56 Politics

Elections in the UK

When you **vote for** someone, you choose them by putting a cross (X) on an official piece of paper (called a **secret ballot** because no one knows who you vote for), or by putting up your hand. In the UK, a **general election** is when the people **elect**[1] the next **government**[2]. These **elections** are **held**[3] at least every five years. Each **constituency**[4] elects one person from one **political party**. That person then becomes the **MP** (Member of Parliament) for that area, and the political party with the most MPs – there are 650 at the moment – forms the next government. The **leader**[5] of the party **in power**[6] is the **prime minister**.

[1] choose by voting
[2] the group of people who control the country
[3] organised
[4] an area where people vote
[5] the person in control
[6] in control (of the country)

Language help

noun	person	adjective
politics	politician	political
power		powerful

B Political policies

People usually vote for a political party because they **believe in** the party's ideas [think the ideas are good or right], and these ideas become **policies** [sets of plans and ideas that a political party has agreed on].

VOTE FOR US AND WE WILL ...

✓ **provide**[1] free nursery education **for** all children

✓ provide more **care**[2] and **support**[3] for **elderly**[4] people

✓ **reduce**[5] unemployment

✓ create a **fair**[6] **tax**[7] system

Above all[8], we will **treat**[9] people as **equal**[10].

[1] give something to those who need it (also **provide** someone **with** something)
[2] looking after people, especially old people
[3] help (sometimes in the form of money)
[4] old
[5] make less; *syn* **cut**

[6] dealing with everyone in the same way; *opp* **unfair**
[7] money people must pay the government
[8] most importantly
[9] behave or deal with someone in a particular way
[10] having the same importance; *adv* **equally**

Language help

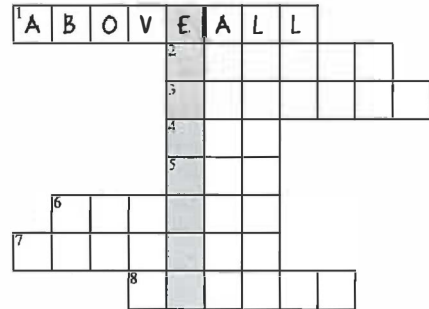| verb	noun
believe in sth	belief
reduce	reduction

Exercises

56.1 Complete the sentences using the correct form of the word on the right.

1 Have they set the date for the ..election........... ?   ELECT
2 Employment is an important .... issue.   POLITICS
3 My political .... are important to me.   BELIEVE
4 The president is a very .... man.   POWER
5 I hope there will be a .... in my tax.   REDUCE
6 Do you believe what .... say?   POLITICS

56.2 Complete the crossword. What is the vertical word in grey?

1 Most importantly
2 Person in control of a political party
3 Another word for 'old'
4 A synonym for 'reduce'
5 Money people must pay to the government
6 A set of plans and ideas that a group agree on
7 Help, often in the form of money
8 Not fair

¹A	B	O	V	E	A	L	L

56.3 Rewrite the sentences on the left starting with the words given. Keep a similar meaning.

1 They are in control of the country.   They are in ..power............ .
2 They elected her.   They voted ....
3 Elections take place every five years.   Elections are ....
4 They will give hospitals more money.   They will provide ....
5 No one knows who you vote for.   It's a secret ....
6 It's a fair system for everyone.   The system treats ....
7 Our policy is to look after old people.   Our policy is to provide ....

56.4 Complete the text.

In Canada, ¹ ..elections.............. work in a similar way to the UK. Canada is divided into 308 political ² .... , but they are called 'ridings' in Canada, and altogether there are 19 registered ³ .... parties in the country. ⁴ .... are held every five years, and people ⁵ .... for just one person in each riding to become their member of ⁶ .... The ⁷ .... that wins the most ridings is then asked by the Governor-General to form the next ⁸ .... , and the leader of that party becomes ⁹ .... minister.

56.5

Over to you
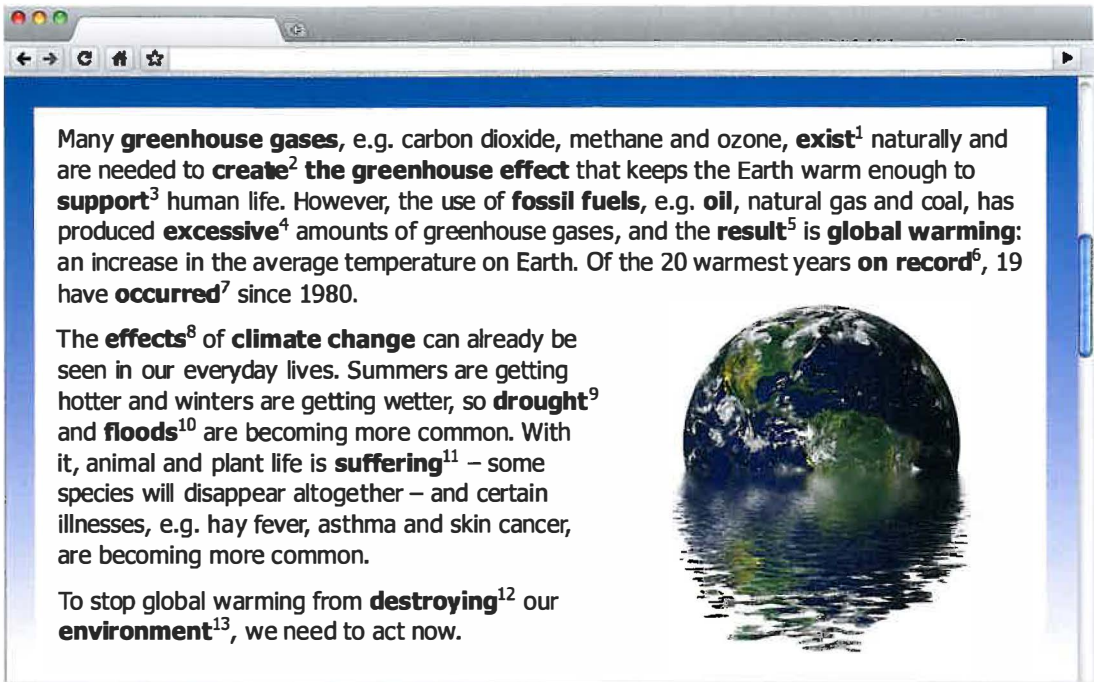Answer the questions. If possible, ask someone else the same questions.

1 How many major political parties are there in your country?
2 Which party is in power at the moment?
3 When were they elected?
4 Who is the leader of this party?
5 Did you vote in this election?

56.6

Over to you
Look at the policies in section B on the opposite page. What do you think of them? If you were in power, would you have these policies? What policies would you have? If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

57 Climate change

A The problem

Many **greenhouse gases**, e.g. carbon dioxide, methane and ozone, **exist**[1] naturally and are needed to **create**[2] **the greenhouse effect** that keeps the Earth warm enough to **support**[3] human life. However, the use of **fossil fuels**, e.g. **oil**, natural gas and coal, has produced **excessive**[4] amounts of greenhouse gases, and the **result**[5] is **global warming**: an increase in the average temperature on Earth. Of the 20 warmest years **on record**[6], 19 have **occurred**[7] since 1980.

The **effects**[8] of **climate change** can already be seen in our everyday lives. Summers are getting hotter and winters are getting wetter, so **drought**[9] and **floods**[10] are becoming more common. With it, animal and plant life is **suffering**[11] – some species will disappear altogether – and certain illnesses, e.g. hay fever, asthma and skin cancer, are becoming more common.

To stop global warming from **destroying**[12] our **environment**[13], we need to act now.

[1] are real or present
[2] make something happen or exist
[3] help (human life) to continue
[4] more than you want or need
[5] something that happens because of something else that has happened
[6] If information is *on record*, it has been written down or kept on a computer.
[7] happened; *fml*

[8] a change or result that is caused by something
[9] a long time without rain when people do not have enough water
[10] when water covers an area that is usually dry, often from too much rain
[11] experiencing something which is unpleasant
[12] damaging something so badly that it does not exist or cannot be used
[13] the air, land and water around us

B The solution* – or part of it

To **reduce** global warming [make it less], the nations of the world will have to **act** together [do something to solve a problem; *syn* **take action**]. In the meantime, individuals can also help.

Six ways to reduce global warming:

➡ Don't **throw** things **away** – **recycle** paper, glass, plastic, etc. so that it can be used again.

➡ Don't **waste**[3] water, e.g. turn off the **tap** when you are brushing your teeth.

➡ **Save**[1] **energy**[2] e.g. **switch off** lights when you leave a room.

💡 Change **light bulbs** for more **energy-efficient**[4] ones

➡ Drive less and walk more.

➡ **Plant trees**[5] because trees reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and so reduce greenhouse gases.

*the answer to a problem
[1] don't waste
[2] gas and electricity
[3] use it badly
[4] working well and not wasting energy
[5] put a new tree in the ground

Exercises

57.1 **How do you pronounce the underlined letters? Use the index to help you.**

1 gl<u>o</u>bal   Is it like g<u>o</u> or g<u>o</u>t?   *go*
2 fl<u>oo</u>d   Is it like f<u>oo</u>t or f<u>u</u>n?
3 f<u>ue</u>l   Is it like f<u>oo</u>d or f<u>ew</u>?

4 dr<u>ou</u>ght   Is it like n<u>o</u> or n<u>ow</u>?
5 s<u>u</u>ffer   Is it like s<u>o</u>n or s<u>oo</u>n?
6 clim<u>a</u>te   Is it like educ<u>a</u>te or comfort<u>a</u>ble?

57.2 **Match the words on the left with the words on the right.**

1 the greenhouse   `c`
2 global
3 fossil
4 greenhouse
5 climate

a warming
b change
c effect
d fuels
e gases

57.3 **How can we help with global warming? Cover the opposite page and complete the text.**

- Don't [1] *throw away* .... paper, glass and plastic; [2] .... it.
- Don't [3] .... water: turn off the [4] .... when you brush your teeth.
- [5] .... energy by [6] .... off lights when you leave a room.
- [7] .... trees in order to [8] .... the amount of carbon dioxide.
- [9] .... action now, before it's too late.

57.4 **Complete the explanations.**

1 We don't have to create greenhouse gases; they ..*exist*...................... naturally.
2 Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere .... the greenhouse effect.
3 Global warming is the .... of an increase in the amount of greenhouse gases.
4 Two .... of climate change have been hotter summers and wetter winters.
5 A .... is often the result of too much rain when the rivers are full.
6 A .... is a long period without rain, and they are .... more frequently now.
7 The .... is the air, land and water around us.
8 If you .... something, it is so badly damaged, it cannot be used again.
9 If something is .... , it works well and doesn't waste energy.
10 .... is the power that comes from gas, electricity, etc.

57.5 **Complete the tables. Use a dictionary to help you.**

verb	noun
recycle	*recycling*
waste	
destroy	
exist	

verb	noun
	solution
reduce	
support	
suffer	

57.6

Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, talk to someone else about the problems.

1 Can you see the effects of global warming and climate change in your country? What do you see?
2 What things do people recycle every week?
3 Do you think you often waste water and energy? How?
4 What more could you do to solve the problem? Does it worry you?

58 War and violence

A The job of the army

These men are **soldiers**, and they are **carrying guns**[1]. They are members of an **army**, and part of the responsibility of an army is to **defend** their country from **attack**[2] and to **protect** the people[3]. Sometimes this means they have to **fight** the enemy[4]. A long period of fighting is called a **war**, e.g. the First World War, 1914–1918, and during a war there will be a number of **battles**[5].

[1] have guns with them
[2] stop others who use violence against their country
[3] keep them safe
[4] the people they are fighting against
[5] fights between two armies

Language help
Violence is when someone tries to hurt or kill someone; the adjective is **violent**.
The **violence** *has increased in recent weeks; There have been a number of* **violent** *attacks.*

B Reporting in war

Ten people were **killed** and many more were injured when a **bomb exploded** (see picture) in **the heart of**[1] the city. The attack happened just before midday, and **destroyed**[2] several buildings. The army are now **searching**[3] the area where the attack **took place**[4]. Most of the attackers **escaped**[5], but the army believe they may still be **hiding**[6] in other parts of the city.

During the attack, one soldier was **shot**[7] and later died. It also appears that another soldier is **missing**[8]. The number of **deaths**[9] is expected to rise.

[1] the centre of
[2] damaged them so badly that they don't exist now; NOT completely damaged
[3] trying to find someone or something
[4] happened
[5] left the place without being caught; *syn* get away
[6] staying in a place where you cannot be seen or found
[7] injured by a gun
[8] It isn't known where someone or something is
[9] people who are dead / have died

Language help
Several words in the unit can be used as verbs and nouns with a similar meaning.

They're **searching** *for them.*	They're *continuing their* **search** *for them.*
He can't **escape**.	*There is no* **escape**.
When did they **attack**?	*Where did the* **attack** *take place?*

Exercises

58.1 Are these words *nouns*, *verbs*, or *nouns* and *verbs*?

protect	_verb_	shoot	....
search	_noun and verb_	war	....
die	....	defend	....
attack	....	escape	....
death	....	hide	....

58.2 Complete the sentences with the correct verb.

1 The soldiers have been ..._fighting_........... for days, and so far three have been injured.
2 The woman was .... with a small handgun, but wasn't seriously injured.
3 One of the soldiers managed to .... under the house where no one could find him.
4 There are 20 soldiers surrounding the house, so the men inside cannot ....
5 The bomb .... inside the café. Nobody was .... but several people were injured.
6 I understand the army are .... houses in an effort to find the gunman.
7 The bomb completely .... the building, but fortunately no one was inside at the time.
8 My men had to .... the village from outside attacks.
9 Were the police .... guns when they saw the men?

58.3 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences. Sometimes both are correct.

1 One man was found but the other is still *lost /* (*missing*).
2 The *battle / war* lasted for two hours.
3 The attack happened in the *heart / centre* of the city.
4 One of the buildings was completely *damaged / destroyed*.
5 Three of the men are *died / dead*.
6 One woman *escaped / got away*.
7 The boy was badly injured and later *died / killed*.
8 Some of the policemen are not allowed to *hold / carry* guns.
9 They don't know who *shoot / shot* the man.

58.4 Complete the text.

The [1] ..._attack_.......... happened early this morning. The [2] .... were out on patrol when they saw the [3] .... about half a mile away. Moments later a [4] .... exploded quite close to them, and was followed by a [5] .... gun battle which lasted two hours. Two soldiers were [6] .... and several were injured. An [7] .... captain said that they have now taken control of the area where the attack [8] ....

58.5 Use a dictionary to develop these word families, and write example sentences for the new words.

verb	noun	example
protect	protection	The army gave the families protection.
destroy		
explode		
defend		

59 Time

A Phrases with *time*

We got to the meeting **in time**. [before the meeting started]
My brother is always **on time**. [not early or late]
It's time (for us) to go. [used to say that something should happen now]
Do you **have time for** a cup of coffee? [have enough time to do something]
Call me **the next time** you're in London. [on the next occasion]
The weather was wonderful **the last time** we were there. [on the last occasion]
Sophie and I arrived **at the same time**, 9 o'clock exactly.

B Time prepositions often confused

I'll be here **until** 4.30. [I won't leave before 4.30]
I'll be there **by** 8.15. [not later than 8.15]

I've worked here **for** six months. (*for* + a period of time, e.g. a week, ten days, two years)
I've worked here since May. (*since* + a point in time in the past, e.g. last Friday, March, 2001)

I worked on a farm **during** the summer. (this tells you 'when')
I worked on a farm **for a** month. (this tells you 'how long') (NOT ~~during~~ a month)

I'm going back to Brazil **in** ten days' time. [ten days from now] (NOT ~~after~~ ten days)

C Approximate periods of time – past, present and future

Past
I've known Lucia **for ages**. [for a long time, e.g. many years]
I haven't been to the dentist **recently/lately**. [e.g. in the last few months]
I saw Tom **recently**. [e.g. a few weeks ago / not long ago]
I used to go skiing, but that was **a long time ago**. [e.g. 5–10 years ago; *syn* **ages ago**]
My sister went to the zoo **the other day**. [e.g. a few days ago, perhaps a week]

Present
I don't see my brother much **these days**. [a period including the past and now; *syn* **nowadays**]

Future
This dictionary's fine **for the time being**. [for now / the near future – but not for a long time]
I'm sure I'll go to America **one day**. [in the future but I don't know when]

D Counting time

There are 60 seconds in a minute; 60 minutes in an hour; 24 hours in a day; 7 days in a week; 2 weeks in a **fortnight**; 52 weeks in a year; 10 years in a **decade**; 100 years in a **century**.

E Take and *last*

We use **take** to say how long we need to do something.
It **takes** me half an hour to get to school.
We can walk, but it'**ll take (us)** a long time.

We use **last** to talk about how long something continues, from the beginning to the end.
The course **lasts for** ten weeks.
How long does the film **last**?
The battery in my camera didn't **last long**. [continue for a long time]

Exercises

59.1 Complete the sentences.

1 I'll see you the ..next............... time I come to London.
2 The shop closes at 5.30. If we don't hurry, we'll never get there .... time.
3 I always get to meetings .... time; I hate it when people are late.
4 I'm afraid I won't .... time to see you this week.
5 I'll have to go soon. It's time .... me to pick up the children from school.
6 Marcel and I got to the station at the .... time.

59.2 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

1 I'll see you *(in)/ after* ten days' time.
2 The teacher told us to finish our homework *by / until* Monday.
3 We can't leave *by / until* the others get back.
4 I've been in the army *for / since* I was eighteen.
5 They've worked here *for / since / during* six months.
6 I visit my uncle every week *for / since / during* the winter.
7 I was at university *for / since / during* three years.
8 She's going back to France *in / after* three months' time.
9 I haven't seen them *for / since* last Thursday.

59.3 Replace the underlined words with more 'approximate' time expressions.

1 I had my hair cut <u>two weeks ago</u>. ..recently............
2 I went to Egypt with my parents but that was <u>ten years ago</u>. ....
3 I went to the library <u>three days ago</u>. ....
4 I haven't been to the cinema <u>for the last three weeks</u>. ....
5 I haven't been to a concert <u>for three or four years</u>. ....
6 This computer will be fine <u>for the next year</u>. ....

59.4 Test your general knowledge. Can you complete these sentences with the correct number or period of time?

1 Michael Jackson died in ..2009................. .
2 The Olympic Games usually last about a ....
3 Picasso was born in the ....th century, and died in the ....th century.
4 President Kennedy died in .... That's over .... years ago.
5 It takes approximately .... hours to fly from London to New York.
6 The best athletes can run 100 metres in less than .... seconds.
7 The .... was the decade in which the USA and USSR were trying to be the first country to put a man on the moon.

59.5

Over to you

Complete the sentences about yourself. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

1 I've been in my present school/university/job for ....
2 It takes me .... to get to school/university/work.
3 A typical school/college/working day for me lasts ....
4 I've been studying English since ....
5 I haven't actually spoken English since ....
6 I saw .... the other day.
7 Nowadays I don't ....
8 One day I hope ....

60 Numbers

A Cardinal numbers

379 = three **hundred** and seventy-nine

5,084 = five thousand and eighty-four

2,000,000 = two **million**

2,860 = two **thousand,** eight hundred and sixty

470,000 = four hundred and seventy thousand

3,000,000,000 = three **billion**

> **Language help**
> There is no plural 's' after *hundred, thousand, million* and *billion* when they are part of a number. When we are talking generally, they are plural, e.g. ***thousands*** of people, ***millions*** of insects.

B Dates

With dates, we write them and say them in a different way. We can write 4 **June** or **June 4**[th], but say **the fourth of June** or **June the fourth.**

We can write **21 May** or **May 21**[st], but say **the twenty-first of May** or **May the twenty-first.**

1997 = **nineteen ninety-seven;** 2010 = **two thousand and ten** or **twenty ten**

> **Common mistakes**
> The seventh of April (NOT The ~~seven~~ April); the **fourth** question (NOT the ~~four~~ question)

C Fractions and decimals

1¼ = one and **a quarter**

1½ = one and **a half**

1¾ = one and **three quarters**

1.25 = one **point** two five

1.5 = one point five

1.75 = one point seven five

D Percentages

26% is spoken as twenty-six **per cent.** More than 50% of something is the **majority of** it, less than 50% of something is the **minority:**

The **vast majority** of the students (e.g. 95%) agreed with the new plan, only a **small minority** (e.g. 5%) were unhappy.

E Calculations

There are four basic processes. Notice how they are said when **we** are **working out** [trying to **calculate**] the answer.

+ = **addition**   e.g. 6 + 4 = 10 (six **plus/and** four **equals/is** ten)

− = **subtraction**   e.g. 6 − 4 = 2 (six **minus** four is two)

x = **multiplication**   e.g. 6 x 4 = 24 (six **multiplied by / times** four is twenty-four)

÷ = **division**   e.g. 8 ÷ 2 = 4 (eight **divided by** two is four)

Some people are not very good at **adding up** numbers [putting numbers together to reach a total], and often **get stuck** [have a problem] if they have to work out something quite difficult. The easiest way is to use a **calculator** [a small electronic machine for working out numbers].

F Saying '0'

'0' can be spoken in different ways in different situations:

telephone number: 603449 = six **oh** three, **double** four nine OR six **zero** three, **double** four nine

mathematics: 0.7 = **nought** point seven; 6.02 = six point **oh** two OR six point **nought** two

temperature: −10 degrees = ten degrees below **zero** OR **minus** ten degrees

Exercises

60.1 How do you say these numbers in English? Write the answers in words, then practise saying them.

1 462	four hundred and sixty-two
2 2½	
3 2,345	
4 0.25	
5 1,250,000	
6 10.04	
7 47%	
8 10 September	
9 940338 (phone number)	
10 -5 Celsius	
11 in 1996	
12 2012	

60.2 Correct the mistakes.

1 Two thousand and five hundred.   Two thousand, five hundred
2 After the game, I heard that the crowd was over twenty thousands.
3 We arrived on the seven June.
4 There were two hundred twenty altogether.
5 My birthday is the thirty-one August.
6 My phone number is seven twenty-three, six nought nine.

60.3 Complete the sentences.

1 Eight multiplied by seven is fifty-six.
2 The .... were in favour of the new airport; about 80%, I think.
3 A small .... did not support the idea, but it was only 5%.
4 I'm not very good at arithmetic. I always have to use a ....
5 When I tried to add .... all the numbers, I couldn't .... it out.
6 I can do simple calculations, but I get .... if the numbers are very big.

60.4 Can you work out the answers? If you find it difficult, use paper or a calculator.

1 23 and 36 is fifty-nine .
2 24 times 3 is ....
3 80 minus 20 is ....
4 65 divided by 13 is ....
5 Add 10 and 6, multiply by 3, then subtract 15 and divide by 11. What number is left?
....
6 Divide 33 by 11, multiply by 7, add 10, and subtract 16. What number is left? ....

60.5

Over to you
Answer the questions. Write your answers in words.
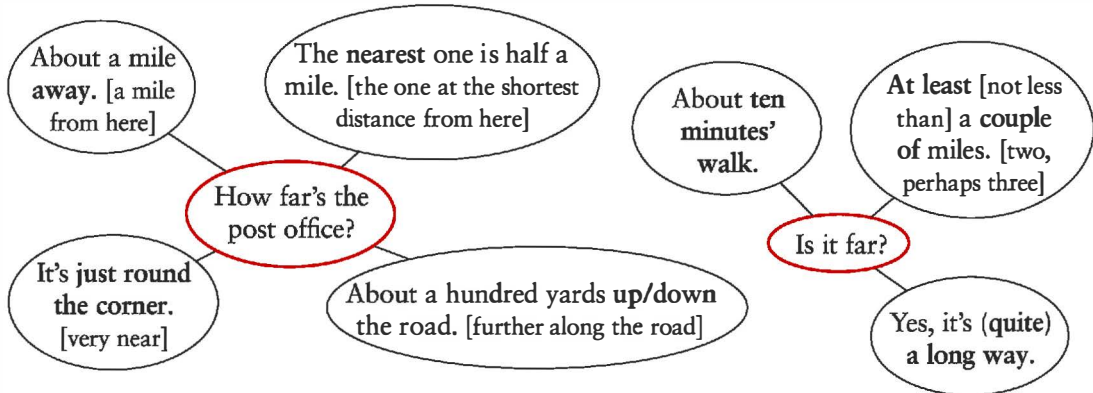
1 When were you born?
2 How tall are you?
3 What's the number of the flat or house where you live?
4 When's your birthday?
5 What's the approximate population of your town?
6 What's your body temperature?

61 Distance, dimensions and size
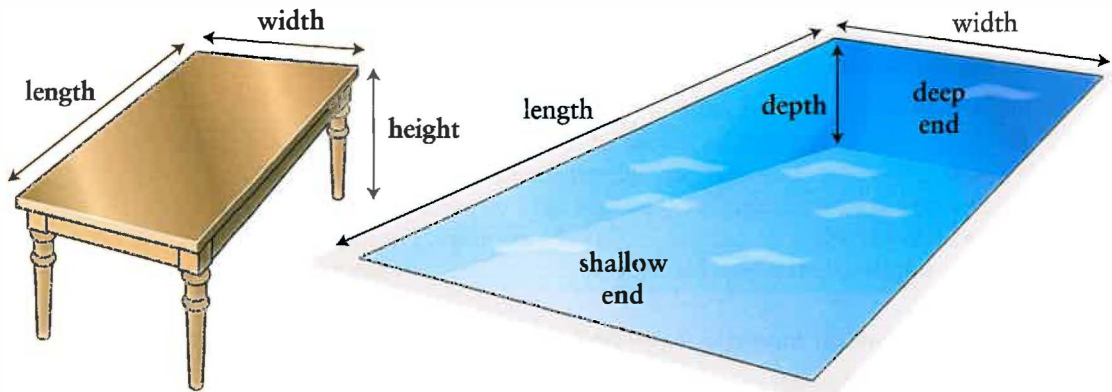
A Distance: how far ...

British people buy most things in metres, centimetres and millimetres, but they still often talk about distance using the old system of **miles** [1 mile = about 1.6 kilometres], **yards** [1 yard = almost 1 metre], **feet** [1 foot = 30 centimetres], and **inches** [1 inch = 2.5 centimetres].

> **Common mistakes**
>
> It's ten minutes' walk from here. (NOT ten minutes' walking.)
> It's a long way. (NOT It's far.)
> But we can say 'No, it isn't far.'

About a mile **away.** [a mile from here]

The **nearest** one is half a mile. [the one at the shortest distance from here]

About **ten minutes' walk.**

At least [not less than] a **couple of miles.** [two, perhaps three]

How far's the post office?

It's **just round the corner.** [very near]

About a hundred yards **up/down** the road. [further along the road]

Is it far?

Yes, it's (**quite**) **a long way.**

B Dimensions: how long or wide ...

width

length

height

length

depth

width

deep end

shallow end

> **Common mistakes**
>
> Paul is quite **tall** (NOT quite high). It's a **tall** tree/building (NOT a high tree/building). It's a **high** mountain (NOT a tall mountain).

We can ask about the dimensions like this:

What's the **length** of the garage? OR How **long** is the garage? It's five metres (**long**).
What's the **width** of the path? OR How **wide** is the path? It's a metre (**wide**).
What's the **height** of the wall? OR How **high** is the wall? It's two metres (**high**).
What's the **depth** of the pool? OR How **deep** is the pool? It's three metres (**deep**).

C Size: how big or small ...

We use a range of adjectives to describe the size of something.

It was a very **thick** book – over 500 pages. (*opp* a **thin** book)
Their living room is **huge**. [very big; *syn* enormous; *opp* a **tiny** room]
We caught a **giant** crab. [very large or bigger than other similar things]
It was a very **narrow** road for a bus. (*opp* a **wide** road)

Exercises

61.1 Disagree with the speaker in each dialogue.

1 A: It's only a thin book, isn't it?
   B: No, it's quite thick...
2 A: The water's deep in the middle, isn't it?
   B: No, ...
3 A: Is the road very wide at that point?
   B: No, ...
4 A: James is quite short, isn't he?
   B: No, ...
5 A: They only live in a small place, don't they?
   B: No, ...
6 A: Is it a really huge pool?
   B: No, ...

61.2 Complete the questions (in two ways) about the lake, the mountain, the woman and the football pitch.

1 How ..deep.............................. is the lake?
2 What's .... the lake?
3 How .... is the mountain?
4 What's .... the mountain?
5 How .... is she?
6 What's her .... ?
7 How .... is the pitch?
8 What's .... the pitch?

61.3