross: to cheat sb you have just committed a crime with
In this new novel, Pete double-crosses his partner in crime and runs off with the money.

to rig: to illegally arrange the result of an election

The Opposition leader claimed that the election was rigged.

to swindle: to get money from sb by deceiving them

He managed to swindle the shop out of £3,000 in three months.

to carve: to cut meat into slices

He put a huge turkey on the table. "Will you carve?" he asked.

to mow: to cut grass

Your lawn needs mowing.

to slash: to cut sth violently with a knife

He looked at his car. Someone had slashed the tyres.

to trim: to make sth neat by cutting away untidy pieces

Your hair needs trimming.

You mow the lawn and I'll trim the hedge.

to plummet: to fall dramatically (e.g. for prices)

The price of oil continues to plummet and has now reached an all-time low of 50 cents a barrel.

to plunge: (i) to fall dramatically (for prices and temperatures) (ii) to dive into water (iii) to move forwards and then fall a long way down

The temperature plunged to a record low.

He plunged into the sea and swam towards the shore.

The car crashed through the barrier and plunged over the cliff.

to slump: to suddenly or dramatically fall (for prices and business)

We were doing very well for the first three months of this year and then, for no discernible reason, our sales slumped.

to die down: to become less intense (without necessarily disappearing)

We will have to wait for the storm to die down before we attempt to rescue them.

to fizzle out: to end and disappear in a weak and disappointing way

The protest against the new tax soon fizzled out as the government would not bow to the protestors' demands.

to peter out: to gradually disappear and come to an end

The rain eventually petered out.

to wear off: to stop having an effect

You'll be fine for a couple of hours, but when the anaesthetic wears off you will be in some pain.

to bug: to put very small listening devices somewhere so as to listen to and/or record conversations

Be careful what you say, as the room may be bugged.

to eavesdrop: to intentionally listen to the private conversations of other people

He stood outside the room eavesdropping on their conversation.

to overhear: to unintentionally hear sb talking to sb else

As I walked past his office, I overheard him tell his secretary that he was thinking of resigning.

to tap: (a telephone): to put a very small listening device in so as to listen to telephone conversations

Suspicious noises led me to believe that my phone was being tapped.

to dig up: to find sth which has remained hidden for a long time

We know she had cosmetic surgery about ten years ago. See what you can dig up about that.

to stumble on: to find by chance

A man who was out walking his dog stumbled on the treasure.

to shadow/to tail: to follow and watch sb closely

The police have been shadowing/tailing her for a week.

to stalk: to follow and try to get near a person or animal in order to attack them

The cat was hiding in the long grass, stalking a mouse.

to banish: to send sb out of their native country as a punishment for sth they have done

For her part in the plot, the King banished her from England.

to evacuate: to have to/ to force sb to leave a building or area because it is dangerous

Once the hurricane warning had been given, it took the authorities three hours to evacuate the village.

to evict: to force sb to leave the flat or house they live in because they have broken a law or the contract

They were evicted when they didn't pay the rent.

to expel: to dismiss sb from school permanently because they have done sth very bad

She was expelled from school for playing practical jokes on the teacher.

to climb: to steadily increase (for money and temperature)

By mid-afternoon, the temperature had climbed to 37°.

to rocket: to increase dramatically (for prices)

House prices have rocketed by 65% in the last ten months.

to soar: to increase dramatically (for prices and temperatures)

Soaring inflation has made it impossible for people to manage.

to curb: (for inflation, the rising tide of inner-city violence, the spread of a disease, etc) to do sth to stop sth bad from continuing/getting worse

A further 100 tax inspectors have been appointed to help curb increasing instances of tax evasion.

to hamper: to make movement or progress difficult

Rescue efforts have been hampered by bad weather.

to hinder: to prevent or delay progress

He is hindered by his shyness.

*

to chuck: (informal) to throw

He screwed up the note and chucked it in the bin.

to fling: to throw sth somewhere or at sb with great force

He screwed up the letter and flung it in the fire.

to hurl: to throw sth violently and with great force, often because you are angry

He was sent off for hurling mud at the referee.

to pelt: to throw sth at sb and hit them with it [Note: **to pelt down** = to rain heavily]

They pelted each other with snowballs.

*

to comb: to search a place thoroughly or look at information carefully

The police combed the entire area for clues.

to fish around in: to look for sth using your hands and not your eyes

She fished around in her handbag for her keys.

to scour: to make a thorough search of a place or sth

I scoured the entire house looking for my watch.

to sift through: to examine sth (e.g. evidence) thoroughly

The organisers are still sifting through the competition entries.

Practice

1. The words in the groups are connected because they are similar in meaning. Label the groups using the verbs from the list below to show what their similarities are.

cut – follow – find – fall – listen – increase – stop –
beat – disappear – force to leave – throw – look for

- 1 : bug – eavesdrop – overhear – tap
- 2 : slash – trim – carve – mow
- 3 : peter out – fizzle out – wear off – die down
- 4 : evict – expel – banish – evacuate
- 5 : fling – hurl – chuck – pelt
- 6 : scour – sift through – comb – fish around in
- 7 : plummet – plunge – slump
- 8 : hamper – hinder – curb
- 9 : rig – swindle – double-cross
- 10 : stalk – tail – shadow
- 11 : stumble on – dig up
- 12 : rocket – soar – climb



2. Now complete the sentences below with an appropriate verb (in the correct tense or form) from exercise 1.

- 1 She was very late. She was flustered. She grabbed whatever clothes and toiletries were nearest at hand and, them into her suitcase, she rushed out of the door.
- 2 The old lady was out of her life savings by a man pretending to be an investment consultant.
- 3 We were from our last flat for not paying the rent.
- 4 Take an umbrella with you; it's down outside.
- 5 It was a schoolboy, out on a walk, who the prehistoric cave.
- 6 The price of oil to an all-time low yesterday when it was announced that a new engine had been developed which could run on water.
- 7 Driving rain and poor visibility rescue efforts to such an extent that the search was called off until the weather cleared up.
- 8 A further 100 police officers have been drafted into the high crime areas of the city in an attempt to the rising tide of armed robberies.
- 9 We can't go sailing until this storm
- 10 One of my Sunday chores was to the lawn.
- 11 Rescuers through the rubble looking for survivors from the earthquake.
- 12 In the last three years house prices have by an incredible 300%.
- 13 I was walking past John's office and I him saying to George that Mr Jenkins is retiring.
- 14 As the fire swept towards the town, thousands of people had to be from their homes.

to abhor: to hate something because you think it is morally wrong (formal)

I abhor blood sports.

to assess: to make a judgement about sth; consider/decide, based on testing or careful thought

Some people believe that exams are the only way of assessing people's intellectual abilities.

to bluff: to pretend to do sth that you know you will not do

He said he'd resign but I knew he was only bluffing.

to boost: to cause to increase/improve/be more successful

boost sales/confidence/morale/ego

"You're the best student I've got," he said, in a feeble attempt to boost her confidence.

to condone: to accept that sth is morally right

Whilst I cannot condone this kind of behaviour, I do understand it.

I cannot condone the use of violence under any circumstances.

to crave: to really want, especially **attention/recognition/security/acceptance/food** [Note: noun: **craving**]

He's not the kind of actor who craves media attention.

to deem: (formal) to consider

The headmaster will take whatever action deemed necessary to prevent this kind of incident from ever happening again.

If the doctor deems it advisable, then you will need to have an operation.

to dispel: to stop people believing rumours/feeling worried/having doubts

The management did everything in their power to dispel the rumours that the factory was going to close down.

to disperse: to spread over a wide area; (to make) the people in a crowd separate and go away in different directions, to scatter

The police tried to disperse the crowd.

The meeting broke up and the crowd dispersed peacefully.

to dwindle: to become less and less or fewer and fewer

[Note: adj: **dwindling**]

The number of gorillas living in the wild has dwindled to two hundred.

We had to close the shop because of soaring overheads and dwindling sales.

to exacerbate: to make a bad situation worse

I know Mary is your sister, but if you interfere in her marriage, you will only exacerbate the situation.

to feign: to pretend to have a particular feeling or illness

I feigned interest in her story, although I'd heard it before.

I feigned a headache and went home early.

to fend for yourself: to look after yourself without having to depend on other people

I was 15 when my parents died. In those days there wasn't a social services system so I was left to fend for myself.

to flaunt: to show your **wealth/success/beauty** in a very obvious way so as to obtain other people's admiration

I don't understand why he feels it necessary to always flaunt his money. We all know he's rich!

to flout: to deliberately and openly ignore **law/rules/regulations**

The countries which have decided to flout the new rules laid down by FIFA will not be invited to play in next year's qualifying rounds for the World Cup.

to glean: to find out facts or information in small amounts and with difficulty

I gleaned what information I could about him from books in the reference library.

to jeopardise: to risk losing or ruining sth that is very important or very valuable; to endanger

Your foolish remarks could jeopardise the success of these talks.

What you did has jeopardised the lives of everyone on this expedition.

to linger: (i) to stay at a place for some time, not wanting to leave
(ii) **linger on:** to stay and, though probably becoming weaker, not go away

A number of people were still lingering (around) outside the theatre long after the concert had finished.

The memory of that night will forever linger on in my mind.

to lurch: to move forward suddenly and violently

He slammed on the brakes and I put out my hands as I lurched forward.

to mislead: to make sb believe sth that is not true

I did not deliberately mislead you. I told you what he told me.

You misled me into thinking that everything was included in the price. When I got to the hotel, I was told that I had to pay for all my meals and any drinks I had.

to vow: to promise yourself or sb else (infinitive/clause)

He vowed never to go there again.

to waft: to pass through the air (generally for smells)

The smell of burnt toast wafted upstairs. James was making breakfast.

Practice

1. Complete the following sentences using an appropriate verb from the box below. You may have to change the tense or form of the verb.

vow – bluff – flout – exacerbate – waft – feign – crave –
jeopardise – assess – boost – deem – mislead – disperse –
flaunt – glean – fend – dwindle – abhor – condone – dispel –
lurch – linger



- 1 He announced that he had no intention of stepping down, thereby the rumours that had been circulating in the press about his imminent resignation.
- 2 He said that unless we met his union's demands there would be a strike, but I think he is
- 3 After the accident, he never to drive a racing car again.
- 4 Countries that the rules and regulations laid down by the CITES agreement run the risk of having sanctions imposed upon them.
- 5 Hardly anyone was prepared to talk to us but we managed to a little information from his maid.
- 6 The smell of roast chicken into the living room. Dinner was on its way.
- 7 When their mother died, the orphaned cubs were left to for themselves.
- 8 He was too tired to listen to what she had to say about the board meeting. "Really?" he said, interest. "That's interesting."
- 9 In the past, crowds of up to ten thousand would come and watch us play. Nowadays, numbers have to such an extent that we're lucky if two hundred supporters manage to make it to a match.

- 10 One of the advantages of the new curriculum is that it helps teachers to their students' progress without relying too heavily on exams.
- 11 I cannot the use of violence as a means of solving problems, no matter how pressing that problem may be.
- 12 At the age of fifty, he finally achieved the recognition he had always secretly
- 13 I racism. It goes against everything I believe in.
- 14 In an attempt to sales, they decided to give away a free mug with every thirty pounds spent in their store.
- 15 The United Nations said that it would sanction the use of force in the dispute if the members of the Security Council it necessary.
- 16 As the limousine whisked him away, the crowd that had gathered outside the theatre quickly
- 17 In days gone by, there was a saying that went, *If you've got it, it*. Nowadays, however, it is considered vulgar to show off your wealth.
- 18 You deliberately me. You told me that there would be no risk involved when you knew full well that we could have lost everything!
- 19 We didn't leave with the others. We for a while, hoping to catch a glimpse of her.
- 20 He shakily let out the clutch. The car forward so suddenly and so violently that his driving instructor was nearly catapulted through the window.
- 21 Telling him you think he's in the wrong will only the situation. Why make a bad situation worse?
- 22 He knew that by leaking the document to the press he was not only his own political career but also the prospects of the party at the next general election.

2. Provide a response to the following using the verbs presented in the unit.

- 1 Do you think he is serious?
.....
- 2 So, he didn't tell you the truth then?
.....
- 3 Did you find anything that could help with the project?
.....
- 4 Why don't you release the baby crocodiles into the wild?
.....
- 5 So, what did the man from the insurance company do?
.....

to aggravate: (i) to make a bad situation worse (ii) to annoy sb

Threatening him will only aggravate the situation.

If you know that comments like that aggravate her, why did you say it?

to boycott: (i) to refuse to do business with a company or country (especially by refusing to buy products from that company or country) as a way of protesting (ii) to refuse to take part in an organised event (the Olympics, the World Cup, etc) as a way of protesting

The only way to stop them experimenting on animals is to boycott their products.

Boycotting a sporting event by not participating in it is not considered an effective form of protest.

to dismantle: to separate sth into pieces

"I told you not to dismantle it," I said. "I bet you can't put it back together again, can you?"

to divulge: (formal) to give sb information (especially secret or sensitive information)

She refused to divulge the names of the candidates.

to elapse: to pass (for time)

Twenty years were to elapse before he returned to Argentina.

to endeavour: (formal) to try

We will endeavour to comply with your request.

to fray: if sb's temper frays, they get annoyed

Bob tried to smile. He reminded himself that he was on holiday, but his temper was beginning to fray.

to grant: (i) to grant **permission:** to give permission (ii) to grant sb **access** to sth: to allow sb to see sth/enter somewhere (iii) to grant a **request:** to say yes to sb's request [Note: **I grant you that ...:** I agree that sth is true]

They have been granted permission to build their new factory on a piece of wasteland next to the river.

The firm currently under investigation for tax fraud refused to grant the Inland Revenue access to its computer system.

I grant you that he is an exceptionally talented player, but I'm worried about his temperament.

to harbour: (i) to hide and offer protection to a criminal (ii) to have (a thought, emotion, secret) in your mind for a long time

Harbouring a known criminal is a punishable offence.

Even years later she still harboured feelings of jealousy towards her sister.

to heckle: to shout and interrupt sb who is speaking in public

No sooner had he stood up to speak than a number of people in the audience started heckling him.

to mar: to ruin, to spoil

It was an excellent match, which was marred by a last-minute brawl involving all the players and both managers.

to oust: to remove a person from a position of power

Attempts to oust the chairman of the board failed.

to quibble: to argue about small points/details/differences

All right, then, I won't quibble about the exact meaning of the word.

to refrain: (formal) not to do sth

Passengers are kindly requested to refrain from using mobile telephones and laptop computers during this flight.

to scrap: to decide not to continue with a plan/project because you believe it to be useless or impractical

The government decided to scrap its plan to reintroduce the tram, claiming that it would not be feasible.

Practice

1. For questions 1 to 15, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. The word(s) that you need to complete the second sentence can be found in the box below.

to be scrapped – had elapsed – harbouring – dismantling
– was ousted – boycotted – to divulge – to fray
– was marred – heckling – to grant – to refrain – aggravate
– would endeavour – quibbling

- 1 She had promised the informant complete confidentiality, which is why she didn't want to tell anyone what his name was.

- She had promised the informant complete confidentiality, hence her reluctance his name.
- 2 It took the fire brigade over twenty minutes to get to Susan's house and by then all that was left was a charred and gutted shell.
 - By the time the fire brigade arrived at Susan's house, over twenty minutes and all that was left was a charred and gutted shell.
- 3 Every time a member of the planning committee stood up to talk they had decided to shout out and interrupt, thereby disrupting the meeting.
 - Their aim was to disrupt the meeting by every time a member of the planning committee stood up to talk.

- 4 Opposition parties protested by not attending the meeting on the new measures.
- Opposition parties the meeting on the new measures.
- 5 David managed to take the radio to pieces in ten minutes, but it took him three and a half hours to put it all back together again.
- David spent ten minutes the radio, but it took him three and a half hours to put all the pieces back together again.
- 6 The hotter it got, the more irritable people became. Before long a fight broke out.
- It was hot and tempers soon began Before long, a fight broke out.
- 7 It was a shame that he spoiled his essay by making appalling spelling mistakes because it was full of good ideas and excellent vocabulary.
- His essay was full of good ideas and excellent vocabulary, but unfortunately it by poor spelling.
- 8 The police said that she had allowed a wanted criminal to hide in her house.
- She was accused of a wanted criminal.
- 9 The government were forced to abandon their plan to abolish private schools because it was proving to be very unpopular with the electorate.
- The government's plan to abolish private schools was proving to be so unpopular with the electorate that it had
- 10 We have approached the council in the hope that they will allow us to knock down the old town hall and put up a shopping mall in its place.
- We have asked the council us permission to knock down the old town hall and put up a shopping mall in its place.
- 11 We will try to get the goods to you by six o'clock tomorrow.
- He said they to get the goods to me by six o'clock the next day.
- 12 We would like to remind passengers to remain in their seats during take-off.
- Passengers are kindly requested from leaving their seats during take-off.

- 13 The military overthrew the president in a bloodless coup.
- The president in a bloodless coup.
- 14 The bill was wrong, but I wasn't going to argue about it; we had enjoyed our meal and she had only overcharged us by a few cents.
- The bill was wrong, but I didn't see the point of over it – we had enjoyed our meal and she had only overcharged us by a few cents.
- 15 You'll just make a bad situation worse if you refuse to apologise.
- Refusing to apologise will only the situation.

2. Choose the correct item.

- 1 It is better to forgive and forget than to feelings of bitterness and resentment.
- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| A refrain | C endeavour |
| B harbour | D grant |
- 2 Many companies have had to their plans for expansion due to the economic recession.
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| A scrap | C refrain |
| B harbour | D oust |
- 3 I you that this new job is a step up the ladder, but it will mean moving to another part of the country.
- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| A divulge | C endeavour |
| B quibble | D grant |
- 4 The only thing that the race was Kaba's accident.
- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| A dismantled | C marred |
| B scrapped | D frayed |
- 5 OK, the soup is not boiling hot. Surely you are not going to over such a minor problem.
- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| A quibble | C fray |
| B heckle | D aggravate |
- 6 Visitors are kindly requested to from taking photographs inside the museum.
- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| A refrain | C elapse |
| B endeavour | D grant |
- 7 Fortunately, we were access to the institute's private files.
- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| A refrained | C divulged |
| B boycotted | D granted |
- 8 I asked you not to whistle and you are whistling! Are you deliberately trying to me?
- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| A mar | C oust |
| B aggravate | D quibble |

