

English language words

A Parts of speech

- nouns e.g., chair, information, happiness
- verbs e.g., choose, tell, complain
- adjectives e.g., happy, tall, dangerous
- adverbs e.g., slowly, carefully, often
- prepositions e.g., in, at, on
- pronouns e.g., me, you, him, we, it, she
- articles e.g., definite article (*the*); indefinite article (*a, an*)

B Special terms

- uncountable noun (U):** a noun that has no plural form and cannot be used with the indefinite article, e.g., *information*. See Unit 28.
- plural noun (pl.):** a noun that has a plural form but no singular form and cannot be used with the indefinite article, e.g., *scissors*. See Unit 28.
- infinitive:** the base form of a verb used with *to*, e.g., *to work, to stop, to be*.
- phrasal verb:** a verb + adverb and/or preposition, e.g., *turn on, look over, give up, put up with*. See Units 17 and 18.
- idiom:** a group of words with a meaning that is different from the individual words, e.g., *have second thoughts, have something in mind, keep an eye on something*.
- transitive verb:** a verb that needs a direct object, e.g., "Police caught the thief" (*the thief* is the direct object of the verb *caught*). See Unit 18.
- intransitive verb:** a verb that does not need a direct object, e.g., "The books arrived on time" (there is no direct object after *arrive*). See Unit 18.

C Word building

In the word *uncomfortable*, *un-* is a prefix, *comfort* is a root, and *-able* is a suffix. Other common prefixes include: *re-*, *in-*, and *dis-*; common suffixes include: *-ity*, *-ment*, and *-ive*. Many words also have synonyms, which are words with the same meaning. For example, *big* is a synonym of *large*. The opposite is *small*.

D Pronunciation

Dictionaries show the pronunciation of a word using phonetic symbols, e.g., *book* /bʊk/, *before* /bɪ'fɔːr/, *computer* /kəm'pjʊt-ər/, and so on. Each word contains one or more syllables: *book* has one syllable; *before* has two syllables (be-fore); *computer* has three syllables (com-put-er). The stress is on the second syllable in *before* and in *computer*.

Note: Dictionaries mark stress in different ways: in bold (return); or with a ' before the stressed syllable (re'turn); or with a ' after the stressed syllable (re turn'). Make sure you understand how your dictionary shows stress.

E Punctuation

- period . comma , parentheses ()
- brackets [] hyphen - question mark ?

Exercises

5.1 There is one word missing in each line of this text. Where does the missing word go? And what type of word is it (noun, verb, etc.)? Can you guess the word? Look at the example first.

1. Last year I went to Spain (troun).....
2. week Seville staying with a couple of friends, and
3. then I took a train to Barcelona, where spent another
4. ten days. It is beautiful city and I had a marvelous
5. time. I stayed in a very hotel right in the center of
6. town, but I didn't mind spending a lot money
7. because it is a wonderful and also very convenient.
8. My brother recommended it; he goes Spain a lot
9. and he stays anywhere else.

5.2 In the dialogue below, can you find at least one example of: an uncountable noun; a plural noun; a phrasal verb; an idiom?

- A: What time is it?
 B: Eight o'clock, so we'd better get a move on if we're going to meet Keiko at the airport.
 A: That's all right. Her flight doesn't arrive until 8:30.
 B: Yeah, but it'll take us an hour to get there - you know what the traffic is like.
 A: OK. I'll just go and change clothes.
 B: What's wrong with those shorts?
 A: I don't like driving in shorts. I'm going to put some jeans on.

5.3 Look at the underlined verbs in these sentences. Which are transitive, and which are intransitive?

1. She broke her leg. *transitive*
2. I got up at 7:30.
3. We arrived late.
4. Take off your jacket.
5. She doesn't like Chinese food.
6. He told me to sit down.

5.4 How many syllables are there in each of the words in the box? Mark the main stress in each word.

English	noun	informal	education
understand	adjective	decide	pronunciation
before	opposite	preposition	comfortable

5.5 Look at these words; then answer the questions.

- happy correct lucky sure possible

1. What part of speech are these words?
2. Change each one into an adverb.
3. Can you think of a synonym for at least three of the words?
4. Which prefix can you use to form the opposite of each word? (three different prefixes)
5. Which word has the main stress on the second syllable?