

Section 1: What do we mean? (Word Choice)

Overview

This section covers mistake made by choosing the wrong word, with a meaning that wasn't intended. In some cases it is a small but important different meanings. In a few cases the mistakes are made because Chinese / Cantonese and English approach an idea from different viewpoints.

The basic meaning we want to express in language begin with words. We use words to **name** things or people, and other words to **describe** them. We use words to say **what is happening** (actions, processes) or just what is (states), and we use other words to say **how, where** or **when** that happens or is.

Over time, people who speak on language have a common understanding of what those words mean – or may think we mean something that we don't.

Sometimes a word in one language (e.g. Chinese) may cover a wide range of meanings while those meanings in another language (e.g. English) may have two ore more different words for them. Or the other way around. So it is important to know how **broad or narrow** a word's meaning is in English. For example, 借 in Chinese covers the meanings of two different English words, 'borrow' and 'lend'.

At other times, the two languages may look at a concept from **different perspectives** – a different way of looking at the world. For example, a discount in English is expressed as the amount taken off the price, but in Chinese it is expressed as the amount you have to pay.

1.1 Word Choice – Mistaken Meanings

Many mistakes are made by **confusing the meaning of two words**. Sometimes they look similar but have very different meanings. At other times they are close in meaning but only one is right in the context. This often happens when the range of meaning for a Chinese or Cantonese word is broader or narrower than the range of meaning for an English word that seems to be equivalent but isn't quite appropriate in that context.

For most of these questions, choose between the two or three words given to fill the spaces. The word given may need to be modified – e.g. a noun may need to be plural, a verb may need to change for subject or tense.

Choose the correct words:

- 1 **aboard / abroad**
 - a) More and more people are going _____ for holidays.
 - b) The Captain invited them to come _____ the ships.
- 2 **felt / fell**

I was so tired I _____ asleep on the sofa.
- 3 **attractive / popular**
 - a) That book has a very _____ cover.
 - b) This was the most _____ book amongst teenagers.
- 4 **blankets / brackets**
 - a) The weather turned cold and we got the _____ out.
 - b) We had to give the right tense for the verbs in _____.
- 5 **bought / brought**
 - a) Lisa _____ her CD player to the barbecue.
 - b) Mike's iPod was out of order so he _____ a new one.
- 6 **call / tell**
 - a) Mike's mother _____ him to go and do this homework.
 - b) Then she _____ Jenny to come and have a bath.
- 7 **chair / seat**
 - a) I was lucky to get the last _____ on the mini-bus.
 - b) When I got home I sat in a comfortable _____ and watched TV.
- 8 **cheap / low**
 - a) These jeans are really _____.
 - b) The hawker's prices are quite _____.
- 9 **company / department store**
 - a) My father's _____ imports semi-conductors.
 - b) I bought some shirts from a _____ in Wan Chai.
- 10 **cooker / cook**
 - a) Laura's husband is quite a good _____.
 - b) We have just bought a new _____ for the kitchen.
- 11 **corner / department / department store**
 - a) I bought my suit in the menswear _____.
 - b) The robber told the staff and customers to stand in the _____ of the shop.
 - c) You can buy many things in a _____.
- 12 **dull / bored**
 - a) I fell asleep because the lesson was so _____.
 - b) In that lesson I was really _____.
- 13 **excited / worried**
 - a) When the stock market fell, people were very _____.
 - b) The little girl was very happy and _____ at her birthday party.

- 14 **expensive / high**
a) Electricity is becoming quite _____.
b) Our electricity bill has been quite _____.
- 15 **favourable / worth**
a) That book is _____ reading.
b) The review was very _____.
- 16 **find / look for**
a) I lost my ID card so I was _____ it everywhere.
b) I finally _____ it on a shelf.
- 17 **floor / ground**
a) As he was setting the table he dropped a plate on the _____.
b) He was riding his bike too fast and fell on the _____.
- 18 **future / fortune**
Every year my uncle goes to a _____ teller.
- 19 **give / send**
a) My cousin _____ me a letter from New York.
- 20 **he / she**
My grandmother lives with us and _____ cooks really well.
- 21 **housework / homework**
b) Our parents insist we all do some _____ to keep the place clean and tidy.
c) The teachers didn't set us any _____ tonight.
- 22 **join / enter**
a) Dan _____ the half-marathon event.
b) He did well and decided to _____ a running club.
- 23 **know / make / recognise**
a) That party will be a good chance to _____ some new friends.
b) I have _____ her for years.
c) I shall _____ her easily even though I haven't seen her for a long time.
- 24 **leave for / arrive at / go to**
a) The trains had stopped running for an hour, so I _____ work late.
b) It wasn't my fault I was late because I _____ work at the usual time.
c) Next day the trains were back to normal and I _____ work as usual.
- 25 **lay / lie**
a) The picture fell down and was _____ on the floor.
b) The farmer's hens have been _____ lots of eggs.
- 26 **lead / take**
a) Our mother _____ us to Ocean Park during the holidays.
b) The guide dog _____ the blind man a long the street.
- 27 **legs / lap**
a) The baby tried to stand but her _____ collapsed.
b) Mrs Lee was bouncing the baby on her _____.
- 28 **line / route**
a) The first MTR _____ was from Kwun Tong to Central.
b) Which bus _____ goes from Central to the Peak?
- 29 **listen to / answer**
I asked my brother to _____ the phone as I was busy.
- 30 **listen / hear / understand**
a) I spoke quite loudly, so I'm sure she _____ but I don't think she _____.
b) He walked away and wouldn't even _____ to me.

- 31 **lonely / alone**
a) She prefers to study _____.
b) He felt _____ so he joined some new clubs.
- 32 **memorise / remember**
Tom _____ the formulae so he would do well in the test.
- 33 **MTR / train**
a) I don't like travelling on the _____ because it's underground and there's no view.
b) We went a long way down by escalator then waited on the platform for a(n) _____.
- 34 **call my name / call me names**
a) I waited for the receptionist to _____.
b) In primary school, I hated it when other children _____.
- 35 **officer / clerk**
After finishing school he became a(n) _____ in a trading company.
- 36 **opened / turned on**
They unlocked the door and _____ the light.
- 37 **pedestrian / pavement**
a) Walking on that road is quite dangerous as there is no _____.
b) And drivers do not always see a _____.
- 38 **pocket / packet**
a) We always give red _____ to our caretakers at Chinese New Year.
b) Her parents give her quite a lot of _____ money.
- 39 **read books / study**
a) When I go on holidays I love to relax by _____.
b) In the week before an exam I must _____ a lot.
- 40 **rise / raise**
a) His boss _____ his salary.
b) He got a _____ in salary.
c) I'm sure the cost of living will _____ this year.
- 41 **score / scold**
a) I'm scared of being _____ for doing that.
b) What was the _____ in the football?
- 42 **shiny / sunny**
a) The beach will be more crowded on a _____ day than on a rainy day.
b) My uncle was outside with a _____ new car.
- 43 **sleep / go to sleep / go to bed**
a) I usually _____ at 10 p.m.
b) But I don't _____ until about 10:30 as I read first.
c) I still manage to _____ about eight hours.
- 44 **soap / soup**
a) I always like some _____ with my dinner.
b) I got in the shower but couldn't find the _____.
- 45 **station / stop**
a) There's a bus _____ right outside our building.
b) But it's quite a long walk to the MTR _____.
- 46 **table / desk**
a) Grandmother put the meal on the _____ and we began to eat.
b) Then Tony went to this _____ to study.

- 47 **uncomfortable / unwell**
a) If you're feeling _____, do you need to see a doctor?
b) I slept on the floor. It was really _____.
- 48 **uneasy / not easy**
a) I felt _____ about lending hi the money.
b) Raising the money to buy it was _____.
- 49 **waste / spend / cost**
a) That MTR trip _____ me \$5.5.
b) My mother _____ a few hours every day cooking our meals.
c) He _____ \$150 buying trousers that didn't fit him.
- 50 **watch / look at / read / see**
a) At weekends I enjoy _____ a good film.
b) He seemed worried and _____ his watch several times.
c) Millions of people _____ TV every night.
d) Instead of books, many children _____ comes.
- 51 **wear / try on / put on**
a) When I _____ my shoes this morning I found they were still wet.
b) My other pair had a hole so I had to _____ the wet ones all day.
c) The shop assistant wouldn't let me _____ the skirt before I bought it.
- 52 **well / good**
a) Her results in the examinations were very _____.
b) He's back from hospital and is now very _____.
c) She skates really _____.
- 53 **wish / hope**
a) I _____ he hadn't gone away.
b) I _____ you'll be there.
- 54 **succeed / come true**
a) I hope your dream _____.
b) That girl bound to _____.

1.2 Word Choice – Different Chinese / English Viewpoints

Sometimes mistakes are made in word choice or meaning because Chinese and English approach an idea from **different viewpoints**. The two languages may look at a concept in different ways.

For most of these questions, choose between the two or three words given to fill the spaces. The word given may need to be modified – e.g. a verb may need to change for tense.

Choose the correct words:

- 55 **always / often**
a) I _____ eat dumplings
b) I _____ eat dumplings for Sunday lunch.
- 56 **borrow / lend**
a) This is a wonderful book – may I _____ it?
b) This is a wonderful book – would you _____ it to me?
c) I _____ her \$100.
d) She _____ \$50 from me.
- 57 **borrow / use**
I asked the shopkeeper if I could _____ their phone.
- 58 **home / ⓪(no word)**
I need to borrow that book _____.

- 59 **classmates / students**
a) Many schoolboys go hiking with their _____ in the New Territories.
b) The teacher asked all the _____ to take home forms for the charity walk.
- 60 **10% / 90%**
It's not a big reduction – only _____ discount.
- 61 **40% / 60%**
These goods are less than half-price – it's a _____ discount!
- 62 **help her / for her / Ⓞ(no word)**
a) She asked us to _____ deposit the money in the bank _____.
b) She asked us to _____ study Maths _____.
- 63 **schoolmates / students**
a) A police officer spoke in Assembly and said he hoped all _____ would remember what he said about road safety.
b) Terry asked a number of his _____ to a party for his 10th birthday.

Section 2: Words working for us? (Word Families)

Overview

This section covers mistakes made with words derived from the same root. In most of them, the wrong word class (also known as 'part of speech') is used. In some cases, two words of the same class but with different meanings are confused. There are few cases where a suffix is chosen that works with same roots but not this one.

In English, we can add bits to the beginnings and ends of basic words (**roots**) to make them perform different roles in the sentence. These are called '**prefixes**' and '**suffixes**'.

This can create a whole family of words, in some cases a noun, a verb, an adjective and an adverb, all around one root meaning but performing different roles. Sometimes there may even be two words of the same class, e.g. nouns, with related but slightly different meanings.

For example, the noun 'joy' is a root word. When the prefix 'an-' is added at the beginning, it creates the verb 'enjoy'. When the suffix '-ment' is added to the end of that, it creates a different noun, 'enjoyment'. Suffixes added to 'joy' create the adjectives 'joyous' and 'joyful', and another suffix, '-ly', added to them creates the adverbs 'joyously' and 'joyfully'. Here are seven words in one family around the root meaning of 'joy', but having different roles and different but related meanings.

What are these roles / word classes? We use **nouns** to name people, ideas or things, and **adjectives** to describe them. We use **verbs** to say what is happening or simply what is. Saying how, when or where that happens or is, can involve adverbs or other combinations – **prepositional phrases**, **noun groups** or **adverbial clauses**.

Knowing the word class or extra meaning given by different prefixes and suffixes can increase greatly the different ways we can use that basic meaning of a root word in sentences.

One other way English creates new words out of the existing ones is to put two words usually roots, together. For example, the noun 'boyfriend', the verb 'babysit' and the adjective 'homesick'. These are called **compound words**.

2.1 Word Families – Same Root, Different Word Class

Many mistakes are made by using **the wrong word class** (i.e. part of speech) derived from the same root, for example the noun instead of the verb. In some cases the same Chinese word is used for both English forms. The noun 'loss' (損失), for example, may be confused with the verb 'lose' or the adjective 'lost'.

Nouns and verbs in your answers here will also need to show appropriate agreement and/or tense for the sentence.

Choose the correct words:

- 64 **across / cross**
a) She walked _____ the room.
b) It is hard to _____ that road in heavy traffic.
- 65 **anger / angry**
a) He gets _____ very easily.
b) So he should learn to control his _____.
- 66 **main / mainland**
Many of Hong Kong's immigrants have come from _____ China.
- 67 **mid / middle**
a) We have exams in _____-June.
b) The typhoon came in the _____ of the holidays.
- 68 **near / nearby**
a) I go to a school that is just _____.
b) The school is quite _____ my home.
c) We can exercise in a _____ park.
- 69 **open / opened**
The exhibition was _____ by the District Council Chairperson at 9:00 a.m.
I'm not sure if it's still _____ now
- 70 **painful / in pain**
a) The boy was _____.
b) The cut on his leg was _____.

Give the appropriate class words:

- 71 **bad**
a) He did the work quite _____.
b) I'm afraid the news is quite _____.
- 72 **beauty**
a) Hong Kong is known for the _____ of the harbour.
b) The sunset last night was really _____.
- 73 **breath**
a) I took a deep _____ and jumped in.
b) She told us to _____ deeply before singing.
- 74 **choice**
a) It is very difficult to _____ a present for her.
b) The judges made a very good _____ for 1st prize in the poetry contest.
- 75 **comfort**
a) They like the _____ of their home.
b) Their flat is very _____.
c) We tried to _____ him after the death of his mother.
- 76 **complicate**
a) The arrangements for the event are very _____.
b) If we try to do too many things it _____ the situation.

- 77 **confide**
a) She's a very able and _____ person.
b) I have great _____ in her.
- 78 **crowd**
a) A large _____ gathered outside the courthouse.
b) The room was too _____ and I couldn't get in.
- 79 **danger**
a) It is _____ to work with electricity without training.
b) He didn't realise the _____ in walking there.
c) The children were in _____ of falling off the cliff.
- 80 **die**
a) Three passengers were injured but the driver was already _____.
b) By the time they got the girl to hospital she had _____.
c) Her parents were mourning her _____.
- 81 **ease**
a) It is _____ to prove who took the money.
b) They should solve crime very _____.
- 82 **favour**
a) Some fathers _____ a daughter more than a son.
b) We went to my _____ restaurant for Sunday lunch.
- 83 **fear**
a) Many children _____ the dark.
b) However, Becky isn't _____ of the dark.
- 84 **hard**
He thought it would be _____ to predict the result.
- 85 **health**
a) When you're working very hard, you should also look after your _____.
b) A balanced diet and regular exercise should keep you _____.
- 86 **heat**
a) Summers have been very _____ recently.
b) The _____ is very difficult for the elderly.
- 87 **horror**
a) His behaviour recently has been _____.
b) Why do some people enjoy _____ movies so much?
- 88 **hunger**
a) I think the baby's _____.
b) Too many people are suffering from _____.
- 89 **important**
a) That's the most _____ thing for you to do.
b) She stressed the _____ of punctuality.
- 90 **join**
a) My father has _____ a Rotary club.
b) Why don't you ask your father if he wants to _____ too?
c) My parents have a _____ bank account.
- 91 **lose**
a) I realised I had _____ my wallet.
b) So I reported the _____ at the police station.

- 92 **loud**
a) Suddenly we heard a _____ crash out in the street.
b) After the accident, the drivers argued _____.
- 93 **luck**
a) He bought a special number plate for this car to bring him _____.
b) Many people believe a good number plate will make them _____.
- 94 **noise**
a) The traffic is very _____ during rush hour.
b) My grandfather doesn't like the _____ in the city.
- 95 **obese**
a) There are many more _____ people these days.
b) _____ is a problem society needs to tackle.
- 96 **pass**
a) In the _____ few days I haven't been very well.
b) A faster runner _____ me in the last few metres.
- 97 **please**
a) Children give their parents a lot of _____.
b) We had a very _____ meal together.
- 98 **prove**
a) The police couldn't _____ he did it.
b) They will need stronger _____ than that.
- 99 **recent**
a) That happened quite _____.
b) It was after the _____ storm.
- 100 **safe**
a) When the fire started we made sure everyone was _____.
b) Road _____ is very important.
- 101 **salt**
a) Many packets of peanuts are too _____.
b) Why do they add so much _____?
- 102 **succeed**
a) She worked very hard and deserved her _____.
b) Some people never thought she would _____.
c) But in the end she was extremely _____.
- 103 **suggest**
a) If you think that, why not _____ it?
b) They say they are always open to _____.
- 104 **surprise**
a) Don't be _____ if he comes to see you.
b) It was a big _____ when he came to see me.
- 105 **teenage**
a) That disco has a lot of _____ in it.
b) The race was won by a _____ girl.
- 106 **true**
a) I want to discover the _____ of the matter.
b) I'm not sure her story is _____.
- 107 **weight**
a) I wanted to _____ my suitcase before the flight.
b) Unfortunately the _____ was over 30 kg.

108 **worry**

- a) Don't let your _____ get you down.
- b) Some people are _____ all the time.
- c) They need friends to tell them not to _____.

Give the appropriate class and form:

109 **hard and work**

- a) Steve does a lot of _____.
- b) Gerry also _____.
- c) So we can say they are both very _____.

2.2 Word Families – Same Root & Word Class, Different Meaning

Sometimes, two words of the same class are derived from **the same root with different but related meanings**. For example, 'resident' and 'residence' are both nouns derived from the verb 'reside', but one refers to a person, the other to a building or the abstract concept of living somewhere.

Nouns and verbs in your answers here will also need to show appropriate agreement and/or tense for the sentence.

Choose the appropriate form:

110 **clothing(s) / clothe(s)**

- a) She likes to buy _____ with famous labels.
- b) They worry about the cost of food and _____.

Choose the correct words:

111 **favourable / favourite**

- a) For Sunday lunch they go to their _____ restaurants.
- b) We hope the report on our proposal is _____.

112 **fun / funny**

- a) She told a very _____ joke.
- b) Going to the concert together was _____.

113 **hardly / hard**

- a) Many Hong Kong students study very _____.
- b) However, there are some who _____ study at all.

114 **late / lately**

- a) We arrived _____ at the concert.
- b) The weather has been pretty stormy _____.

115 **residence / resident**

- a) I am a _____ of this building.
- b) The Chief Executive has a _____ just above Central.

116 **sales / sales assistant**

- a) I wanted to ask about the sweaters but there weren't any _____ about.
- b) He is doing very well in his new job and has made a lot of _____.

117 **shopkeepers / shoppers**

- a) Supermarkets make it difficult for small _____.
- b) The stores were full of _____ before New Year.

118 **worthy / worthwhile**

- a) It would be _____ to start saving money now.
- b) She's a very _____ person to be captain of the team.

2.3 Word Families – Wrong Suffix Choice

Occasionally a suffix is chosen which can be used for that word class with some other roots, but not this particular one.

Choose the correct words:

- 119 **air-conditioner / air-conditioning / air-conditioned**
_____ is expensive but we decided to get an _____ and now our
bedroom is _____.
- 120 **difficult / difficulty**
After the operation she walked with great _____.
- 121 **fast / fastly**
a) She bought a very _____ car.
b) Then she drove it very _____ a long the highway.
- 122 **hurrlily / hurriedly**
I _____ grabbed my schoolbag and ran to the bus.

Section 3: Describing people & things (Noun Groups)

Overview

This section covers a range of mistakes made in the way we refer to people, ideas, or things. They include mistakes with nouns and adjectives, but also determiners and prepositions. They include singular / plural issues and countable / uncountable issues.

When we refer to a person, idea or thing we often use more than one word. As well as the **noun** to name it, there may be an **adjective** to describe it more. There may also be an **article** such as 'the' or 'a/an'. The whole group of words that we use together to give a full picture of the person, idea or things is called **noun group**.

It is helpful to think of 'the tall man' as one noun group referring to one person rather than as three words, which happen to be an article, an adjective and a noun.

There may be words other than articles at the beginning of the noun group (e.g. 'that' or 'several') – these are called **determiners**.

There may also be a **prepositional phrase** after the noun, making quite a long noun group, e.g. 'several tall men in dark suits'. But it is still one noun group referring to one group of people.

How we deal with **singular** and **plural** things is related issue. It may affect the form of the noun and the form of any verb it is subject of. It may also affect which determiner is used, as some are used for singular nouns, some for plural nouns, and some for either.

Likewise, whether a noun is **countable** or **uncountable** affects the determiners used and any verb the nouns subject of.

3.1 Noun Groups – Nouns Usually Uncountable

In English, some nouns are considered uncountable. For example, you can't normally say 'one luck', 'two luck'. **Uncountable nouns** are not used in the plural, nor can they take 'a/an'.

There are, however, certain units with which uncountable nouns can be counted, e.g. 'a bit of luck', 'two glasses of water'.

Countable nouns can take 'a/an' and can be plural (e.g. 'a book', 'two books').

Some other determiners are used with countable nouns, some with uncountable nouns, and some with either.

Some nouns are **uncountable with some meanings but countable with others**, particularly as new uses of the nouns emerge. For example, 'coffee' as a substance is considered uncountable, but in a restaurant, you can order 'two coffees', where the meaning has widened to include the cups of coffee.

Underline the noun(s) that cannot normally be plural or take 'a/an':

- 123 advice suggestion idea
124 chair table furniture
125 knowledge health luck
126 news article information
127 jewellery necklace music song
128 bin litter rubbish
129 schoolwork homework housework work

Choose the correct words:

- 130 amount / number
a) Students complained about the _____ of homework.
b) Parents complained about the _____ of textbooks they had to buy.
c) I need to deposit a large _____ of money.
- 131 a / (no article)
a) It's _____ hard work looking after a baby.
b) It's _____ hard job to look after a baby.

Give the appropriate form of words:

- 132 bread
We'll need to buy a lot of _____ for the sandwiches.
- 133 food
The ship was carrying a lot of _____.
- 134 hair
a) He's just had his _____ cut.
b) There were some blonde _____ on his jacket.
- 135 money / dollar
a) Did you lose much _____ in the robbery?
b) Yes, over three hundred _____.

Give the appropriate two-word expression:

- 136 Camping
They greatly enjoyed a _____ the school had organised.

What word should be used instead of 'an' here?

137 I needed to _____ information on the weather.

How can 'news' be used in this sentence?

138 I did hear a very interesting _____ about that last night

What word or words are needed in the space rather than 'another'?

139 I still have _____ homework to do.

3.2 Noun Groups – Nouns Rarely Plural

Some nouns, although countable, represent **a set of people or things** and **cannot be used with 'a' for individual members** of the set and are not often used in the plural.

For example, 'staff' is the set of people who work for an organisation and cannot be used for individual 'members of staff'; and it is rare to talk about the 'staffs' of different organisations.

Choose the correct words:

140 **alphabet(s) / letter(s)**

- a) Which _____ does your ID card number begin with?
- b) Car number plates are a mixture of numbers and _____.
- c) Does French use the same _____ as English?

141 **population(s) / a lot of population(s) / a large population**

- a) The world has _____.
- b) I'm worried by the growing _____ of Hong Kong.
- c) China and India have the largest _____ in the world.

142 **vocabulary / vocabularies / word(s)**

- a) Have you learnt many new _____ this week?
- b) The teacher says I need to widen my _____.

3.3. Noun Groups – Using Determiners

Determiners are words at the beginning of the noun group that show the scope or limits of what a noun is referring to. This includes the **articles** 'a/an' and 'the', but also **demonstratives** such as 'that' and 'these', **possessives** such as 'your' and 'my', and **other determiners** such as 'each' and 'many'.

Some determiners take singular nouns, other take plural nouns, and some take either. Some take countable nouns, some take uncountable nouns, and some take either.

3.3.1 Using 'a/an', 'the' or no Article

Some of the main guidelines for using articles are that:

- 'an/an' is often used for something not mentioned before or to refer to something in a **general / indefinite** way;
- 'the' is often used for something already mentioned or to refer to something in a **specific / definite** way.

In addition:

- 'a/an' is used with **singular countable** nouns, but cannot normally be used with uncountable nouns;
- 'the' can be used with **singular or plural, countable or uncountable** nouns.

Choose the correct articles or 'Ø' for no article.

143 **a / an**

Tom would like _____ orange.
Jane would like _____ banana.

- 144 **the / a**
My mother is _____ teacher in a primary school
- 145 **the / ⓪**
When do you usually go to _____ bed?
- 146 **a / the / ⓪**
a) I usually have _____ breakfast at 7:30 a.m.
b) We had _____ delicious breakfast in the hotel.
c) We only needed _____ light lunch.
d) Half-way up the mountain we stopped to have _____ lunch.
- 147 **the / ⓪**
a) Do you have a concert at _____ Christmas?
b) How long are _____ Christmas holidays?
- 148 **a / the / ⓪**
_____ computer is a wonderful invention.
- 149 **a / ⓪**
I asked my father for _____ hundred dollars.
- 150 **an / the / ⓪**
a) The buses were full so I took _____ MTR.
b) However, I don't usually go by _____ MTR as it's more expensive.
- 151 **the / ⓪**
We're lucky that _____ nature gives us such a lovely environment.
- 152 **a / an / the / ⓪**
a) More people live in _____ New Territories than Kowloon.
b) I prefer _____ Victoria Park to _____ Botanical Gardens.
c) It's a long way from _____ Tuen Mun to _____ Ocean Park.
d) They went straight from _____ Chek Lap Kok Airport to _____ Peak.
- 153 **an / their**
They are very pleased that they now have _____ own flat.
- 154 **a / the / ⓪**
a) I wrote down _____ wrong time and missed the train.
b) She's _____ right person to talk to.
- 155 **the / ⓪**
We need to be aware of trends in _____ society.

Choose 's' or '⓪' for no word and give the appropriate auxiliary verb:

- 156 Computer _____ getting more and more powerful.

3.3.2 Using other Determiners

As already mentioned, some determiners are used with **singular** nouns, some with **plural** nouns, and some with **either**.

Some determiners are used with **countable** nouns some with **uncountable** nouns, and some with **either**.

Choose the correct words or '⓪' for no word:

- 157 **all / each of**
_____ the boys was wearing a tie.

- 158 **another / the other**
a) There are lots of dresses here. If you don't like this one why don't you try _____ one?
b) Some children, when one parent refuses them something, just go and ask _____ one.
- 159 **each / every**
Almost _____ student in our class passed the English exam.
- 160 **every / all**
_____ students are invited to enter the competition.
- 161 **few / a few**
a) She makes _____ TV appearances now and it not nearly as popular as she used to be.
b) She has made _____ TV appearance already and may well become a star in the future.
- 162 **many / more**
_____ and _____ people are buying their own flats now.
- 163 **of / Ⓞ**
a) Many _____ computers are really fakes.
b) Many _____ the computers in that shop are fakes.
- 164 **of / Ⓞ**
a) Most _____ young people like barbecue.
b) Most _____ my friends like hiking.

3.3.3 Using other Determiners

There is very small group of words that **come before any determiner** in a noun group. These are called 'pre-determiners'.

Rewrite the sentences adding the given word in the correct place:

- 165 **quite**
I wouldn't walk there – it's a long way.

- 166 **such**
I've known her for years – she's a nice person.

3.4 Noun Groups – Singular Or plural?

In English, most **nouns add 's'** or change form in some other ways to show when they are **plural** (e.g. 'book' – 'books', 'child' – 'children').

When a **singular** noun, or a pronoun 'he', 'she' or 'it', is subject of a verb, most **verbs change** from their basic form in the present tense, usually by **adding 's'** (e.g. 'I walk' – 'she walks').

This is very different from Chinese where the character for a noun does not change for plural, and the character for a verb does not change for a singular noun subject – plural in Chinese are indicated separately with an extra character such as a number and classifier in front of the noun or a plural particle after a pronoun.

This difference creates difficulties for learners in remembering to make such changes to the form of an English noun or verb.

Underline the appropriate singular or plural nouns and verbs in these sentences:

- 167 All the news today **was / were** good!
- 168 All of the **child / children** **was / were** playing happily.

- 169 Each of the **child / children** **is / are** working well.
170 Each **child / children** **was / were** given a special present.
171 Every **student / students** **has / have** passed the test.
172 Everybody **is / are** invited to the party.
173 Everyone **wants / want** to know what will happen.
174 Many **shop / shops** **is / are** closed today.
175 Several **car / cars** **was / were** involved in the accident.

Choose the correct words:

- 176 **all / every**
I like _____ kinds of food.
- 177 **apple / apples**
Do you want another _____?
- 178 **anything / anythings**
There were lots of souvenirs but she didn't want _____.
- 179 **Chan / Chans**
a) We live next door to the _____.
b) We live next door to the _____ family.
- 180 **child / children**
As a _____, she read a lot.
- 181 **fish / fishes**
We have six _____ in an aquarium at home.
- 182 **foot / feet**
I usually go by bus but sometimes I like to go on _____.
- 183 **friend / friends**
I didn't know anyone at the party but soon made _____ with several people.
- 184 **student / students**
She is one of the best _____ in the school.
- 185 **glove / gloves**
I had to buy a pair of _____ for the cold.
- 186 **is / are**
People _____ worried about bad air quality.
- 187 **people / person**
If there were six people in a room and five left, there would then be only one _____ in the room.
- 188 **is / are**
The police _____ looking for a man of about 30.
- 189 **officer / officers**
So I told a police _____ what I had seen.
- 190 **some polices / the police**
Later I saw _____ arresting a man.
- 191 **is / are**
The rubbish really _____ a problem now.
- 192 **shoe / shoes**
There are many good _____ shops in this area.
- 193 **star / stars**
I hope it's all right: it's only a two-_____ hotel.
- 194 **umbrella / umbrellas**
Many people in the street were carrying their _____.
- 195 **a suit / suits**
Two men in _____ were standing at the door.

- 196 **is / are**
a) There _____ a sofa in the living room.
b) There _____ two beds in that room.
c) There _____ an apple and two oranges in the bowl.
d) There _____ some water on the bench.
- 197 **a / some**
I wanted to get _____ blue trousers.
But I ended up getting _____ pair of black trousers.
- 198 **a twin / twins**
a) Susan and Sarah are _____.
b) Rob? I never know he was _____.
- 199 **woman / women**
a) There's a _____ waiting to see you.
b) _____ are still not getting equal pay.
- 200 **year / years**
a) He'll retire soon – he's nearly 65 _____ old.
b) It is quite hard for a 60-_____old man to find a new job.

3.5 Noun Groups – Adjectives

Adjectives can be used **in front of nouns** to describe them. They can also come **after the verb 'to be' or other link verbs** to describe the subject.

3.5.1 '-ed' & '-ing' Adjectives

The '-ed' and '-ing' forms of verbs can often be used as adjectives. Many '-ing' adjectives relate to cause while corresponding '-ed' adjectives from the same root often relate to effect.

For example, a 'disappointing' result (cause) makes someone feel 'disappointed' (effect). Or to take examples in separate sentences:

- We had a very **tiring day**. (cause)
- **Emily** was very **tired**. (effect)

Choose the correct words:

- 201 **bored / boring**
a) I'm afraid the game was very _____.
b) Some spectators were so _____ they left before the end.
- 202 **embarrassed / embarrassing**
a) I was very _____ when I got her name wrong.
b) Yes, that was an _____ moment.
- 203 **excited / exciting**
a) These are the _____ new fashions from the Hong Kong designer.
b) I'm very _____ about the possibilities.
- 204 **frightened / frightening**
a) I was very _____ by that burglar.
b) The whole thing was a _____ experience.
- 205 **surprised / surprising**
a) Her decision to resign is quite _____.
b) The other committee members will be very _____.

3.5.2 Comparative & Superlative Adjectives

Adjectives have comparative and superlative forms to **compare** the person, thing or idea they describe with **one or more others**.

For the **comparative**, shorter adjectives usually add **'-er'** (e.g. **'taller'**) while longer ones have **'more'** in front (e.g. **'more attractive'**).

The **superlative** form usually begins with **'the'**, then shorter adjectives add **'-est'** (e.g. **'the biggest'**) while longer ones have **'most'** in front (e.g. **'the most popular'**).

These are **irregular** form, e.g. **'bad' – 'worse' – 'worst'**.

Give the comparative form:

206 **quick**
Buses are _____ than trams.

207 **comfortable**
Taxis are _____ than buses.

Give the superlative form:

208 **attractive**
The _____ trains are on the Airport Express line.

209 **fast**
The _____ way to get the Peak is by taxi.

Choose the correct words:

- 210 **worse / worst**
- a) That is a much _____ offer than the last one.
 - b) I think this was the _____ film we have seen.

3.6 Noun Groups – Prepositions

Prepositions are (usually) short words that come in front of a noun group to show its relationship to other parts of the clause. The **preposition** and its **noun group** make up a **prepositional phrase**.

Many prepositional phrases tell us **where, when or how** something happens. Some **describe** a person or thing more. Other prepositions are used after verbs to show a **relationship** to the following noun group.

3.6.1 Which Preposition – or none at all?

In some cases, prepositions have **obvious meanings**, for example, prepositions of place, such as **'on', 'in', 'under'** and **'beside'**.

In many other cases, though, which preposition to use is **conventional** (i.e. usage that is accepted over time), and you need to look in a dictionary to see which one is appropriate with a particular verb, noun, adjective, etc. But to use the wrong one is ungrammatical.

Choose the correct prepositions:

- 211 **to / and**
- a) The humidity varied between 70% _____ 95%.
 - b) The temperature ranged from 28c _____ 32c.

212 **in / on / out**
I got _____ the car quickly but forgot my keys, so I had to get _____ again.

213 **on / down / off**
She got _____ the bus in Central and got _____ in Causeway Bay.

- 214 **at / on**
My Dad's office is _____ the 22nd floor.
- 215 **at / in**
She is very good _____ badminton.
- 216 **at / to**
He then pointed the gun _____ me.
- 217 **in / under**
_____ this situation, I needed to work out a plan.
- 218 **at / to**
When she woke up from the operation, she smiled _____ her mother.
- 219 **at / in**
What do you like doing _____ your spare time.
- 220 **at / in**
She was driving _____ quite a low speed.
- 221 **in / on**
a) I got better just _____ time to play in the match.
b) Their plane arrived exactly _____ time.
- 222 **except / as well as**
a) _____ vegetables, I like all fruit.
b) I like all fruit _____ bananas.

Choose the correct prepositions or '⊗' for no preposition:

- 223 **of / ⊗**
I got four dozen _____ soft drink packets for the picnic.
- 224 **for / ⊗**
These pomelos are \$6 _____ each.
- 225 **in / ⊗**
Where do the Tsang family live _____?
- 226 **to / ⊗**
a) Can you bring it _____ here so I can see it?
b) I really don't want to go _____ there.
- 227 **to / ⊗**
He was feeling sick so I suggested he go back _____ home.
- 228 **in / ⊗**
_____ recently, the traffic has been heavier than ever.

Give the appropriate prepositions or '⊗' if none is needed:

- 229 The bus was crowded _____ school students.
- 230 I live _____ Kowloon, but she lives _____ Hong Kong Island.
- 231 In the park you can see hundreds _____ birds.
- 232 We saw about a hundred _____ birds near the beach.
- 233 I prefer to listen to the news _____ the radio.
- 234 However my family like to watch it _____ television.
- 235 Don't you want to try the shoes _____ before you decide?

3.6.2 Which Preposition – Prepositional Phrases

A preposition can be followed by a **noun group** as its object or an **'-ing' verb** (which can also act like a noun) to form a **'prepositional phrase'**. This works even when the '-ing' verb is followed by its own objects or complements.

Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words:

- 236 **the dark**
Little Johnnie is afraid of _____.

- 237 **climb trees**
Little Johnnie is afraid of _____.

Choose 'I' or 'me' as subject or object:

- 238 My father and _____ often watch football together.
239 My uncle gave my father and _____ tickets for the final.

Section 4: What's happening? (Verb Groups)

Overview

This section covers mistakes made in using verbs to refer to actions or processes or the state people or things are in. It includes mistakes with tense and with active / passive verbs. It also includes mistakes in the way verbs do or do not use prepositions to bring in following noun groups.

A verb group tells us what is happening:

- I **dropped** the glass. (**an action**)
- The discussion **has begun**. (**a process**)

Or what is:

- Daniel **is** an actor. (**a state**)

A verb group needs a **main verb** – ‘**drop**’, ‘**begin**’, and ‘**is**’, in these cases. But it often has small extra verbs (**auxiliary verbs**) to help create a range of meanings – ‘**has**’ in the second example.

The primary **auxiliary verbs** are ‘**be**’, ‘**have**’ and ‘**do**’, all of which can also be main verbs on their own. The others are **modal auxiliaries**, such as ‘**can**’ and ‘**should**’, which cannot be used on their own unless the main verb is understood from the context.

The **verb group** is the **main verb** plus any **auxiliary verbs** (including modals) attached to it.

These are the ways verb groups can be made up:

- A range of **tenses** can be created, in many of which the auxiliary verbs ‘**be**’ and/or ‘**have**’ combine with the present or past participles of following auxiliaries or main verbs;
- ‘**Be**’ can also be used with the past participle of the verb to create various **passive** forms;
- Another auxiliary verb ‘**do**’ can be used with most verbs to create various passive forms;
- Another auxiliary verb ‘**do**’ can be used with most verbs to create **questions** or **negatives**, or for **emphasis**;
- In addition, modal auxiliaries such as ‘**can**’ or ‘**should**’ can be added at the beginning of the verb group to give meanings such as **possibility** or **obligation**, or for **politeness**, **requests**, etc.

4.1 Verb Groups – Verb Form

Most English verbs in the **simple present** change form when the subject is a singular noun or the pronoun 'he', 'she' or 'it', e.g.:

- I **agree** – Jack **agrees**.

Most also change form for the **simple past**, with regular verbs adding '-ed' to the basic form, e.g.:

- We all **laugh** – We all **laughed**.

A **present participle** ends in '-ing' and a regular **past participle** ends in '-ed', e.g.:

- What is she **cooking**? She's already **cooked** a big meal.

Some very common verbs, however, are **irregular**. For example, the verb 'eat' has a simple past 'ate' and past participle 'eaten'.

The **infinitive** form can have 'to' in front, or it can be a **bare** infinitive without 'to', e.g.:

- We need **to finish** by 5 p.m. Let me **help** you.

We have already noted that this is very different from the way Chinese verbs work.

Give the correct auxiliary verb or none (⊙):

- 240 a) We _____ agree with the suggestion.
b) _____ you agree with it?

Give the appropriate form of the words:

- 241 **study**
I had better _____ for the test tomorrow.
- 242 **break**
a) I dropped a glass and _____ it.
b) One of our windows was _____ in the storm.
- 243 **buy**
Last year we _____ a new TV set.
- 244 **cost**
That meal last week _____ \$150 each.
- 245 **apologies**
Don't _____. It's not a problem.
- 246 **hit**
It was my first game, but I _____ the ball very hard.
- 247 **hurt**
I was _____ by the unkind things she said.
- 248 **injure**
He was tackled in the first half and badly _____.
- 249 **join**
I didn't know you had _____ the scouts.
- 250 **lay**
a) They are _____ the foundation stone tomorrow.
b) She very carefully _____ the painting on the table.
- 251 **lie**
a) When we came in she was _____ on the floor.
b) After he had finished, he _____ down for a rest.
- 252 **pay**
It is worth _____ a little more for good quality.

253 **have**
It _____ been a very long day.

Choose the correct words or '⓪' if no auxiliary verb is needed:

254 **are** / ⓪
We _____ really enjoy going to concerts.

255 **does** / **is**
_____ that jacket fit you properly?

How could 'swim' be used in this sentence?

256 She doesn't need to take lessons – she knows _____.

Should there be another verb, or nothing (⓪), in the space?

257 My father took us to _____ Water World on Saturday.

Choose an appropriate form of 'receive', with or without a preposition:

258 She was delighted _____ our gifts.

Give the simple past form of 'teach':

259 He _____ me Maths for two years.

4.2 Verb Groups – Modal Auxiliaries

The modal auxiliary comes first in the verb group and is followed by an infinitive verb without 'to'.

For example:

- I **can swim** a kilometre
- You **should remember** that
- I **might have** seen him.

They are used to show such things as ability, possibility, probability, obligation and permission, and also for politeness, suggestions, advice, offers, requests, etc.

After each of the modals here, put an appropriate verb in the space or '⓪' if none is needed:

- 260 The lectures can _____ very boring.
- 261 They couldn't _____ across the road in the traffic.
- 262 We may _____ by taxi.
- 263 That might _____ because she was away yesterday.
- 264 She must _____ aware that it's his birthday.
- 265 I shall _____ back to school next week.
- 266 You shouldn't _____ afraid. The dog doesn't bite.
- 267 I will _____ all right. It doesn't hurt.
- 268 She would _____ very happy to go.

After the modal in each of these sentences, give the appropriate form of 'help':

- 269 This TV programme can really _____ children learn.
- 270 I thought I could _____ hear do it.
- 271 If you're polite, she may _____ you.
- 272 As I was nearby, I thought I might _____ out.
- 273 You mustn't _____ him – he has to do it alone.
- 274 I shall _____ tomorrow. I'm rather busy today.
- 275 We really should _____ Anna with her move.
- 276 I don't think he will _____. He's very inconsiderate.
- 277 He told me he would _____ us. So where is he?

4.3 Verb Groups – Tenses

In Section 4.1 on verb form, we have illustrated the form of the **simple present** and **simple past** tenses. We have also shown the form of the **present and past participles** as well as the **infinitive**.

Future forms can be created with the modals 'will' or 'shall' plus the bare infinitive, or with 'be going to' plus infinitive, e.g.:

- Terri **will sing** tonight.
- I'm **going to enjoy** the concert.

Present and past continuous forms are created with present and past tenses of 'be' plus the present participle:

- I can't come – I'm **having** a shower.
- She **was watching** TV when the power failed.

Present and past perfect forms are created with present and past tenses of 'have' plus the past participle:

- I **have seen** the news report.
- I **hadn't expected** that result.

More combinations of these are possible – and it is important to remember that there is not always a direct relationship between past, present and future **tenses** and past, present and future **time**.

Continuous forms are generally for actions that continue before and after a particular time.

Present perfect forms are generally for relating the past to the present, and **past perfect** forms are generally for something that happened before a particular point in the past or future.

This book focuses on errors rather than all possibilities. The mistakes in this section mainly concern overuse of the simple present and past perfect, the difference between the present perfect and simple past, and appropriate forms for future and past reference.

Give the most appropriate tense:

278 **go**

Last year we _____ to Thailand for a holiday.

279 **meet**

This is the first time she _____ her cousin from America.

280 **swim**

a) Recently we _____ at Shek O beach.

b) Recently we _____ at a different beach each week.

281 **can**

I wash my dog _____ talk!

282 **leave**

Before she _____ I shall ask her to help you.

283 **get**

If the pain _____ worse, I'll go to the doctor.

Choose between simple past and past perfect for these sentences:

284 **leave**

When I opened my schoolbag, I found I _____ my Science book at home.

285 **buy**

We _____ some popcorn before we _____ the tickets.

Choose the correct words:

286 teaches / has taught
Ms Fong _____ us since S1.

287 has worked / worked
My mother _____ as a nurse during SARS.

give the correct tense of 'be':

288 He _____ a teacher for three years and really enjoys it.

289 He _____ a teacher for three years but now he's a journalist.

Change the verb group into the past:

290 This year we **must move** to a bigger flat.

Last year we _____ to a bigger flat.

Give the appropriate modal for future reference:

291 Next year there _____ be an election.

4.4 Verb Groups – Two Verbs Used Together

Some mistakes come from the different ways two verbs can be used together in English.

The first verb may be followed by the **'-ing' form** of the second verb or by a **'to'-infinitive**, e.g.:

- Would you **mind telling** me the secret?
- She **wanted to sing** in the concert.

A smaller number of verbs can be followed by a **bare infinitive** (i.e. without 'to'), or the **'-ed' form**, e.g.:

- She **made** him **tell** her the secret.
- I **want** the room **cleaned**.

Sometimes, as in the two sentences just above, there is a **noun or pronoun between the two verbs**, as object of the first verb and subject of the second verb.

Give the correct form of the verbs:

292 help
She sometimes avoids _____ with the housework.

293 camp
I saw a large group of teenagers going _____.

294 leave
We decided _____ early.

295 walk
I really enjoy _____ in country parks.

296 buy
Yesterday my father let me _____ a pet dog.

297 meet
I shall look forward to _____ your family.

298 help
She doesn't mind _____ us.

299 practise
Our coach made us _____ hard yesterday.

300 shop
Last Sunday my mother and I went _____.

301 **look**
I spent an hour _____ around the new mall.

302 **thank**
a) I was happy to help; you don't need _____ me.
b) I was happy to help; you needn't _____ me.

4.5 Verb Groups – Active / Passive Verbs

Some mistakes concern the difference between an active verb form and a passive verb form. With an **active** verb, the subject is taking the action, which affects the object, e.g.:

- I asked him about his health.

With a **passive** verb, the action happens to the subject, e.g.:

- He was asked about his health.

The object of an active verb can often become the subject of its passive form, as in the above two sentences.

A passive verb form uses the **auxiliary verb 'be'** followed by the **past participle**, as in the second example above.

A number of verbs cannot be passive because they are **intransitive**. That means they **do not have an object**, so there is nothing to become the subject of passive verb. For example:

- She was smiling happily.

An important group of verbs that are not transitive are **link verbs**. These verbs do not refer to actions but show a **relationship** between the subject and a 'complement' that follows the link verb, e.g.:

- Anna is a teacher
- She seems unhappy.

The complement is not an object, but tells more about the subject. SO the verb cannot be passive.

Choose the active or passive form of the verbs:

303 **allow** (to say that you cannot talk during the exam)
Talking _____ during the exam.

304 **appear** (past tense)
A rabbit _____ from the magician's hat.

305 **belong** (present tense)
That book _____ to Laura.

306 the verb to show Marianne's birthplace is Hong Kong:
Marianne _____ in Hong Kong.

307 **die** (past tense)
The emperor _____ long ago.

308 **exist** (past tense)
Dinosaurs _____ from millions of years.

309 **happen** (past tense)
Dinosaurs _____ for millions of years.

310 **hold** (future)
The prize-giving ceremony will _____ on Saturday.

311 **look** (past tense)
The teacher _____ very upset.

- 312 **promote**
a) I'm sure I will _____ to S4 next year.
b) The teacher decided to _____ Bob.
- 313 **seem** (past tense)
At lunch time she _____ very happy.
- 314 **lend / borrow**
Videos can _____ for \$10 a night.

Choose 'is' or 'is called':

- 315 a) My sister _____ Rosemary.
b) My sister's name _____ Rosemary.
- 316 a) The film's name _____ 'The Last Emperor'.
b) The film _____ 'The Last Emperor'.

4.6 Verb Groups – Words Mistaken For Verbs

Some problems occur when a **non-verb** is used as a verb. This may happen after an auxiliary verb – but an auxiliary verb still needs a main verb after it, so a missing main verb needs to be added.

Some words are **verbs in some contexts but not in other contexts**, so cannot be used as verbs in those other context.

How can the words be used in these sentences?

- 317 **able**
She might _____ to play on Saturday.
- 318 **afraid** (present tense)
a) Martin _____ of falling off his bike.
b) _____ they _____ of the water?
- 319 **aware** (present tense)
a) _____ she _____ that it's finished?
b) I'm sure he _____ of the need to finish soon.
- 320 **back** (past tense)
After a day at the beach we _____ home on the bus.
- 321 **better**
The match is tomorrow – you _____ get a good sleep tonight.
- 322 **busy**
I'm sorry, Mr Wong _____ at the moment.
- 323 **by**
Tomorrow we will _____ ferry to Macau.
- 324 **keen** (present tense)
a) Nadia _____ very _____ on acting.
b) Her friends _____ not so _____ no watching plays.
- 325 **late**
a) She told the teacher she was very sorry for _____.
b) If I miss this bus I shall _____ for school.
- 326 **like** (present tense)
a) She _____ many sports, especially table tennis.
b) She _____ her mother – look at her hair and eyes.
- 327 **sure**
We cannot _____ we'll get bookings on the plane.
- 328 **through**
I have to _____ Central to get to school.

- 329 **worth** (present tense)
That painting _____ a lot of money.

4.7 Verb Groups – Direct Objects Or Prepositional Objects

Some verbs take a **direct object**, without a preposition. They are called **transitive verbs**. For example:

- Rita ate an apple.

Others need to be **followed by a preposition** to bring in another noun group. For example:

- She applied for the job.

Sometimes the choice of which preposition to use **changes the meaning** of the sentence. For example:

- I complained to the council.
- I complained about the council.

And likewise, there can be a **different meaning** when you use the verb with a direct object or with a preposition. For example:

- The teacher is preparing the test.
- The students are preparing for the test.

Dictionaries can tell you whether or not a particular verb takes a direct object (i.e. is transitive), or which prepositions it is usually followed by.

Give the correct preposition if needed or 'Ø' if none is needed because the verb takes a direct object:

- 330 My father didn't agree _____ me.
- 331 We arrived _____ the cinema just in time for the film.
By the time we arrived _____ home it was quite late.
When they arrived _____ London, it was quite cool.
- 332 His parents call him _____ Danny.
- 333 You really must reply _____ that letter soon.
- 334 a) She's very busy caring _____ a disabled son.
b) I didn't think he cared _____ my opinion.
- 335 a) His motorbike crashed _____ a tree.
b) I thought he'd crash _____ his car sooner or later.
- 336 We often discuss _____ politics in our family.
Some families never talk _____ that.
- 337 The children asked their grandfather to join _____ the game.
She has just joined _____ an expensive tennis club.
- 338 They never listen _____ what I say.
- 339 The Hong Kong team lost _____ the Davis Cup tennis match.
- 340 Before going home he phoned _____ his mother.
- 341 My cousin practises _____ the violin constantly.
- 342 The soldier shot _____ the enemy and wounded him.
The soldier shot _____ the enemy, but missed.
- 343 My father has to take care _____ his parents as well as us.
- 344 Do you want to visit _____ the Space Museum tomorrow?
- 345 She is waiting _____ her father to get ready.

Section 5: Putting the message together? (Clauses)

Overview

This section covers mistakes made in putting the message together in a clause. It includes mistakes with questions and reported speech as well as negatives and emphasis. It also includes problems with time reference. There are issues of word order and unnecessary words as well as clause structures beginning with 'it' and 'there'. Finally, it covers mistakes in the way clauses can be joined with conjunctions.

So far, as well as individual **words**, we have considered **noun groups** for the people or things we want to say something about. And we have considered **verb groups** that say what is happening.

Now these need to be put together in a message. That message is a **clause**.

A typical English clause that is making a **statement** follows a **subject – verb – object / complement** sequence, for example:

- Henry is sleeping. (Subject – verb)
- Geoff likes chocolate. (Subject – verb – object)
- Debbie is an engineer. (Subject – link verb – complement_)

To these can be added **adverbials** of time, place or manner:

- Sophie tidied the room quickly. ((manner – **adverb**)
- Henry slept on the sofa. (place – **prepositional phrase**)
- Mimi returned the book last week. (time – **noun group**)

This sequence for statements can be altered in various ways to create **questions** and **commands**, for example:

- Will you leave tomorrow? (Question)
(Auxiliary verb – subject – main verb – adverbial)
- Open your books now. (Command)
(Verb – object – adverbial. Subject omitted.)

Other elements can be added for **negatives** or **emphasis**, for example:

- Geoff is not an engineer. (Negative)
- Mimi did return the book last week. (Emphasis)

5.1 Clauses – Question Forms

There are two main types of questions, with different structures:

'yes/no'-questions, including tag questions, and 'wh'-questions, sometimes called information questions.

5.1.1 'Yes/no'-question

These are questions that can be answered by 'yes' or 'no', although the person answering may choose to give further information.

We make these questions by using **subject-verb inversion**, even though it is usually not the whole verb group that is moved in front of the subject. It is done in one of four ways:

(a) by putting the first auxiliary verb of the verb group in front of the subject, e.g.:

- Has Niki replied to you?
- Can I borrow your backpack?

(b) if there is no auxiliary verb, by putting 'do' in front of the subject, e.g.:

- Do you like music?

(c) if the main verb is 'to be' (or some sense of 'have' in British English), putting that in front of the subject:

- Is your sister better now?

(d) by putting a **question tag** after a statement – asking if that is or isn't so. The tag:

- has subject-verb inversion with the **auxiliary verb** as in (a) or (b) above but no main verb, or the **main verb 'be'** as in (c)?;
- uses a **pronoun** for the subject; and
- is **negative** for a positive statement or **positive** for a negative statement.

For example:

- We can stop now, can't we?
- You play football, don't you?
- The injection won't hurt, will it?
- You parents aren't worried, are they?

Choose 'are' or 'do':

346 _____ you think this will work?

347 _____ you pleased about this news?

348 _____ they enjoy sleeping in tents?

Give the correct tag for the end of each question:

349 It's quite easy, _____?

350 Susan drink coffee, _____?

351 You can come, _____?

352 You won't mind, _____?

353 These DVDs aren't expensive, _____?

354 We shouldn't take long, _____?

Underline the appropriate sequence of subject & verb in this question:

355 Did she tell you what it was / was it?

5.1.2 'Wh'-questions (information questions)

'Wh'-questions begin with a 'wh'-word or phrase, and so require **specific information** in the reply rather than just 'yes' or 'no'.

The main **'wh'-words** are 'who', 'whose', 'what', 'which', 'where', 'when', 'why' and 'how'.

A **'wh'-phrase** occurs when a noun or noun group is attached to a 'wh'-word, e.g. 'which book', or 'how many people'.

'Wh'-questions **do not need subject-verb inversion** when the **'wh'-word or 'wh'-phrase is subject**. For example:

- How many people were at the party?
- Who wants to go to the beach?
- What is the matter?

A 'wh'-question does need **subject-verb inversion** when there is a **different subject**:

- What have you done?
- When did she leave?
- Which room is he in?

Underline the appropriate sequence of subject & verb in these questions:

- 356 How much meat I shall / shall I buy?
357 How much milk is / is milk in the fridge?
358 What is he / he is doing?
359 When will they / they will arrive?
360 Where are the dogs / the dogs are now?
361 Which team do you / you support?
362 Who must we / we must include?
363 Why can she / she can go there?

Is subject-verb inversion needed in these questions?

- 364 What was the prize?
365 Which school won the game?
366 Who should do this?

Choose the correct words or '⊘' for no word:

- 367 how / what
a) _____ should I call this thing?
b) _____ should we do about dinner?
- 368 do you ... it / to ... ⊘
How _____ spell _____?
- 369 do you / would you
a) Where _____ like to go tomorrow?
b) Where _____ like going on holidays?

5.2 Clauses – Reported Speech

In reported speech, the main clause uses a **reporting verb**, such as ‘said’, and has as its object a **‘that’-clause** (the reported clause). For example:

- Direct speech: ‘I love the present!’
- Reported speech: She said that she loved the present.

Sometimes pronouns and tenses need to change in the reported clause – as in the above example. But the tense doesn’t necessarily change, e.g. for something that is always true:

- He told me that he doesn’t eat meat.

The main issue with error examples below is that **when a question is reported, subject-verb inversion should no longer be used.**

Choose the correct words:

- 370 **it would / would it**
I asked them how _____ work.
- 371 **I had / had I**
My father asked me why _____ spent the money.
- 372 **do not / not to**
She told me _____ buy that one.
- 373 **Kim was / was Kim**
I told him where _____.
- 374 **they could / could they**
He wondered when _____ go.

5.3 Clauses – Time

Time references are often added to the basic clause.

Many of these use **prepositional phrases**, e.g. ‘on Friday morning’, or **noun groups**, e.g. ‘last year’, in various ways.

Choose the correct words or ‘⊗’ if nothing should be added:

- 375 **day / ⊗**
a) That _____ afternoon we walked for three hours.
b) One _____ evening the boys learnt to play snooker.
- 376 **a / ⊗**
a) _____ few weeks later, we won our first match.
b) _____ long ago, Hong Kong was just a fishing village.
c) _____ long time ago, there were pirates on Cheung Chau.
- 377 **at / in / on / ⊗**
a) _____ that afternoon we went for a hike.
b) I’ll finish that work _____ the morning.
c) There’s a party _____ that night.
d) We have a big football match _____ Saturday.
e) _____ next Saturday I shall be working.
f) Holidays begin _____ July 15th.
g) We’re going away _____ August.
h) The World Cup was held in South Africa _____ 2010.
- 378 **at / in**
The Science class begins _____ 10:35.
- 379 **o’clock / ⊗**
School finishes at 3:35 p.m. _____.

- 380 at midnight / in the middle of the night
a) My alarm rang _____ so I could watch the world Cup football game.
b) I was woken by the telephone ringing _____, then couldn't sleep for the last couple of hours before dawn.
- 381 in / hours later / hours' time
I shall see you _____ two _____.
- 382 at / since
I arrived at school _____ 8:15.
I have been at school _____ 8:15.
- 383 until / not until
a) It was _____ 10 a.m. that I realised he wasn't coming.
b) I'll wait _____ midday and then leave.
- 384 for /
a) I checked my work _____ three times for mistakes.
b) I haven't done that _____ a long time.
- 385 once time / once
Our club meets _____ a month.
- 386 her / the to speak / she has spoken
This is _____ first time _____ in public.

Correct any of these expressions with 'last' which are wrong:

- 387 a) last morning _____
b) last afternoon _____
c) last night _____
d) last day _____
e) last Thursday _____
f) last week _____
g) last month _____
h) last year _____

How would you show which 12:00 is meant?

- 388 a) School classes stopped at 12:00 _____ for fire drill.
b) We turned the stereo volume down at 12:00 _____ so we wouldn't disturb the neighbours' sleep.

5.4 Clauses – Negatives

Negative clauses are usually formed with '**not**' following the **first auxiliary verb**, for example:

- She has not said a word

If there is no auxiliary verb, then the auxiliary '**do**' is added, followed by '**not**':

- Chloe likes it – Chloe does not like it.

The main exception is that '**be**' as a main verb (and occasionally 'have') can be followed by '**not**':

- He is not happy about it.

In other cases, a negative clause can be created by using a **negative determiner, pronoun or adverbial** with positive verb:

- No child likes having injections.
- Nobody wants an argument over it.
- They never knew how it happened.

Make these sentences negative:

389 All of us are going to the barbecue.

390 We always go shopping on Sundays.

391 I'm studying Physics and Chemistry.

392 a) Both of my parents went to university.

b) Both Laura and Jenny are entering the compaction.

393 We decided to go to the concert.

394 Gordon has a university degree.

395 The library has some good books on that topic.

396 Every one of us was allowed to do a special project.

397 Harry is in the mood for some fun.

398 We need to pack our bags for holiday.

399 Murray is going to the cinema; Lesley is too.

This sentence is ungrammatical. How can you change 'everyone' and still keep the negative meaning?

400 Everyone couldn't help her.

How would you answer this question in a negative sentence?

401 Do you have any experience of this?

Choose the appropriate verb and negative form needed here:

402 He _____ enough experience for that job.

5.4.1 Negative Prefixes

Give the opposite of these words:

403 polite _____

404 honest _____

405 obey _____

5.5 Clauses – Emphasis

Emphasis is sometimes given by adding **the auxiliary verb 'do'**, for example:
I do like that song.

At other times, emphasis is given by adding **strengtheners** to adjectives, adverbials, verbs or determiners, for example:

- She is very intelligent.
- I really wish he would stop.

Choose the correct words:

406 very / good / very much

- a) She is a _____ friend of mine.
- b) Emily is _____ sensitive.
- c) Ted wants to be there _____.

407 very / really

- a) I'm afraid that meal was _____ terrible.
- b) It's a pity as the restaurant used to be _____ excellent.

In these sentences add one or two words in the right places to make the meaning stronger:

408 This mobile phone is more expensive than that one.

409 The public transport system here is efficient.

410 a) He likes country music.

b) I _____ hope _____ you'll _____ come _____ and _____ see _____ us.

5.6 Clauses – 'It' And 'There' Structures With 'Be'

English sometimes changes the normal subject – verb – object sequence and begins with **'it'** or **'there'** plus the verb **'to be'**, e.g.:

- It's a nice day today.
- There's some juice in the fridge.

In such cases, **'it'** and **'there'** have no real meaning in themselves. Their purpose is often to **delay and so focus on what comes after the verb**, e.g.:

- There is someone at the door.

A different purpose for the 'It + be' structure is where **'it'** does stand for a longer phrase later in the sentence which would be rather clumsy as a subject. Compare these two sentences:

- To have you visit us would be wonderful.
- It would be wonderful to have you visit us.

The latter is less clumsy.

'It is' (in this usage) can be followed by an **adjective** or a **noun group** but 'there is' can only be followed by a **noun group**, not an adjective on its own:

- (wrong) There is beautiful. (Adjective not possible)
- (correct) There is a beautiful view from the Peak. (Noun)
- (correct) It is beautiful. (Adjective)
- (correct) It is a beautiful view. (Noun)

How can you say that a distant place is polluted?

411 use **'there'**: _____

How can you say that the place where you are is quite clean?

412 use **'here'**: _____

Choose the correct words or 'Ø' for no word:

413 it is / there is

- a) _____ certain that the plan will be approved.
- b) _____ no doubt that the plan will be approved.

- 414 **have / there are**
_____ many tall buildings in Hong Kong.
- 415 **had / was**
There _____ a big stock market crash in October 1987.
- 416 **We are ...** ⓧ / **It is ... for us**
_____ quite difficult _____ to study so much
- 417 **It was ... for me / I was ...** ⓧ
_____ very hard _____ to sleep because of the noise.
- 418 **That made Leo ...** ⓧ / **That made it ... for Leo**
_____ difficult _____ to do well in Maths.
- 419 **it's /** ⓧ
You may feel _____ hard to do something like this.

5.7 Clauses – Word Order

Word order is very important in English. In some cases it can **change the meaning** of a clause or sentence.

In other cases a word order that is different from normal usage may **confuse** a listener or reader.

Rewrite these sentences adding the given word in the correct place.

- 420 They travel to the UK every year. (**almost**)

- 421 To finish on time we'll really have to work. (**hard**)

- 422 My sister goes / go to school on foot. (**I and / and I**)

- 423 Rita was the last person to get a ticket. (**second**)

- 424 There was a traffic accident and we arrived late. (**two hours**)

- 425 Her cousin is older than she is. (**three years**)

- 426 My mother is younger than my father. (**a year**)

5.8 Clauses – Unnecessary Words

Some errors happen because an **unnecessary word** is used.

In some cases it doesn't matter much but in other cases it is considered **ungrammatical**.

The following sentences are all ungrammatical. Choose which word (sometimes two or three words) is unnecessary and delete it/them.

- 427 Phil also entered the competition too.
- 428 a) Their car is easy to spot – it's pink coloured.
b) I like the new uniform – I've always liked blue colour.
- 429 She has visited may Southeast Asian countries, such as Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Burma, and etc.
- 430 Every tie when there's a storm at night, the children cry.
- 431 Peking duck is my most favourite food.
- 432 On the plane, all the seats were full of people.
- 433 It was a fantastic holiday in my life.
- 434 Hong Kong is a busy city in the world.
- 435 My parents let me can stay the weekend at my friend's home.

- 436 I hope they will lower down the entry requirements.
437 We often go to music concerts or plays.
438 We bought six pieces of DVDs.
439 I hope they don't raise up the price.
440 When will you return back the money I lent you?
441 We return back to school from the holidays on Monday.
442 The way how she did that was amazing.
443 It's too cold for wild camping this weekend.
444 After school I often go to shopping.
445 He's very active for a man of seventy years old.
446 It was so nice to see you. Thanks for your coming.

5.9 Clauses – Combining Clauses With Conjunctions

English sentences with more than one clause normally need a **conjunction to show a logical link** between the clauses.

For example, the link may show time sequence, description, cause and effect, or reporting what was said:

- After they arrived, we had dinner. (Time sequence)
- She is the girl who won the prize. (Description)
- Because I tripped, I lost the race. (Cause & effect)
- Harry said that it's worth seeing. (Reporting)

In each of the above sentences, the underlined clause is the **main clause** – generally meaning it can stand on its own (although the last one, like any reporting clause, is a little incomplete).

The purple words are the **conjunctions**, except for 'who' which is a **relative pronoun** – another class of word that links clauses.

The clause introduced by the conjunctions / relative pronoun is a **subordinate clause**, meaning it cannot stand on its own and is dependent on another clause.

Which of the following are subordinate clauses and so could not stand alone in formal writing? (i.e. they would need to be linked to a main clause)

- 447
- Although I'm quite happy.
 - When did she arrive?
 - Because it's a long way home.
 - As it's such good book.
 - He did really well as the main character.
 - Which I had forgotten.
 - Which one do you want?
 - When I got to school.
 - If you could find the right one.
 - Where we could finally take a rest.

How can the link between clauses be shown here?

- 448 She told a joe was very funny.
-

Make one sentence out of these two, using 'although' and/or 'but':

- 449 She was sick. She still went to work.
-

Make one sentence out of these two, using 'as' and/or 'so':

450 It is a public holiday. We don't have to go to work.

Make one sentence out of these two, using 'because' and/or 'so':

451 The TV set wasn't working. Jo called the repair man.

Read No. 451 again and answer the question in a complete sentence:

452 (You are Jo.) Why did you call the repair man?

Choose the correct words:

453 **during / when**

_____ she was young, her hair was blonde.

_____ the movie I got very thirsty.

454 **except / unless**

I won't help you _____ you make some effort yourself.

Section 6: That's just how it is? (Usage & Spelling)

Overview

This final section includes ways of saying things that are considered to be errors just because they do not follow normal English usage. It also includes mistakes in spelling, which does not always follow clear rules, and a related problem of whether something is written as two words or one.

Some ways of saying things in English are not so much due to clear grammatical rules, but simply because that is just **how most native speakers of English say things!** It is a matter of accepted practice rather than logic. For example, there is no particular reason that you cannot 'make an interview' in English, but it just isn't said that way: you 'have an interview', or formally 'conduct an interview', or colloquially 'do an interview'. So 'make an interview' is considered to be an error because it does not follow English usage.

Spelling is another area of English that is not always logical. English is not as regular as some other languages are in how spelling relates to pronunciation. There are a number of **consistent patterns** from which 'rules' can be made (**phonics** approaches to teaching point these out), but there are always **exceptions**.

Finally, related to spelling in a way, is whether an expression is written as **two words or one**. Sometimes there is only one way of doing it (e.g. 'every time' is always two words) and sometimes there is a difference in grammar or meaning (e.g. 'every day' and 'everyday' are different word classes with different uses).

6.1 Usage & Spelling – Usage

Some errors are not so much due to mistaken meaning or to mistakes in grammar – they occur because **English tends to use certain words together rather than others**, or to express things in certain ways rather than others. The error may make sense but it is not the normal usage.

Which expression(s) is/are normally used?

- 455 instead of 'almost can't'
We _____ afford such a high rent.
- 456 instead of 'bear / born'
She's going to _____ a baby next week.
- 457 for the 'busiest time' for traffic
I try not to travel in the _____.
- 458 instead of 'shiny head'
He's lost a lot of hair. He'll soon _____.

Underline the term(s) not normally used:

- 459 **black glasses** **dark glasses** **sunglasses**

Chose the correct words or '⊗' for no words:

- 460 **busy** / ⊗
a) I've had a very _____ day.
b) I am still very _____ now.
c) I have no free time because of my _____ work.
- 461 **I need** / **It takes me**
_____ an hour to get to my uncle and aunt's home.
- 462 **sat on** / **took**
I wasn't in a hurry, so I _____ a tram.
- 463 **children** / **children's**
The school is doing a lot more _____ literature now.
- 464 **colour** / **coloured**
a) I gave the child some _____ pencils.
b) My grandparents didn't have _____ TV when they were young.
- 465 **day** / **date**
a) I used my ID card to prove my _____ of birth.
b) She asked what I wanted to do on my birth _____.
- 466 **eat** / **take**
I worry that she doesn't _____ her medicine regularly.
- 467 **everywhere** / **anywhere**
She won a big competition and the prize was a ticket to _____ in the world she chose.
- 468 **something** / **anything**
That store was so expensive we could hardly buy _____.
- 469 **do** / **study**
a) Every night I have to _____.
b) Every night I have to _____ my homework.
- 470 **how** / **what**
a) My mother is very sick and my father has lost his job – we just don't know _____ to do.
b) My mother is very sick and my father has lost his job – we just don't know _____ to manage.
c) Before party, my sister asked _____ she looked.
d) I asked her _____ her new boyfriend looked like.

- 471 **leads / makes**
That _____ me very suspicious.
That _____ me to believe that it is true.
- 472 **get / make**
I hope I _____ a good result in Monday's test.
- 473 **their / their**
The Wongs are moving _____ house next week, to a new apartment building.
- 474 **moveable / mobile**
I don't know what I'd do without a _____ phone.
- 475 **are necessary / need**
We _____ to pay an entry fee with the application.
- 476 **such an ... never / the most ... ever**
It was _____ awful experience that I have _____ had.
- 477 **not quite / not very**
I don't recommend that restaurant – the food is _____ good.
- 478 **Principal Wong / The Principal, Ms Wong,**
_____ is retiring next year.
- 479 **big / heavy**
There was very _____ rain in parts of Hong Kong today.
- 480 **themselves / themselves**
They wanted to see if for _____.
- 481 **valuable / expensive / worth**
a) The art gallery is _____ visiting.
b) The art gallery is _____ to visit.
- 482 **wear / carry**
The students have to _____ heavy school bags every day.
- 483 **your letter / a letter from you**
He's wondering what has happened – he hasn't received _____ for a long time.

Choose the appropriate words in an appropriate form:

- 484 **let / make** (past tense)
I _____ them aware of the problem.
- 485 **cost / spend / take / use** (past tense)
a) I _____ two hours watching TV.
b) It _____ me an hour to find the place.
c) Those jeans _____ me \$50.
d) I _____ \$50 on those jeans.
- 486 **speak / say / talk / tell**
a) Their teacher _____ "Put your books away". (past tense)
b) He _____ about his hopes for the future. (past tense)
c) They were _____ loudly. (continuous)
d) Then she _____ something really interesting. (past tense)
e) She _____ that she had won the lottery. (past tense)
f) But someone else _____ me it wasn't true. (past tense)
g) I don't know who was _____ the truth. (continuous)
h) Jennie normally _____ the truth. (present tense)

Give the appropriate verbs:

- 487 He told the judge the didn't mean to _____ a crime.
- 488 On Saturday we decided to _____ bowling.

- 489 a) I _____ on my jeans but _____ them off again when I saw they were dirty.
b) I know I _____ that book in my bag but when I _____ the things out it just wasn't there.

Give the second part of the compound word here:

- 490 At Chinese New Year people used to let off fire _____ but that is now banned. Instead we watch them over the harbour.

What verb meaning 'occur' should be used here?

- 491 a) It was tragic that a fire should _____ in the squatter area.
b) Last year Sports Day _____ on February 20th.

Create the negative meaning with a different verb (not 'make') and the appropriate form of 'enjoy':

- 492 The frequent coughing makes me not enjoy the concert.
The frequent coughing _____ me _____ the concert.

Choose an appropriate term before 'lights':

- 493 The card had to stop suddenly at the _____ lights.

Answer the questions:

- 494 a) **How do you refer to a male teacher called Lam?**
May I speak to _____, please?
b) **When you do speak to him, what is the short form of addressing him?**
Here are the class exercise books, _____.

Choose the more appropriate words:

- 495 **sporty / sportive**
She arrived wearing some very _____ clothes.
496 **take / have**
They usually _____ breakfast at 8 a.m.

Which form of 'you' is used here?

- 497 I think I met a friend of _____ last night.

Use an expression containing 'famous' and 'world' to make this sentence stronger:

- 498 Bruce Li was an actor.

Choose 'far' or 'away' here, and put '5 kilometres' in the appropriate space with '⊙' in the other:

- 499 The school is _____ from my home _____.

Give the verb + adjective + noun most commonly used for this expression:

- 500 When someone is swearing he is _____.

Rewrite the sentences in a more appropriate way:

- 501 The self-confidence of hem is not very high.

- 502 She used her finger to point at the robbers.

503 The thief used his gun to point at the manager.

504 I used my ears to listen to the concert.

6.2 Usage & Spelling – Spelling

Spelling mistakes sometimes don't have much effect on understanding, although they do give a poor impression of the writer's English standard. At other times the reader may not be sure what meaning was intended.

Then there are cases where just one letter's difference creates another word with a **different meaning**, sometimes with unfortunate or humorous results.

Most of the wrongly spelt words in this section do, however, follow the normal patterns of how English spelling relates to pronunciation. So learning phonics would be a help in avoiding these errors.

Give the correct spelling of the word defined in the sentence. The first letter is given.

505 An outdoor meal where meat is cooked on a fire is a **b**_____.

506 Suits, shirts, ties, dress, etc, are all **c**_____.

507 **F**_____ rice is cooked in a wok with other ingredients added.

508 When something is new, clean, not spoilt it is **f**_____.

509 'In the present times' is **n**_____.

510 Countries across an ocean are **o**_____.

511 The amount of money one has to pay to buy something is the **p**_____.

512 Lying in the sun to make one's skin brown is to **s**_____.

Choose the correct words:

513 **clam / calm**

a) My favourite soup is _____ chowder.

b) When the fire broke out, she kept very _____.

514 **curry / curly**

a) She wish her hair were _____ rather than straight.

b) I love going out for a _____ lunch.

515 **due / deal**

She has to _____ with a lot of problem in her job.

516 **prefects / perfect**

a) The _____ were checking our uniforms today.

b) The way the film ended was just _____.

517 **principal / principle**

a) That seems wrong in _____.

b) The _____ spoke to us in Assembly.

518 **prize / price**

a) I didn't buy it as the _____ was too high.

b) She won the Science _____ this year.

519 **quiet / quite**

a) I love our new flat because it's in a very _____ area.

b) It also has _____ a good view.

520 **slim / slime**

a) She lost weight and is now quite _____.

b) Be careful of the _____ on the water if you go swimming.

521 snakes / snacks

- a) We prepared a few _____ to take on the hike.
- b) While walking, we had to be very careful of _____.

6.3 Usage & Spelling – Two Words Or One Word?

In the following sentences, decide whether the given expression should be one word or two. Underline the correct answer.

522 a) It's good to exercise everyday / every day.

b) I'm bored with my everyday / every day routine.

523 a) We sent cards to everyone / every one we knew.

b) I sent card to everyone / every one of my relatives.

524 I feel sick everytime / every time we go sailing.

525 a) Just a minute – I have to collect something / some thing from this office.

b) Just a minute – I have to collect somethings / some things from this office.

答案請點擊以下網址：

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