5 Countries, nationalities and languages

A Using 'the'

Most names of countries are used without 'the', but some countries and other names have 'the' before them, e.g. the United States / the US(A), the United Kingdom / the UK, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates / the UAE, the European Union / the EU, the Commonwealth.

B Adjectives referring to people, countries and languages

With -ish: British Irish Flemish Polish Danish Turkish Spanish
With -(i)an: Canadian Brazilian Latvian Korean Russian Australian
With -ese: Japanese Chinese Vietnamese Portuguese Maltese Taiwanese
With -i: Israeli Iraqi Kuwaiti Pakistani Yemeni Bangladeshi
With -ic: Icelandic Arabic Slavonic
Some adjectives are worth learning separately, e.g. Swiss, Thai, Greek, Dutch, Cypriot.

C Nationalities

Some nationalities and cultural identities have nouns for referring to people, e.g. a Finn, a Swede, a Turk, a Spaniard, a Dane, a Briton, an Arab, a Pole. For most nationalities we can use the adjective as a noun, e.g. a German, an Italian, a Belgian, a Catalan, a Greek, an African, a European. Some need woman/man/person added to them (you can't say 'a Dutch'), so if in doubt, use them, e.g. a Dutch man, a French woman, an Irish person, an Icelandic man.

World regions

D



Regional groups and ethnic groups

People belong to ethnic groups and regional groups such as African-Caribbean, Asian, Latin American, North African, Scandinavian, Southern African, European, Arabic. These can be used as countable nouns or as adjectives.

Europeans often find Asian cultures to be very different from their own. Arabic culture spreads across a vast region of North Africa and the Middle East.

People speak dialects as well as languages. Everyone has a native language or first language (sometimes called mother tongue); many have second and third languages. Some people are expert in more than one language and are bilingual or multilingual. People who only know one language are monolingual.

5.1	Put each of the countries into the correct column depending on which adjectives are
	used to refer to the people or language of that country.

Ireland	Iceland	Thailand	Latvia	Israel	Switz	erland	China	Pakistan
Turkey	Arabia	Brazil t	he Netherla	ands :	Korea	Denma	ırk	

-(i)an	-ic	-ish	-i	-ese	(other)
Latvian		Irish			

5.2 Match the countries wi	th their world regions.
----------------------------	-------------------------

1	Sweden	C	a the Middle East
2	Cambodia		b Southern Africa
3	Nicaragua		c Scandinavia
4	Tunisia	Ī	d East Asia
5	Saudi Arabia	Ī	e Central America
6	Botswana		f North Africa

5.3 Correct the mistakes in these newspaper headlines.

- Soccer sensation!
 England team captain
 to marry a French!
- BRITAIN'S HAVE HIGHEST TAX RATE IN EUROPE
- MALTISH PRIME MINISTER VISITS WASHINGTON

Frenchman/French woman

- Police arrest Danish on smuggling charge
- Iraqian delegation meets Pakistanian President

5.4 Famous names. Can you name a famous ...

- 1 Argentinian sportsman or woman? Diego Maradona
- 2 Spanish actor?
- 3 South African political leader?
- 4 Australian singer?

- 5 Italian opera singer?
- 6 Irish rock-music band?
- 7 American golfer?

Over to you

Complete the sentences so that they are true for you.

- 1 I am (nationality)
- 2 My first language is
- 3 | speak (number) language(s) fluently, so | am
- 4 My ethnic/regional group is
- 5 I have visited these countries:
- 6 I would like to travel to
- 7 One language I would like to learn is
- 8 I've never been to these two countries: and and

6 The weather

A Cold weather

In Northern Europe, daytime¹ temperatures are often quite mild, even in late² autumn. The days are often misty³, foggy and damp⁴. Soon, winter arrives, with frost⁵, icy roads and severe⁶ weather, including heavy snow. As people expect the weather to be bad, they try and keep warm so they don't freeze! Freezing weather may continue in the far north until May or even June, when the ground starts to thaw /θɔː/⁷ and the ice melts⁸ again.









¹ during the day ² towards the end of a period of time ³ with clouds of small drops of water in the air, making it difficult to see things in the distance ⁴ slightly wet, and not pleasant or comfortable ⁵ thin, white layer of ice on surfaces when the weather is very cold ⁶ extremely bad ⁷ change from

Warm/hot weather



In a tropical¹ climate, the weather is often stifling², muggy³ and humid⁴. In other hot climates, there may be boiling⁵ hot days, and heatwaves⁶ may be common.

¹ very hot, as in countries near the Equator ² hot, uncomfortable, you can hardly breathe ³ very warm and a little damp ⁴ hot and damp, makes you sweat a lot ⁵ extremely hot ⁶ very hot, dry period

C Wet weather gogs

This wet weather scale gets stronger from left to right. shower (noun) \rightarrow heavy rain \rightarrow pour down (verb) / downpour (noun) \rightarrow torrential rain \rightarrow flood (noun and verb)

This rain won't last long; it's only a shower. [short period of rain]

There was quite heavy rain during the night. / It rained heavily during the night.

hard, frozen state to softer state 8 change from solid to liquid under heat

It was absolutely pouring down yesterday. / There was a real downpour.

In Malaysia there is usually torrential rain most days, and the roads sometimes get flooded. / There are sometimes floods on the roads.

The sky's a bit overcast; I think it's

100 000

heavy

shower







pour down

torrential flood

going to rain. [very cloudy] rain do We had a drought /draut/ last summer. It didn't rain for six weeks.

D Wind

There was a gentle breeze on the beach, just enough to cool us. There was a very strong/high wind and my umbrella blew away. There was a gale that day, so we didn't go sailing. [very high wind] People stayed indoors because there was a hurricane on the way. [extremely high, dangerous wind]



Common mistake

The noun weather is uncountable, We say: We had bad weather that day. (NOT We had a bad weather.)

- **6.1** Answer the questions about the words in A opposite.
 - 1 Which adjective could you use to describe something that is wet, but not very wet? damp
 - 2 Which adjective would you use before 'summer' to refer to the end part of it?
 - 3 Which verb means the temperature has gone up and there is no longer frost or ice?
 - 4 Which word can be used to describe something that happens in the day?
 - 5 What happens to ice cream on a very hot day?
 - 6 If you see a thin, white covering on everything on a cold day, what is it?
 - 7 If you can't see things in the distance, what is the weather probably like?
 - 8 Which two adjectives could you use to describe a wind that blows very hard?
 - 9 Which adjective can you use to describe very bad weather?

6.2 What types of weather do these pictures suggest?









1 hurricane

2

3

-	
4	
_	

6.3 Rewrite the words in bold using words from B opposite.

I think it would be interesting to live in a hot fropical climate. However, I don't like
weather that is hot and damp and makes you sweat
that are slightly warm and damp which we get in the UK. Some people love
extremely hot days, and I don't mind very hot, dry periods
occasionally, but when it's hot and uncomfortable and you can hardly breathe
it's just impossible. Maybe I should stay at home and forget about moving to a hot climate!

6.4 What kinds of weather do you think caused the following to happen? Write a sentence which could go *before* each of these. Use words from the opposite page.

1	The weather was stifling.	We had to use the air-conditioning every afternoon.
2		The sweat was pouring out of us.
3		It just cooled us nicely on the hot beach.
4	37.0	Cars were sliding everywhere out of control.
5		The postman had to use a boat to get around.
6		You couldn't really see the trees in the distance.
7		The earth became rock hard and a lot of plants died.
8		It blew the newspaper right out of my hands.
9		My hair and clothes got soaking wet.
10		It looked as if it would rain at any minute.

6.5 Over to you

This chart shows anyone who wants to visit the West of Ireland what weather they can expect at different times of the year. Make a similar chart for your country or home region. If possible, compare your chart with someone else.

Dec-Mar	April-June	July-Aug	Sept-Nov
coldest months; usually wet; heavy rain; snow on high ground	generally cool, often wet and windy but getting warmer	warmest months; sunny, with showers; cool sea breezes	often mild, becoming cold; damp, misty and foggy, often overcast

Describing people: appearance

Hair, face, skin and complexion /kəm'plek [ən/



She's got straight hair and she's thin-faced / she's got a thin face.



She's got long, wavy hair and she's round-faced / she's got a round face.



She's got curly hair and is dark-skinned / she's got dark skin.



He's got a crew-cut.



He's bald /boxld/ and He's got a beard and has freckles.



moustache /mus'ta: [/ and has a chubby face.



He's got receding hair and a few wrinkles /'rɪnkəlz/.



He used to have black hair but now it's gone grey, almost white.

What sort of person would you find attractive? Blonde, fair, dark or ginger-haired / red-haired. She has such beautiful auburn hair. /'ɔːbən/ [red-brown]

Fair and dark can be used for hair, complexion or skin. Some people like getting a tan in summer. [exposing their skin to the sun so that it goes brown]

Height and build



a rather plump or stout person



a slim person / a skinny person positive [rather negative]



an obese couple /ə'biːs/ [negative, very fat]

Fat may sound impolite. Instead we often say a bit overweight. If someone is broad and solid, we can say they are stocky. A person with good muscles can be well-built or muscular. If someone is terribly thin and refuses to eat, they may be anorexic /ænəˈreksɪk/. If someone has a nice figure, they have an attractive shape. [generally said about women]

General appearance

She's a very smart and elegant woman, always well-dressed; her husband is quite the opposite, very scruffy and untidy-looking / messy-looking.

Chloe looked stunning in her red dress. [very attractive]

He's very good-looking, but his friend's rather unattractive. [opp attractive]

Her eyes are her best feature. [the most attractive part of her face]

Do you think beautiful women are always attracted to handsome men? I don't. I think personality matters most.

First impressions are always important. [your first reaction to someone]

Language help

The suffix **-ish** is useful for describing people (see Unit 8). She's tallish. He has brownish hair. He must be thirtyish / in his thirties.

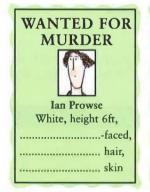
7.1 Choose a word from the opposite page to complete these sentences.

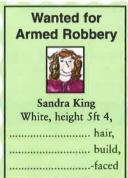
- 1 I wish I could get a dan like yours but my skin just goes red in the sun.
- 2 My cousin used to have a lovely _____ but she's put on weight in all the wrong places since she stopped taking much exercise.
- 3 Thomas's eyes are his best _____ they're so large and sparkly and such a deep brown.
- 5 Staff at the bank were told to dress smartly for work so they would always create a good _______ on customers.
- 6 I'd call her _____ rather than ginger-haired her hair's dark brown with just a tinge of red in it.
- 7 George says that the _____ round his eyes just show that he has smiled a lot in his life.

7.2 Answer these remarks with the opposite description.

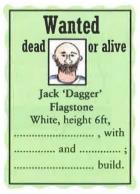
- 1 A: I thought you said he was the short, chubby one.
 - B: No, no, no, not at all, he's the tall, thin-faced one.
- 2 A: Was that his brother, the dark-skinned, wavy-haired one?
 - B: No, completely the opposite, his brother's ...
- 3 A: She's always quite well-dressed, so I've heard.
 - B: What! Who told you that? Every time I see her, she's ...
- 4 A: So Charlene's that rather plump, fair-haired woman, is she?
 - B: No, you're looking at the wrong one. Charlene's ...
- 5 A: So, tell us about the new boss; good-looking?
 - B: No, I'm afraid not; rather ...
- 6 A: I don't know why, but I expected the tour guide to be fiftyish or rather plump.
 - B: No, apparently she's only ...

7.3 WANTED! MISSING! Complete the gaps in these police posters with your own ideas.









7.4 Over to you

Write one sentence to describe each of these people, giving information about their hair and face, their height and build and general appearance:

- 1 you yourself
- 3 a neighbour
- 2 your best friend
- 4 your ideal of a handsome man / a beautiful woman

Now, in the same way, describe somebody very famous and give some extra clues about them, e.g. He's/She's a pop star | politician. Can a partner guess who you are describing?

8 Describing people: character

A Intellectual ability

ability	intelligent bright clever sharp shrewd able gifted talented brainy (colloquial)
lacking ability	stupid foolish half-witted simple silly brainless daft dumb dim (the last four are predominantly colloquial words)
clever, in a negative way, using brains to trick or deceive	cunning crafty sly

Attitudes towards life

B

D

Amal is **pessimistic** while Nia is **optimistic** – he always expects the worst to happen while she looks on the bright side.

It is strange that one of the twins is so extroverted while the other is so introverted – Ben loves being the focus of attention while Bill prefers to be alone with his thoughts.

I feel very tense (or wound up / stressed out**) after a very busy day at work but, after a hot bath and a nice cup of tea, I'll soon feel relaxed.

Jane is very sensible – she'd never do anything stupid. In other words, she's very practical and down-to-earth.

Roberto is very sensitive – he gets very upset (or worked-up, more colloquial), if he feels people are criticising him.

C Attitude towards other people

Enjoying others' company: sociable gregarious*

Disagreeing with others: quarrelsome argumentative

Taking pleasure in others' pain: cruel sadistic

Relaxed in attitude to self and others: easy-going even-tempered laid-back**

Not polite to others: impolite rude ill-mannered discourteous*

Telling the truth to others: honest trustworthy reliable sincere

Unhappy if others have what one does not have oneself: jealous envious

One person's meat is another person's poison

Some characteristics can be either positive or negative depending on your point of view. The words in the right-hand column mean roughly the same as the words in the left-hand column except that they have negative rather than positive connotations.

positive associations	negative associations
determined	obstinate stubborn pig-headed
thrifty economical	stingy mean tight-fisted miserly*
self-assured confident	self-important arrogant full of oneself**
unconventional original	eccentric odd peculiar weird**
frank direct open	blunt abrupt brusque curt
broad-minded	unprincipled permissive
enquiring*	inquisitive nosy**
generous	extravagant
innocent	naive
ambitious	pushy**
assertive	aggressive bossy**

^{*}These words are much more common in written than in spoken English.

^{**}These words are much more common in spoken than in written English.

8.1 Match the words on the left with their opposites on the	e rignt.
---	----------

1	clever	F	a	introverted
2	extroverted		b	tight-fisted
3	rude		c	courteous
4	cruel		d	gregarious
5	generous		e	kind-hearted
6	unsociable	$\overline{}$	f	half-witted

- 8.2 Do you think that the speaker likes or dislikes the people in these sentences? Reword each sentence to give the opposite impression (negative rather than positive or vice versa).
 - 1 Carmen's very thrifty. Likes Carmen's very stingy.
 - 2 Molly's usually frank.
 - 3 Liz is quite broad-minded.
 - 4 Sam can be aggressive.

- 5 Nico's quite bossy.
- 6 I find Dave self-important.
- 7 Don't you think James is nosy?
- 8 Rachel is very original.

8.3 Pair the words that have similar meanings.

brainless - silly

brainless	curt	gifted	rude	tense
brusque	direct	honest	sensible	tight-fisted
crafty	down-to-earth	impolite	silly	trustworthy
cunning	frank	miserly	talented	wound up

Magazines often publish questionnaires which are supposed to analyse aspects of your character. Look at the words below and match them to the corresponding question.

pessimistic	argumentative	sensitive	sociable
extravagant	assertive	inquisitive	reliable

- 1 If you arrange to meet at 7 pm, do you arrive at 7 pm? reliable
- 2 Look at the picture. Do you think 'my glass is half empty'?
- 3 Do you find it easy to tell your boss if you feel he or she has treated you badly?
- 4 Do you always look out of the window if you hear a car draw up?
- 5 Do you often buy your friends presents for no particular reason?
- 6 Do you frequently disagree with what other people say?
- 7 Do you lie awake at night if someone has said something unkind to you?
- 8 Do you prefer to be in the company of other people?

8.5 What questions like those in 8.4 could you ask to find out if a person is the following?

- 1 thrifty Do you keep old pieces of string in case they might come in useful?
- 2 blunt 4 intelligent
- 3 sensible 5 even-tempered
- 6 original
- 8 stressed out

- 7 obstinate

8.6 Over to you

Choose two people who are important in your life. Then pick three different adjectives to describe each of these people. Explain why you chose these adjectives to describe that person.

EXAMPLE Sociable - My brother is sociable because he loves being with other people,

9 Idioms describing people

A Positive and negative qualities

positive

She has a heart of gold. [very kind, generous] He's as good as gold. [helpful, well-behaved; used generally for children]

negative

She's as hard as nails. [no sympathy for others] He's a nasty piece of work. [unpleasant]

Note also:

Her heart's in the right place. [is a good and kind person even though they do not always seem so] He's such an awkward customer. [difficult person to deal with] She's a pain in the neck. Nobody likes her. [nuisance, difficult]

He gets on everyone's nerves. [irritates everybody]

B Idioms based on 'head'

You can learn idioms by associating them with a key word or words. Two of the idioms in A, for example, are based on *gold* and two on *heart*. Here is a set of idioms describing people based on the word *head*.

to have

your head screwed on [be sensible, informal] a head for heights [not suffer from vertigo] a head like a sieve [bad memory] a good head for figures [be good at maths] your head in the clouds [unaware of reality]

to be head and shoulders above someone [much better than]

to bury your head in the sand [refuse to think about a difficult situation in the hope you won't have to deal with it]

to keep your head [stay calm in a difficult situation]







C How people relate to the social norm

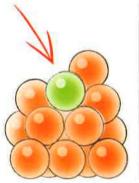
She's a bit of an odd-ball. [peculiar, strange]
He's really over the top. [very exaggerated in behaviour]
He's (gone) round the bend, if you ask me. [absolutely crazy/mad]
My politics are very middle-of-the-road. [very normal; no radical ideas; neither left- nor right-wing]

D Who's who in the class? Idioms for 'people in the classroom'

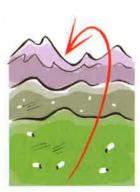
Sam's teacher's pet. [teacher's favourite] Mary's top of the class. Charles is a real know-all. [thinks he knows everything] Ali's a bit of a big-head. [has a high opinion of him/herself] Anna's a lazy-bones.

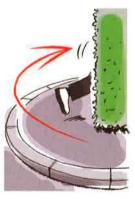
The last three idioms are used of people outside the classroom situation too.

- 9.1 Try to complete these idioms from memory if possible.
 - 1 She does a lot of voluntary work; she has a heart ... of gold.
 - 2 Don't expect any sympathy from the boss; she's as hard ...
 - 3 I'm sure Ahmed will help you; he's as good ...
 - 4 Although Florian sometimes seems a bit bad-tempered his heart is ...
 - 5 I don't think you'll like him; he's a nasty ...
 - 6 I try to avoid having much to do with Peter. He's rather an ...
- 9.2 What do we call ...
 - 1 an irritating person who knows everything? a know-all
 - 2 the person who is the teacher's favourite?
 - 3 someone who thinks they are the best and says so?
 - 4 the one who gets the best marks?
 - 5 a person who is very lazy?
- 9.3 Complete the sentences using an idiom from B.
 - 1 I'd better write it in my notebook. I have ... a head like a sieve.
 - 2 Ask Martha to check those sums. She has ...
 - 3 Don't ask me to go up that tower. I'm afraid I don't ...
 - 4 She's very sensible and knows what she's doing. She ...
 - 5 He's quite out of touch with reality. He really ...
 - 6 The problem won't go away so there's no point ...
 - 7 Max is top of the class, ... everyone else.
 - 8 Even when others around him are panicking Raul always ...
- 9.4 Which part of the body might a difficult person (a) get on (b) be a pain in?
- 9.5 Which idioms do you think these pictures represent?









- 1 an odd-ball
- 2 ..

3

4

9.6 Over to you

Choose five idioms from this unit that you could use to describe people that you know. Tell a partner about those people.

O Relationships

A Types of relationship

ANITA: Are you and Holly best friends?

PAMELA: She's a good friend – she's not my best friend.

ANITA: But she's more than just a casual acquaintance1, right?

PAMELA: Oh, yes. We were housemates² at university.

ANITA: Really? So how did you first meet her?

PAMELA: I met her through my ex³, Andy. She wasn't in a steady⁴ relationship with anyone at

the time and the received for someone to share a room

the time, and she was looking for someone to share a room.

ANITA: Uh-huh. Is that Andy who's now Julia's partner⁵?

PAMELA: Yeah, that's the one. They're not just partners, they're married and they're

colleagues too. They're saving to buy a house now, so Andy's living with his

parents-in-law⁶ at the moment.

¹ a person you have met but you don't know well ² mate [friend; *infml*] is used in compound nouns to describe a person you share something with, e.g. classmate, roommate, workmate, flatmate, housemate. Workmate is common in non-professional or informal contexts; colleague is common among professional people, and sounds more formal. ³ ex- can be used without (informally) or with another word: ex-girlfriend, ex-husband, etc. ⁴ fixed and not changing suddenly ⁵ partner is used for someone you live with but are not married to, or for a business relationship where you share the ownership or running of a company ⁶ his wife's parents (his mother-in-law and father-in-law)

Internet relationships

В

MyBook Home Profile Friends Inbox

If you join a social network, you acquire **friends** (people you share personal information with). You can choose to **accept** a new friend and then you can **interact** with them by exchanging messages or posting **comments** on their page, or, if you want to finish the relationship, you can **unfriend/defriend** that person. In email and mobile phone address books, you list your **contacts**.

C Liking and not liking someone

core verb positive (stronger) negative

like love adore idolise dislike can't stand loathe /ləuð/
respect look up to admire look down on despise

attract be attracted to fancy (infml) leave someone cold

She doesn't just like Ben, she idolises him. I can't stand him.

I really fancy Leila, but her friend just leaves me cold / doesn't do anything for me.

Phrases and idioms for relationships and dating

Jane and I get on well (with each other). [have a good relationship]

Adrian and Orla don't see eye to eye. [often argue/disagree]

I've fallen out with my parents again. [had arguments]

Stephen is having an affair with his boss. [a sexual relationship, usually secret]

Let's try and make it up. [be friends again after a row/quarrel]

He's dating a Spanish girl. They've been seeing each other for a couple of months. [meeting and spending time together]

They met at a party and got together soon after. [started a romantic relationship]

Common mistake

We say: People **make friends**. (NOT get friends or find friends)

It's often difficult to **make** new **friends** when you move to another city. (NOT It's often difficult to get friends ...)

- 10.1 Use words with the suffix -mate to rewrite these sentences.
 - 1 This is Jack. He and I share a flat. This is Jack, He and I are flatmates.
 - 2 Mick was the person I shared a room with at university.
 - 3 We were in the same class together in 1998, weren't we?
 - 4 She's not really a friend; she's just someone I work with.
 - 5 Freda is always arguing with the people she shares a house with.
- 10.2 How many sentences can you write about the relationships between the people in the pictures, using words from the opposite page?

EXAMPLE John and Lorna are colleagues.



- 10.3 What do you think the relationships between the people below would be? Use the verbs, phrases and idioms opposite.
 - 1 a teenage music fan: (a) parents helshe might like/dislike his/her parents (b) pop star (c) strict teacher (d) mate
 - 2 a personal assistant: (a) another personal assistant (b) the boss (c) a very attractive workmate
 - 3 a 45-year-old: (a) teenagers (b) ex-husband/wife who was cruel
- 10.4 Correct the mistakes in these sentences. There may be more than one mistake.
 - 1 Julia and Matt don't get on eye to eye.
 - 2 I fell up with my parents last night. It wasn't my fault.
 - 3 We had a quarrel but now we've made it well.
 - 4 Do you think Josh and Nuala are making an affair? I do.
 - 5 I see very well with all my colleagues at work.
 - 6 Jo's attractive, but her mate just makes me cold completely.
 - 7 Margaret seems to find it difficult to get friends among her classmates.
 - 8 I met my boyfriend at a party and we became together soon after.
 - 9 I accepted her as a friend on a social network site but later I disfriended her.

10.5 Over to you

Complete the sentences so they are true for you.					
is a good friend of mineis just a casual acquaintance.					
Someone I look up to is					
Someone I once fancied was Someone I adore is					
l would never look down onis my ex					