

A

Common uncountable nouns

One of the problems with uncountable nouns is that many of them are countable in other languages.

Common mistakes

I need information. (NOT I need an information.) (no indefinite article)

I need some information. (NOT I need informations.) (no plural form)

The homework was difficult. (NOT The homework were difficult.) (use with a singular verb)

- You can put all that **rubbish** in the bin over there. [things that you throw away because you do not want them]
- Is there any more **news** about the man who was injured?
- She gave me some good **advice** about buying a car. [what you think someone should do]
- Do the children get **pocket money**? [money that parents give regularly to their children]
- You need a lot of **equipment** for camping, e.g. tent, sleeping bag, torch, things for cooking, etc. [the things that are used for a particular activity]
- We sold the **furniture**. [tables, chairs, armchairs, etc.]
- The **scenery** is really beautiful. [the natural beauty you see around you]
- My **knowledge** of Russian is limited. [what I know about it]
- She's worked very hard and I believe she is **making progress**. [improving / getting better]
- Can you take the dog? We haven't got any **room** in our car. [empty space]
- Would anyone like some more **toast**?
- The children's **behaviour** was terrible: they were climbing all over the furniture and making a lot of noise. [the way you do and say things]



bin



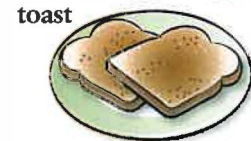
tent



sleeping bag



torch



toast

B

Uncountable nouns in dictionaries

Dictionaries show countable nouns with a (C) and uncountable nouns with a (U). Some nouns can be countable with one meaning, and uncountable with another.

experience (U) [the knowledge you get from doing a particular job or activity]

She's got a lot of **experience** of working with children.

experience (C) [something that happens to you that affects the way you feel]

I had so many fantastic **experiences** on my trip to Thailand and Japan.

chance (U) [luck]

Lotto is a game of **chance**.

chance (C) [the opportunity to do something]

He's had several **chances** to go abroad, but he's just not interested.

C

Making uncountable nouns countable

You can make some uncountable nouns singular. Sometimes we do this with a word like *piece* (for advice, equipment, toast, furniture, news), but in spoken English we often use a *bit* (*informal*) with most uncountable nouns.

a good **piece** of advice

an interesting **bit** of news

another **piece** of toast

just a **bit** of rubbish

Exercises

86.1 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 I need some ~~informations~~. information.....
- 2 Our teacher has a news about the trip.
- 3 She gave me some good advices.
- 4 Her progress are very good.
- 5 We had a lot of homeworks yesterday.
- 6 The furnitures were very old.
- 7 I have no experiences of using these equipments.
- 8 I need to improve my knowledges of this new technology.

86.2 Make the uncountable nouns countable.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 I did some homework. | I did <u>a bit of homework</u> |
| 2 It's useful equipment. | It's |
| 3 It was good advice. | It was |
| 4 Do you want some more toast? | Do you want |
| 5 She's making progress. | She's making |
| 6 There's some rubbish on the floor. | There's |
| 7 I gave them some pocket money. | I gave them |
| 8 I heard some news this morning. | I heard |

86.3 Complete the dialogues.

- 1 A: Have you been given all the details?
B: No, I need more information..... .
- 2 A: She hasn't worked there long enough.
B: No, she needs more
- 3 A: Is your flat big enough?
B: No, we need more
- 4 A: Does she know what to do when she leaves school?
B: No, she needs some
- 5 A: Don't you think the room looks empty?
B: Yes, we need more
- 6 A: Is his English getting better?
B: No, he isn't making any

86.4 Complete the sentences. The first letter has been given to help you.

- 1 I asked my teacher for some advice..... about grammar books.
- 2 I've had some great e..... when I've travelled on my own.
- 3 If we give him another c....., I'm sure he'll be able to do it.
- 4 That stuff over there is r.....; just throw it in the bin.
- 5 We camped on the hill above the lake because the s..... is so beautiful.
- 6 I don't know what's wrong with Celia, but her b..... was very strange this morning.
- 7 Do you have any e..... of working with computers?
- 8 I don't have any k..... of this subject; you'd better ask Fariah.

86.5 Use a dictionary to find out if these nouns are countable or uncountable. Keep a record of them in your notebook.

transport luggage suitcase pasta traffic accident

A

Verb + *-ing* form

A number of verbs are commonly followed by an *-ing* form.

QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONS

- Do you **enjoy** studying?
- Do you **mind** getting up early? [Is it OK for you, or not?]
- Do you **like** or **dislike** having your photograph taken?
- Do you usually **avoid** speaking to strangers at parties? [try not to do something]
- Can you **imagine** being without a car? [think of yourself in a situation with no car]
- Have you ever **considered** [thought about] living in another country?
- Would you **recommend** [advise] having a holiday in the capital city of your country? If so, would you **suggest** going at a particular time of the year?

ANSWERS

Yes, I do.

No, I don't mind at all.

I hate having my picture taken.

Yes. I prefer to talk to people that I already know.

No, I can't. I need my car.

Yes, many times. I'd like to live abroad.

Yes, I would, and I would suggest going in spring or autumn.

Common mistakes

I enjoy ~~going~~ there. (NOT I enjoy ~~to go~~ there.) They suggested leaving early. (NOT They suggested ~~to leave~~ early.) He recommended staying there. (NOT He recommended ~~to stay~~ there.)

B

Verb + *to* infinitive

I **hope** to see them next week. [want to see them and believe I will see them]

They **agreed** to help me. [said they will help]

I **intend** to leave next month. [plan]

I **offered** to help them. [said I was happy to help]

I **attempted** to cook the dinner, but it was terrible. [tried]

I **promised** to bring her book back. [said I would definitely bring it back]

The shop assistant was very rude, so I **demanded** to see the manager. [said in a firm way]

C

Verb + (object) + preposition + noun/*-ing*

A: Jo has just rung and asked me for advice about Turkey. They're **thinking of**¹ going there.

B: Well, be careful. They went to India last year on your advice and then **blamed**² you for the terrible holiday they had.

A: That was their fault. They **insisted on**³ going in the summer when it was far too hot.

¹ thinking about going to Turkey (often used in the continuous and followed by a noun/*-ing* form (NOT I'm thinking ~~to go~~ there.))

² said you were responsible for something bad, in this case the terrible holiday

³ said they must go (in the summer)

Exercises

87.1 Choose the correct word(s) to complete the sentences.

- 1 I hope *seeing* / (to see) them.
- 2 They agreed *helping* / *to help* me.
- 3 We enjoy *staying* / *to stay* by the sea.
- 4 I suggested *going* / *to go* on the train.
- 5 She insisted *in* / *on* paying for our meal.
- 6 We must attempt *getting* / *to get* there on time.
- 7 Have you considered *working* / *to work* in a bank?
- 8 I demanded *speaking* / *to speak* to the doctor in charge.
- 9 I asked *him help* / *him for help*.
- 10 They blamed me *for* / *of* it.
- 11 I don't mind *waiting* / *to wait* for you.
- 12 I try to avoid *travelling* / *to travel* in the rush hour.

87.2 Complete the sentences with the most suitable verb.

- 1 Have you *asked*..... the waiter for the bill?
- 2 My sister is of spending the summer in France if she can afford it.
- 3 I've had a computer for about 20 years; I can't being without one.
- 4 We always try to driving into town in the rush hour.
- 5 The accident wasn't my fault but they me for it.
- 6 We're to see my parents later this week. We had to go last week, but Marsha was ill and we couldn't go.
- 7 I meeting your friends; they were really nice.
- 8 Have you ever moving out of a town and going to live in the country?
- 9 I offered to drive, but Harry on taking his car because he said he being a passenger.
- 10 Aleisha's parents weren't happy with the school, and they to see the head teacher.

87.3 When you learn new verbs, you may need to know the constructions that are used with them. A good dictionary will give you this information, usually with examples. Using a good English dictionary, find the constructions that commonly follow these verbs.

○ FORMAL *Might I suggest a white wine with your salmon, sir?* ○ [+ (that)] *I suggest (that) we wait a while before we make any firm decisions.* ○ *Liz suggested (that) I try the shop on Mill Road.* ○ [+ -ing VERB] *I suggested putting the matter to the committee.*

fancy + pretend + or
 decide + or accuse +

87.4

Over to you

Answer the questions in the questionnaire on the opposite page. If possible, ask someone else the same questions. Then complete the sentences about yourself using the correct construction after each verb.

- I like
- I dislike
- I don't mind
- I'm thinking
- I can't imagine
- I hope
- I intend

A

A great opportunity

“I’m 24 years old, and I work in a photography studio. It’s not a very exciting job but I love photography and the pay isn’t bad. But, two months ago, I was given the chance to go to Italy and work on a film by a famous director. My best friend thought that it was a fantastic opportunity and advised¹ me to go. Dad wasn’t so sure. He didn’t try and persuade² me not to go, but he warned³ me that it would be hard work, and reminded⁴ me that it was only three months, then I’d be out of a job. I realised⁵ that my girlfriend wasn’t happy about it either, but I promised⁶ her that I would phone every day, and suggested⁷ that she could come out to Italy for a holiday while I was there. I didn’t mention⁸ that I was part of a small team with three other women. Anyway, I’m going.”



¹ say what you think someone should do

² make someone agree to do something by talking a lot

³ tell someone that something bad may happen, to stop it happening

⁴ tell someone something so that they don’t forget it

⁵ understand something (that) you didn’t understand before

⁶ say (that) you will certainly do something

⁷ tell someone about a possible idea or plan

⁸ say something, often briefly or quickly

advise + obj + inf

persuade + obj + inf

warn + obj + (that) ...

remind + obj + (that) ...

realise + (that) ...

promise + (obj) + (that) ...

suggest + (that) ...

mention + (that) ...

Language help

Some verbs can be followed by different constructions. We can also say, for example:

I suggested going there.

suggest + -ing

She warned me not to go.

warn + obj + inf

He reminded me to post the letter.

remind + obj + inf

B

Other verbs

Here are some more verbs which are used with the same constructions.

Verb + (that) ...: *say, hope, notice, recommend* and *expect*.

I **said** that I was busy. (NOT I said ~~him~~ that I was busy.)

I **hope** (that) you’ll come and see us soon.

When I left, I **noticed** that the door was open. [could see]

I **recommended** that we all go together, so no one gets lost.

I **expect** (that) he’ll ring us later. [think or believe that something will happen]

Verb + object + (that) ...: *tell, show* and *convince*.

I **told** them (that) they could leave early.

He tried to **convince** me that I needed some new clothes. [make me believe]

Verb + object + to infinitive: *ask, tell, want, allow, expect, remind, help* and *encourage*.

Tracey **asked** me to look after her cat.

They **told** us to wait outside.

They **want** us to stay at school.

I **expected** them to be here by now.

I **had to remind** him to buy the food. [tell somebody so that they do not forget]

She **helped** me to write the report. (You can also say: She helped me write the report.)

My parents **encouraged** me to read. [gave me support and confidence to make it possible]

Exercises

88.1 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 She encouraged me going. *She encouraged me to go.*
- 2 He told it's impossible.
- 3 I asked that Talia stay with me.
- 4 She suggested us to go to an Italian restaurant.
- 5 I warned them not going.
- 6 He helped me buying my suit.
- 7 She allowed us go.
- 8 He said me the film was terrible.
- 9 She advised me buy a dictionary.
- 10 I recommended to stay there.
- 11 He reminded me go to the bank.
- 12 I want that he leaves.

88.2 Complete the sentences with a verb from the box in the correct form.

realise warn expect remind convince encourage
help persuade mention recommend notice hope

- 1 She couldn't breathe easily, so I *realised* that something was wrong.
- 2 When we went in, I that people were looking at us.
- 3 Martin knew the area was dangerous but he didn't me not to go there.
- 4 I didn't want the job but my mother me to take it. It was a mistake.
- 5 I wasn't sure about the plan, but my boss me that it would work.
- 6 My uncle that we try the new Chinese restaurant.
- 7 When I spoke to Jodie, I that we were busy tonight.
- 8 Our teacher has always us to practise our English outside of class.
- 9 Fortunately Aidan me that it was Marsha's birthday; I'd forgotten.
- 10 I said I would Ian to put up the shelves.
- 11 They said they'd come, so I that they'll be here soon.
- 12 I that I pass my exams.

88.3 Complete the sentences in a suitable way.

- 1 He was given some money and I recommended *that he put it in the bank.*
- 2 Some of them were getting hungry so I suggested
- 3 She said there were strange noises outside her flat, so I advised
- 4 When I saw her face, I noticed
- 5 When I was young, my parents sometimes allowed
- 6 As soon as I put on the coat, I realised
- 7 It was only a few minutes to the beach, but I still couldn't persuade
- 8 Her train was delayed, so I expect
- 9 The water can make you ill and I warned
- 10 I borrowed his laptop yesterday but promised him that

88.4

Over to you

Look at the verbs on the opposite page again and translate them into your own language. Do you use the translated verbs with the same constructions? If not, these are the verbs that may cause you the most problems when you are speaking English.

A

Extreme adjectives

There are many 'extreme' adjectives we use to say that something is very good, or very small, or very surprising, etc.

We were lucky – the weather was **marvellous**. [very good; *syns* terrific, wonderful, amazing]

Don't go and see that film – it's **awful**. [very bad; *syn* dreadful]

I was **delighted** she passed her exam. [very pleased]

It's a nice modern flat, but it's absolutely **tiny**. [very small]



I wasn't very hungry, but they gave us a **huge** meal. [very big; *syn* enormous]

You should watch that programme; you'll find it absolutely **fascinating**. [very interesting]

Everyone was really **exhausted** by the end of the day. [very tired]

Bungee jumping is the most **terrifying** thing I've ever done. [very frightening]

Computers are an **essential** part of modern life. [very important and necessary]

The food was **delicious**. [very good; but usually only for food]

Language help

The food was **absolutely marvellous**. (NOT The food was ~~very marvellous~~.) We can use **absolutely** or **really** before extreme adjectives, e.g. *absolutely awful*, *really terrific*, but we can't use **very**.

We use **very** or **really** with gradable adjectives which do not have an extreme meaning, e.g. *very big*, *very good*, *very nice*, *very tired*, *really good*, *really tired*, etc. (NOT ~~absolutely big~~)

B

Adjectives ending in *-ing* and *-ed*

A large group of adjectives can have an *-ing* or *-ed* ending. The *-ing* ending describes a person, thing or situation; the *-ed* ending describes the effect on someone of this person, thing or situation.

I don't know if other people were **bored**, but I thought it was a very **boring** lesson.

The weather is so **depressing** at the moment; it's making everyone feel **depressed**.

Common mistakes

I was **bored** by that film. (NOT I was ~~boring~~ by that film.)

We're **very interested** in the new designs. (NOT We're ~~very interesting~~ in the new designs.)

These adjectives can all end in *-ing* or *-ed*, depending on the meaning.

It was really **tiring** going up that hill. [making you feel tired]

I was **amazed** she could climb that wall. [very surprised]

My exam results were very **disappointing**. [not as good as I expected]

She was **annoyed** that I forgot to tell her. [angry]

I kept calling her Emma, so I was **embarrassed** when Ben told me her name was Angela. [feeling a bit stupid because of something you have said or done]

The map he gave us was very **confusing**. [difficult to understand]

We were **shocked** by the violence in the film. [very surprised in an unpleasant way]

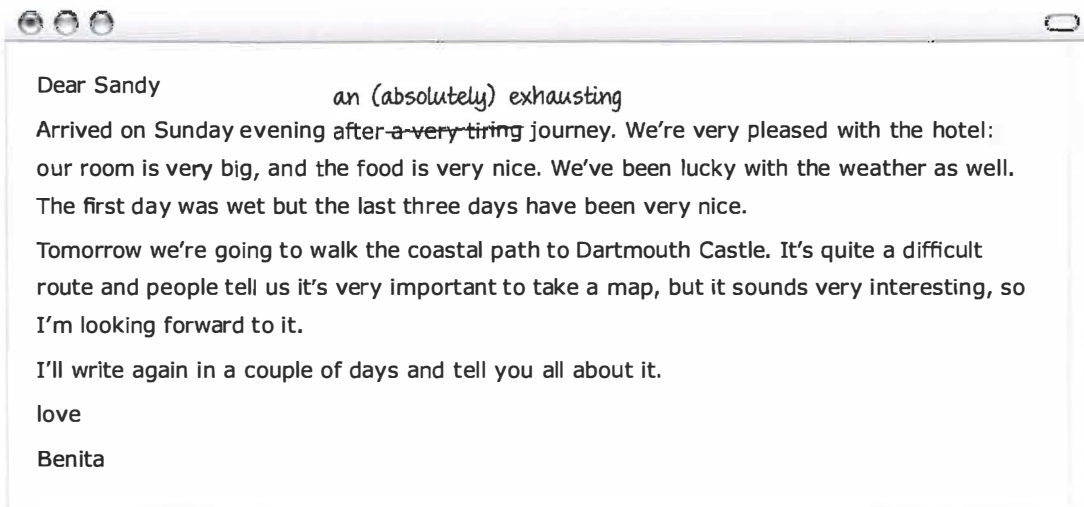
Exercises

89.1 Put the words into the correct column.

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| bad | dreadful | important | small | exhausted |
| terrified | tired | essential | frightened | tiny |

| gradable adjectives | extreme adjectives |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| bad | dreadful |

89.2 Change the adjectives where possible to give the email a more positive and/or more extreme effect. Include *absolutely* or *really* two or three times.



Dear Sandy

an (absolutely) exhausting

Arrived on Sunday evening after a ~~very~~ tiring journey. We're very pleased with the hotel: our room is very big, and the food is very nice. We've been lucky with the weather as well. The first day was wet but the last three days have been very nice.

Tomorrow we're going to walk the coastal path to Dartmouth Castle. It's quite a difficult route and people tell us it's very important to take a map, but it sounds very interesting, so I'm looking forward to it.

I'll write again in a couple of days and tell you all about it.

love

Benita

89.3 Complete the dialogues so that B agrees with A, using a suitable adjective from the opposite page.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 A: I was <u>very interested</u> in her talk. B: Yes, it was <u>fascinating</u> | 4 A: Did you have a <u>nice</u> holiday? B: Yes, absolutely |
| 2 A: Were you <u>very frightened</u> ? B: Yes, it was absolutely | 5 A: I expect you were <u>very pleased</u> with your score. B: Yes, I was absolutely |
| 3 A: It was <u>surprising</u> to see the children behave so badly. B: I know. We were | 6 A: I expect you were a bit <u>angry</u> when they arrived an hour late? B: Yes, I was very |

89.4 Write an adjective to describe how the people felt in these situations.

- They walked ten miles, then spent the afternoon cutting down trees. exhausted.....
- From the description in the travel brochure, they expected a beautiful big villa by the sea. In actual fact it was quite small, not very nice, and miles from the beach.
- I arrived in jeans, but everyone else was wearing very formal clothes.
- One person told them the street was on the left, another told them to turn right, and a third person said they had to go back to the station.
- My brother has a flat and it's usually in a terrible mess – he's very untidy. But yesterday when I visited him, the place was incredibly tidy. In fact, everything looked new.
- I got my results yesterday and I passed every exam with a grade A.

A *At, on and in*

At a point or place, e.g. I met her **at** the bus stop. He's **at** work **at** the moment.
On a surface, e.g. The book's **on** the desk. They sat **on** the floor. I put the picture **on** the wall.
In an area, space, or inside something, e.g. He's **in** the kitchen. She lives **in** Warsaw/Poland. The knife's **in** the top drawer.

Common mistakes

I met them **at** the airport. (NOT I met them ~~on~~ the airport.)
 There's a computer **on** my desk. (NOT There's a computer ~~in~~ my desk.)
 The conference is being held **in** Delhi. (NOT The conference is being held ~~at~~ Delhi.)

B *Where exactly?*

I know they live **in** Danvers Street, and I think they're **at** number twenty-three.

Their house is **beyond** the farm [on the other side of the farm], **by** [near] the old church.

They've just bought a house **right** [exactly] **beside/by** [next to] the river.

Their office is **above** the shop (*opp* below).

I'm sure there's a chemist **on** the left **before** the bank. [first there is a chemist, and then a bank; *opp* after]

I saw your bike **in** the back garden **against** the wall. [touching the wall]

Your photographs are **in** the spare room **beneath/underneath** a pile of newspapers. [under]

You can just see the top of the building **among** the trees. [somewhere in the middle of the trees]

C *Movement*

We came over the bridge (*opp* under), then through the tunnel and round the lake.



The woman came after us [followed in order to catch us], but we managed to climb into the back of my dad's van. Fortunately she went past the van and didn't see us.

The mouse ran out of the back door (*opp* into), towards the gate, then disappeared down a hole.







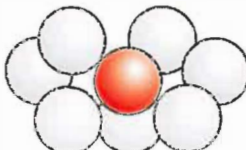
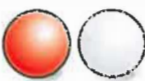

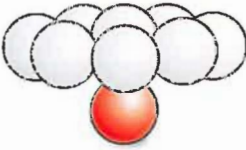
Exercises

90.1 Complete the sentences.

- 1 I put the milk in the fridge.
- 2 They live the next road.
- 3 They live 34 Lawrence Street.
- 4 Your clothes are the floor.
- 5 I met her a party.
- 6 She works Moscow.
- 7 The dictionary is my desk.
- 8 I sat the bed and wrote the letter.
- 9 I left my books school.
- 10 There was snow the ground when I arrived.
- 11 The key is my jacket pocket.
- 12 Mausha's work this morning.

90.2 Put the prepositions in the box under the correct picture.

beside towards out of ~~down~~ among into up underneath

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |
| 1 <u>down</u> | 3 | 5 | 7 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |

90.3 Complete the dialogues so that B says the opposite to A.

- 1 A: Did you go up the hill?
B: No, down the hill
- 2 A: Did you climb over the fence?
B: No, we went
- 3 A: Did you see her get into the car?
B: No, but I saw her
- 4 A: Did you say we had to turn left before the bridge?
B: No, turn left
- 5 A: Does she live in the flat above you?
B: No, she's in the flat
- 6 A: Did you say the bed was in the middle of the room?
B: No, it's the wall.

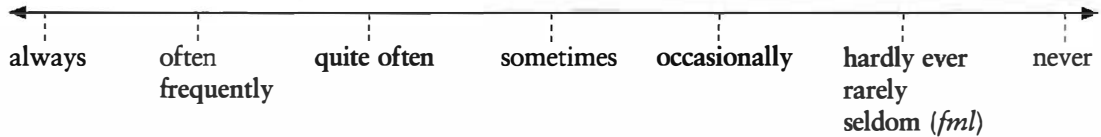
90.4

Over to you

Answer the questions, and give reasons for your answers. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

- 1 Is it a good idea to live right beside a hospital?
- 2 Would you like to live above a restaurant?
- 3 Are you happy to drive on icy roads?
- 4 Do you like putting lots of things on your bedroom wall?
- 5 In a plane or train, do you like sitting by the window?
- 6 Would you like to live among lots of rich and famous people?

A Adverbs of frequency: how often



She **hardly ever** plays tennis now.
I **occasionally** go to the theatre.
We see them quite **frequently**.

I am **often** late.
He **rarely** works at weekends.
I have **never** been to America.

Language help

Remember that frequency adverbs usually go before the main verb, with the exception of the verb *be*. Notice the position of the adverb when the present perfect is used.

B Adverbs of degree: how much

I was **a bit** tired. (*infml*) The flat was **a little (bit)** small. She was **slightly** nervous.

Language help

A bit, *a little* and *slightly* have the same meaning and are mostly used before adjectives that express negative ideas, e.g. *We were a bit bored. I was slightly upset.* (NOT *I was a-bit happy.*)
A bit and *a little* cannot be used with adjectives before a noun.
It was a slightly small flat. (NOT *It was a-bit small flat.*)

The next four adverbs all mean 'more than *a bit* but less than *very*'.

The hotel was **quite** busy. We had **quite** a nice room. (NOT ~~a quite nice~~ room)
The food was **fairly** boring. It was a **fairly** wet day.
I was **rather** annoyed I missed the film. It was a **rather** good party. OR **rather** a good party.
The weather was **pretty** good. (*infml*) We had a **pretty** difficult journey.

The restaurant was **completely/totally** empty. I **totally/completely** agree with you.

We had an **extremely** interesting trip. [very interesting]
It's an **incredibly** good book.

C Adverbs of manner

These adverbs describe the way in which someone does something, or the way that something happens.

Nina had **secretly**¹ put all of the letters into her bag.

Petra was in pain, and I could see she needed help **urgently**³.

I went in and shut the door **quietly**. The curtains were closed and the room was dark, but I **suddenly**² realised I wasn't alone.

I spoke to Charles **briefly**⁴ this morning. I asked him **very politely** if he could work an extra hour this evening, but he reacted quite **angrily** and walked off.

¹ in a way that others couldn't know about

² quickly

³ very quickly because of something important

⁴ for a short time

Exercises

91.1 Form sentences from the words.

- 1 get occasionally I early up I occasionally get up early.....
- 2 me ever phones she hardly
- 3 have leg my broken never I
- 4 frequently them I at visit weekends
- 5 brother often me Sunday calls quite on my
- 6 summer saw I him rarely the during
- 7 office always in she the is eight before

91.2 Replace the underlined adverb with a different adverb that has a similar meaning.

- 1 The film was pretty good. rather.....
- 2 She hardly ever goes to conferences now.
- 3 The shops were quite busy.
- 4 They are two sisters, but they look totally different.
- 5 I thought the film was a bit disappointing, didn't you?
- 6 I'm afraid I'm extremely busy next week.
- 7 We often ask them to turn their music down.

91.3 Put the two ideas into one sentence by using a suitable adverb.

- 1 I walked up the path. I didn't make a noise. I walked up the path quietly.....
- 2 I must speak to her. It's important.
- 3 I asked him to move his car. I did it in a nice and correct way.
- 4 I spoke to her. I made sure the others didn't know.
- 5 He ran out of the room. It was very quick and unexpected.
- 6 I spoke to her this morning. It was only for a few minutes.

91.4 Change the underlined adverbs in 1–4 to make them more positive. Change the underlined adverbs in 5–7 to make them less negative.

- 1 The play was quite interesting. very.....
- 2 I thought they were very good.
- 3 He's been getting quite good marks in his exams.
- 4 It's a pretty nice house.
- 5 John said the flat was very small.
- 6 They said it was fairly boring.
- 7 His clothes were very dirty.

91.5

Over to you

Make the sentences true for you by adding a suitable adverb, in the correct place.

- 1 I clean my teeth after breakfast. I always clean my teeth after breakfast.....
- 2 I buy clothes I don't like.
- 3 I lose things.
- 4 I forget things.
- 5 I remember my dreams.
- 6 I speak to strangers on buses and trains.
- 7 I give money to people in the street if they ask me.

Now think about each of your answers to the sentences above. Do you think they are:

- a) fairly typical? b) slightly unusual? c) quite unusual?

If possible, compare your answers with someone else.