

77 Abbreviations and acronyms

A Abbreviations pronounced as individual letters

Most abbreviations are pronounced as individual letters.

BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
ID	Identity (an identity card or passport)
GM	genetically modified
WHO	World Health Organisation
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid (chemical at centre of living cells)
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency (US government agency collecting information about other countries)
MI6	Military Intelligence 6 (UK equivalent of CIA)
FAQ	frequently asked questions
AKA	also known as
IOU	I owe you
ATM	automated teller machine (cash machine usually outside bank)
ASAP	as soon as possible (it is occasionally pronounced as a word /eɪsæp/)

Language help

When these abbreviations are stressed words in the sentence, the stress falls on the last letter, e.g. *She works for the CIA. I heard it on the BBC.*

B Abbreviations pronounced as words

Abbreviations pronounced as individual words are called acronyms.

NATO /neɪtəʊ/	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
PIN /pɪn/	Personal Identity Number (e.g. for a bank or credit card)
SAD	seasonal affective disorder (lacking energy and enthusiasm in winter in latitudes where there is little sunlight at that time)
AWOL /eɪwɒl/	absent without leave [permission; usually used in military contexts]

Some acronyms have become so normal as words that people do not think of them as abbreviations any longer, and so they are not written in capital letters.

laser radar scuba sonar

C Clippings

Some words are often used in an abbreviated form in informal situations. We say, for example, **kilo** instead of kilogram or **gig** for gigabyte. Other examples include:

air con (air conditioning) **satnav** (satellite navigation system)
uni (university) **mobile** (mobile phone) or (US) **cell** (cellphone)
carbs (carbohydrates) **sci-fi** (science fiction) **high-tech** (high-technology)

D Abbreviations in texts and instant messaging

Text messages (or txt msgs) and instant messaging often use abbreviations. Some common ones are:

BTW	by the way
LOL	laugh(ing) out loud / lots of love
BRB	be right back
CUL8R	see you later
FYI	for your information
AFAIK	as far as I know
AFK	away from keyboard (with instant messaging)
IMHO	in my humble/honest opinion (with instant messaging)

Exercises

77.1 Match the sentence beginnings on the left with the endings on the right.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 Wherever I am in the world I listen to the news on the | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a ID. |
| 2 Most websites have a page dealing with | <input type="checkbox"/> | b PIN. |
| 3 Maggie took some money out of my wallet and left me an | <input type="checkbox"/> | c BBC. |
| 4 What kind of people we are depends on our | <input type="checkbox"/> | d SAD. |
| 5 They won't let you into the club without any | <input type="checkbox"/> | e FAQs. |
| 6 You won't be able to use the ATM if you've forgotten your | <input type="checkbox"/> | f AWOL. |
| 7 I don't know where John can be – he's gone | <input type="checkbox"/> | g DNA. |
| 8 I always feel lethargic in December – I think I suffer from | <input type="checkbox"/> | h IOU. |

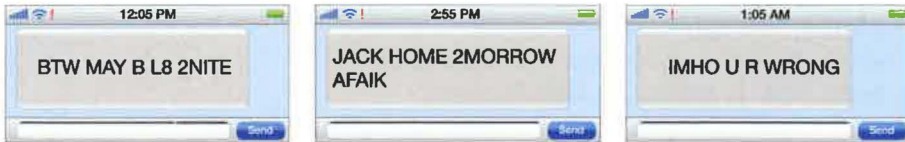
77.2 Find abbreviations from A, B or C opposite to fit these categories.

- Find two that relate to measurement. .kilo..... .gig.....
- Find four that relate to food and health.
- Find three that relate to money.
- Find one that relates to sport.
- Find three that are political organisations.
- Find two that relate to equipment using sound or radio waves.

77.3 Fill each gap with an appropriate abbreviation or acronym.

- Please could you buy me a .kilo..... of apples?
- Geoff Barclay James Stubbs has been charged with burglary.
- The surgeons used technology to carry out the operation.
- My sister works in a very office using all the most up-to-date hardware and software.
- Bats cannot see and use a kind of to find their way around.
- When you're driving it's much easier to use a rather than a road atlas.

77.4 Write out these text messages in full.



- 1 *By the way I may be late tonight.* 2 _____ 3 _____



- 4 _____ 5 _____

77.5 Over to you

- What's the nearest uni to the place where you live?
- Have you ever tried scuba diving?
- Would you be happy to eat GM food?
- Do you know anyone who has SAD?
- What is the main source of carbs in your diet?
- How common is air con in your country?

8 Multi-word expressions

A Learning and remembering multi-word expressions

Fixed expressions, also known as idioms, often have meanings that are not clear or obvious. For example, the expression **to feel under the weather**, which means 'to feel unwell', is typical. The words do not tell us what it means, but the context usually helps.

Think of multi-word expressions as units, just like single words; always record the whole expression in your notebook, along with information on grammar and collocation, e.g. This tin opener **has seen better days**. [it is rather old and broken down; usually of things, always perfect tense form]

Multi-word expressions of this type are often rather informal and include a personal comment on the situation. They are sometimes humorous or ironic. As with any informal words, be careful how you use them. Never use them just to sound 'fluent' or 'good at English'. In a formal situation with a person you do not know, don't say:

'How do you do, Mrs Watson? Do **take the weight off your feet**.' [sit down]

Instead say: 'Do sit down' or 'Have a seat.'

B Organising multi-word expressions

Multi-word expressions can be grouped in a variety of ways. It is probably best to use whichever way you find most useful to help you remember them.

Grouping by grammar

get (hold of) **the wrong end of the stick** [misunderstand] }
pull **a fast one** [trick/deceive somebody] } verb + object
poke **your nose in(to)** [interfere]

be **over the moon** [extremely happy/elated] }
feel **down in the dumps** [depressed/low] } verb + prepositional phrase
be **in the red** [have a negative bank balance]

Grouping by meaning, e.g. expressions describing people's character/intellect

He's **as daft as a brush**. [very stupid/silly]

She **takes the biscuit**. /'bɪskɪt/ [is the extreme / the worst of all]

They're **a pain in the neck**. [a nuisance / a difficult person]

Little Sam's **as good as gold**. [behaves very well – usually used about children]

Grouping by a verb or other key word, e.g. expressions with make

Why do you have to **make a meal out of** everything? [exaggerate the importance of everything]

I think we should **make a move**. It's gone ten o'clock. [go/leave]

Most politicians are **on the make**. I don't trust any of them.

[wanting money/power for oneself]

I'm afraid I'm **making heavy weather of** my essay. [making slow and difficult progress]

C Grammar of multi-word expressions

It is important when using these expressions to know just how flexible their grammar is. Some are more fixed than others. For instance, **barking up the wrong tree** [be mistaken] is always used in continuous, not simple form, e.g. I think you're **barking up the wrong tree**. (NOT I think you ~~bark up~~ the wrong tree.)

A good dictionary may help, but it is best to observe the grammar in real examples. Note how Units 88–93 group expressions in different ways.

For more information on multi-word expressions, see *English Idioms in Use* by Michael McCarthy and Felicity O'Dell.

Exercises

78.1 Complete the expressions from A and B opposite.

- 1 When I passed all my exams, I felt over the moon.....
- 2 This printer isn't working again! It's a pain
- 3 It's almost midnight! I'd better be making
- 4 I spent too much money last month and now I'm in
- 5 It's time to change my laptop. It's five years old and has seen
- 6 She is the absolute limit! She really takes
- 7 Oh dear, Matthew completely misunderstood me. He always seems to get
- 8 I'm sorry. I do some really stupid things. You must think I'm as daft
- 9 I wonder what's wrong with Ursula? She looks down
- 10 I don't trust politicians. Most of them are just on the

78.2 Which expressions from the opposite page do these pictures remind you of?



1 be over the moon.....



3



2



4

78.3 Which is correct, (a) or (b)? Check with A and B opposite.

- 1 Sit down and (a) *get* (b) *take* the weight off your feet. b.....
- 2 Why does she always have to (a) *poke* (b) *peek* her nose into other people's affairs?
- 3 I was feeling (a) *under* (b) *below* the weather, so I didn't go to work.
- 4 Zoe pulled a (a) *quick* (b) *fast* one and didn't pay for her share of the meal.
- 5 All right, all right! You don't have to (a) *cook* (b) *make* a meal out of it!
- 6 He's really making (a) *heavy* (b) *bad* weather of what should be a simple task.

78.4 Without using a dictionary, try to work out the meaning of the underlined expressions from the context.

- 1 It's midnight. It's time to hit the sack. *go to bed*
- 2 This is just kid's stuff. I want something more difficult and challenging!
- 3 I feel fit as a fiddle ever since I started going regularly to the gym.
- 4 I can't understand why he's giving me the cold shoulder. He's usually so friendly.
- 5 I haven't seen Simone for ages. We only get together once in a blue moon.
- 6 I think I've got the hang of this photo-editing program now, though it was complicated at first.

78.5 Over to you

Try a grouping exercise with six expressions from the opposite page, using any of the methods suggested in B. Which type of grouping works best for the expressions you chose?

79 Words commonly mispronounced

A Vowels

You can hear how all the words in this unit are pronounced on the CD-ROM. The phonetic transcription is provided for some of the words below. Check you understand the symbols, which are used by most good dictionaries (see page 258).

To master English pronunciation it is helpful to learn the 22 phonetic symbols for English vowel sounds. These are important because the vowel letters can be pronounced in many different ways:

a	cat /cæt/	about /ə/	wander /ɒ/	last /ɑː/	late /eɪ/	e	met /e/	meter /iː/ /ə/		
i	alive /aɪ/	give /ɪ/				o	sorry /ɒ/	go /əʊ/	love /ʌ/	to /uː/
u	put /ʊ/	cut /ʌ/	cupid /juː/			ea	head /e/	team /iː/	react /iːæ/	
ie	fiend /iː/	friend /e/	science /aɪə/			ou	our /aʊ/	route /uː/	would /ʊ/	
ei	rein /eɪ/	receive /iː/	reinforce /iːn/			oo	cool /uː/	cook /ʊ/	coopt /əʊp/	

B Silent letters

The letters below in **bold** are silent in the examples:

p	psychic /'saɪkɪk/	psychiatry	pneumatic	receipt	pseudonym	psychology			
b	comb /kəʊm/	dumb	numb	tomb	climb	womb	lamb		
b	doubt /daʊt/	subtle	debt	debtor					
l	could /kʊd/	should	calm	half	talk	palm	walk	salmon	chalk
h	honour /'hɒnə/	honourable	honest	hour	hourly	heir	heir	heir	heir
t	whistle /'wɪsəl/	castle	listen	fasten	soften	Christmas			
k	knee /niː/	knife	know	knob	knowledge				
	knot	knit							
r	card /kɑːd/	park	farm	burn	work				
	storm	tart							
	(unless followed by a vowel)	mother /'mʌðə/	sister						
	teacher	water							

Language help

The letter 'r' is not silent in some varieties of English, for example American, Irish, Scottish.

C Changing stress

Some two-syllable words in English have the same form for the noun and the verb. The stress is on the first syllable of the word when it is a noun and the second syllable when it is a verb, e.g. *Wool is a major Scottish export. Scotland exports a lot of wool.* Here are some other words like this.

conduct	conflict	contest	decrease	suspect	record
desert	import	increase	insult	transfer	reject
permit	present	progress	protest	transport	upset

Multi-syllable words in English tend to put their main stress on the third syllable from the end, e.g. *photograph*, *telephone*, *arithmetic*. As a result, as a long word adds suffixes its word stress does not stay on the same syllable, e.g. *photographer*, *telephony*, *arithmetical*. Note that, although this rule is useful, it does have plenty of exceptions.

Common mistakes

These words are often mispronounced.

apostrophe /əpə'strɒfi/	catastrophe /kə'tæstrəfi/	cupboard /'kʌbəd/
recipe /'resɪpi/	vegetables /'vedʒtəblz/	sword /'sɔːd/
ought /ɔːt/	musele /'mʌsəl/	interesting /'ɪntrəstɪŋ/

Exercises

79.1 Underline all the silent letters in the following sentences.

- 1 They sang a psalm to honour the memory of the world-famous psychologist as she was laid to rest in the family tomb.
- 2 The psychiatrist was knifed in the knee as she was walking home.
- 3 He should have whistled as he fastened his sword to his belt.
- 4 You could have left me half the Christmas cake on Wednesday.

79.2 Which word is the odd one out in each of these groups?

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1 worry, sorry, lorry worry | 5 doubt, could, shout |
| 2 sword, cord, word | 6 cough, rough, tough |
| 3 come, some, dome | 7 land, wand, sand |
| 4 head, plead, tread | 8 soot, root, foot |

79.3 What word could a poet use to rhyme with each of the words below? Use your dictionary to check the pronunciation.

- 1 enough ~~stuff~~.....
- 2 plough
- 3 through
- 4 cough
- 5 though



79.4 Circle or highlight the stressed syllable in each of the underlined words.

- 1 They paid a £1 million transfer fee to transfer the player to their team.
- 2 Although they suspected several people were partly involved, the police decided to concentrate on Jo as the main suspect.
- 3 There are conflicting views as to the cause of the conflict.
- 4 All this upset over the wedding has really upset them.
- 5 The cost of living has increased while there has been a decrease in wages.
- 6 A work permit permits you to work for a period of six months.
- 7 I wish I could record a hit record!
- 8 Despite the disgraceful conduct of the audience, James went on conducting the orchestra.

79.5 Write out the words below using the normal English alphabet.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 /mʌsəl/ muscle | 3 /'hæŋkətʃi:f/ | 5 /'sʌtəl/ | 7 /haɪt/ |
| 2 /kə'tæstrəfi/ | 4 /'kɛmɪkəl/ | 6 /rə'si:t/ | 8 /'respi/ |

79.6 Underline the stressed syllable in each of the words below.

- 1 photograph photography photographer photographically
- 2 zoology zoologist zoological
- 3 arithmetic arithmetical arithmetician
- 4 psychology psychologist psychological
- 5 psychiatry psychiatric psychiatrist

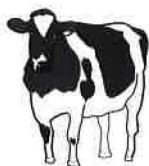
79.7 Find words on the opposite page to match each definition. Say them aloud.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 cooking instructions recipe | 4 a punctuation mark |
| 2 between warm and cold | 5 the opposite of descend |
| 3 an old weapon | 6 a sea that isn't rough |

30 Onomatopoeic words

A What are onomatopoeic words?

Onomatopoeic words are those which seem to sound like their meaning. The most obvious examples are verbs for the noises which animals make.



cows moo



cats meow and purr



lions roar



bees buzz



small birds tweet

B Letters, sounds and their associations

Certain combinations of sounds have particular associations in English.

- **gr-** at the beginning of a word can suggest something unpleasant or miserable, e.g.
She was **groaning** with pain. [make a deep sound forced out by pain or despair]
Everyone was **grumbling** about the quality of the food. [complain in a bad-tempered way]
Don't be so **grumpy!** [bad-tempered]
The teacher **growled** angrily at the boys. [make a deep, threatening sound, like an angry dog]
- **cl-** at the beginning of a word can suggest something sharp and/or metallic, e.g.
Click on 'log in' to enter the website. [make a short sharp sound]
There was a loud **clang** as the metal bar hit the stone floor. [make a loud ringing noise]
Horses go **clip-clop** on the road.
- **sp-** at the beginning of a word can suggest water or other liquids or powders, e.g.
She **splashed** water over her face to wake herself up. [cause a liquid to fly about in drops]
The meat was horrible and she **spat it out**. [send liquid or food out from the mouth]
I never use hair **sprays**. [to spray = send liquid through the air in tiny drops either by the wind or some instrument]
He **sprinkled** sugar on his breakfast cereal and ate it quickly. [scatter small drops]
Water was **spurting** out of the broken pipe. [come out in a sudden burst]
- **wh-** at the beginning of a word often suggests the movement of air, e.g.
He **whistled** and the horse ran towards him. [a high-pitched noise made by forcing air or steam through a small opening]
Suddenly a large insect **whizzed** over my head and scared me. [make the sound of something rushing through air]
Old Mr Banks **wheezed** as he climbed the stairs. [breathe noisily especially with a whistling sound in the chest]
- **-ash** at the end of a word can suggest something fast and violent, e.g.
smash [break violently into small pieces] **dash** [move fast or violently] **crash** [suddenly strike violently and noisily] **bash** [strike heavily so as to break or injure] **mash** [make soft or pulpy by beating or crushing] **gash** [a long deep cut or wound]



a smashed window



a car crash

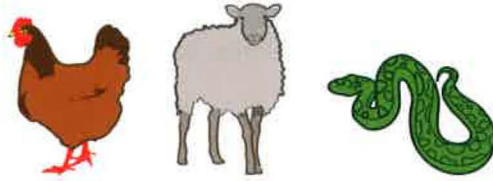


sausages and mashed potato

Exercises

80.1 Match the verbs and the animals which make the sound. Some of the verbs are not given on the opposite page.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 cat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a roar |
| 2 hen | <input type="checkbox"/> | b growl |
| 3 sheep | <input type="checkbox"/> | c buzz |
| 4 snake | <input type="checkbox"/> | d purr |
| 5 dog | <input type="checkbox"/> | e tweet |
| 6 bee | <input type="checkbox"/> | f hiss |
| 7 small bird | <input type="checkbox"/> | g cluck |
| 8 lion | <input type="checkbox"/> | h bleat |



80.2 Look at B opposite and insert the missing letters.

- The plant looked very dry, so I ...~~s~~prayed some water on the leaves.
- Old Mrs Jenks had bronchitis and waseezing all the time.
- I heard the sound of a horseip-..... opping along the road.
- Brightly coloured insectsizzed around our heads as we walked through the jungle.
- Stopumbling about everything and try to enjoy yourself!
- She d.....ed out of the door and ran down the street.
- After the accident, oilurted from the pipe and polluted the river.
- As I was carrying my computer to my new office, I b.....ed it against the door and damaged it.

80.3 Fill the gaps with words from the opposite page.

- The cat was ...meowing..... because it wanted food. After it had eaten, it with contentment and fell asleep.
- on the 'copy' symbol, then you can copy the text to a new file.
- Everyone in despair when they heard the bad news.
- The car had into a wall and was badly damaged, but luckily no one was hurt.
- Do you like your potatoes fried or shall I them for you?
- The boy had a on his knee and blood was pouring from it.

80.4 Answer the questions.

- What things do people normally sprinkle on food? sugar salt pepper spices herbs
- Which would make a clang if it hit a hard surface, a piece of wood or a piece of metal?
.....
- If someone growls at you, are they probably happy or angry with you?
.....
- Can you whistle? If so, when would you do it?
- What things make you grumpy?
- What might you do if you put some food into your mouth and it tasted very bad?
.....

80.5

Over to you

Which of the sounds listed opposite exist in your language? Do they have similar associations?

Homophones and homographs

A Homophones and homographs

Homophones are words with different meanings which are pronounced in the same way but are spelt differently, e.g. **row** as in 'at the end of the **row**' and **roe** [fish eggs].

Homographs are words which are written in the same way but have different meanings and may be pronounced differently. Compare **row** in 'we had a **row** /**raʊ**/ about who should pay for the tickets' [argument] and 'he sat at the end of the **row**' /**rəʊ**/ [line of seats].

B Homophones

air/heir	mail/male	raise/rays	tea/tee
aloud/allowed	meat/meet	read/reed	there/their/they're
break/brake	mown/moan	rein/rain/reign	through/threw
fare/fair	our/hour	right/rite/write	tire/tyre
faze/phase	pair/pear/pare	sale/sail	toe/tow
flu/flew	pale/pail	scene/seen	waist/waste
grate/great	pane/pain	sight/site	wait/weight
groan/grown	peal/peel	so/sew	weak/week
hoarse/horse	place/plaice	sole/soul	weather/whether
its/it's	practise/practice	some/sum	whine/wine
lays/laze	pray/prey	steak/stake	would/wood

C Homographs with differing pronunciations

Check the pronunciation of the words in bold on the CD-ROM.

I **live** in the north of England. /lɪv/

My favourite rock group is singing **live** on TV tonight. /laɪv/

I **read** in bed each night. /ri:d/

I **read** *War and Peace* last year. /red/

The **lead** singer in the group is great. /li:d/

Lead pipes are dangerous. /led/ [metal, chemical element]

The **wind** blew the tree down. /wɪnd/

Wind the rope round this tree. /waɪnd/

She **wound** the string round the parcel and tied it up. /waʊnd/

He suffered a terrible **wound** in the war. /wu:nd/

This book is called *English Vocabulary in Use*. /ju:z/

You must know how to **use** words as well as their meaning. /ju:z/

They lived in a large old **house**. /haʊs/

The buildings **house** a library and two concert halls as well as a theatre. /haʊz/

The **sow** has five piglets. /sau/ [female pig]

The farmers **sow** the seeds in the spring. /səʊ/ [plant seeds]

Bathing the baby at night may help her to fall asleep. /ba:θɪŋ/

(on a sign at a beach) No **bathing**. /beɪðɪŋ/

Common mistake

I don't know **whether** to go or not. (NOT I don't know **weather** to go or not.)

Exercises

81.1 Each underlined word rhymes with, or sounds similar to, one of the words in brackets. Choose the matching word.

- The girl I live *give* with knows a good pub with live *five* music. (five / give)
- The main house houses a collection of rare stamps.
(mouse / browse)
- It's no use I can't use this gadget. (snooze / juice)
- You sow the seeds while I feed the sow (cow / go)
- The violinist in the bow tie made a bow (now / so)
- He's the lead singer in the group 'Lead piping'. (head / deed)
- What a row from the last house in the row ! (plough / though)
- Does he still suffer from his war wound? (found / tuned)
- I wound the rope around the tree to strengthen it against the gale.
(round / spooned)
- It's hard to wind in the sails in this wind (find / tinned)

81.2 Write the word given in phonemic script in the correct spelling for the context.

- I really must do some more exercise or I'll never lose /weɪt/. weight
- Watching TV game shows is such a /weɪst/ of time.
- There's a hole in the /səʊl/ of my shoe.
- He broke a /peɪn/ of glass in the kitchen window.
- The eldest son of the monarch is the /eə/ to the throne.
- You are not /ə'laʊd/ to talk during the test.
- Look at that lovely yacht with the red /seɪl/.
- He's going /θru:/ a rather difficult /feɪz/ at the moment.
- Don't throw away that orange /pi:l/. I need it for a recipe.

81.3 Write one sentence using both of the words which correspond to the phonemic script.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1 /peɪl/ She was quite pale after the exertion of carrying such a heavy pail of water. | |
| 2 /'weɪðə/ | 7 /saɪt/ |
| 3 /'præktɪs/ | 8 /preɪ/ |
| 4 /gret/ | 9 /hɔ:s/ |
| 5 /waɪn/ | 10 /reɪz/ |
| 6 /breɪk/ | |

81.4 Homophones and homographs are at the root of many jokes in English. Match the first part of each of these children's jokes with the second part and then explain the play on words involved in each.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 What do you get if you cross a sheep and a kangaroo? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c | a Let's play draughts.
<i>This plays on two meanings of jumper – a sweater and a person or animal that jumps.</i> |
| 2 What did the south wind say to the north wind? <input type="checkbox"/> b | b A drum takes a lot of beating. |
| 3 Why did the man take his pencil to bed? <input type="checkbox"/> c | c A woolly jumper. |
| 4 Why is history the sweetest lesson? <input type="checkbox"/> d | d He wanted to draw the curtains. |
| 5 What's the best birthday present? <input type="checkbox"/> e | e Because it's full of dates. |

81.5 Choose pairs of words from B opposite to describe the pictures below.



1 ..rain and reign..

2 ..

3 ..

4 ..

Uncountable nouns

A What are uncountable nouns?

Countable nouns can be used with **a/an** and made plural (e.g. **a hat, two hats**). Uncountable nouns are not normally used with **a(n)** or the plural, e.g. **information** (NOT ~~an information~~ or ~~some informations~~). You can learn uncountable nouns in groups associated with the same subject or area. Here are some useful headings.

B Travel



luggage
baggage (more common than *luggage* in AmE)



accommodation



money
currency



information



transport

C Food

The word **food** is usually uncountable, and so are many food names. Other uncountable food words can be added to this list.

sugar **rice** **spaghetti** **butter** **bread**
flour **soup**

Language help

Travel is an uncountable noun, e.g. *Travel broadens the mind.* If you want to refer to an individual occasion of travel, use **journey** or **trip**, e.g. *It was a very long journey.* (NOT ~~a very long travel~~) *She was away on a business trip for three days.* (NOT ~~a business travel~~)

D Abstract uncountable nouns and nouns for activities

She gave me some **advice** on how to study for the exam.

I picked up some interesting **knowledge** on that course.

She's made a lot of **progress** in a very short time.

She has done some **research** on marine life.

They've done a lot of **work** on the project.

The teacher always gives us **homework** at the weekend.

Do you have any **experience** of working with children?

Wealth does not guarantee happiness, but neither does **poverty**. [state of being rich] [state of being poor]

E Material and resources

For making clothes, furniture, etc.: **cloth** (e.g. silk) **leather** For energy: **coal** **oil**

For buildings: **stone** **brick** **plastic** General: **equipment** **software**

F Other common uncountable nouns

I have some **news** for you: Henry is getting married.

What lovely **weather**! Let's go for a walk.

Common mistakes

Although you may have learnt these words and their meanings before, it is very easy to continue making mistakes with them.

We say: *What terrible weather!* *I have some news for you.* *We bought some new furniture.*

(NOT ~~What a terrible weather!~~ ~~I have a-news for you.~~ ~~We bought some new furnitures.~~)

See Unit 85 for ways of making uncountable nouns countable.

Exercises

82.1 Complete each sentence in two ways using the nouns in brackets.

- 1 He gave me ~~(some)~~ *advice* / *some tips* about applying for university courses. (advice / tip)
- 2 I'm sorry, I can't come. I have to do. (job / homework)
- 3 She's doing teenage slang in English for her university project. (research into / study of)
- 4 You'll need if you want to make a Chinese meal. (rice / noodle)
- 5 I have for you: you're going to meet the President next week! (news / surprise)
- 6 They make for the furniture industry in this factory. (textile / cloth)

82.2 List these words under the headings in the table: *uncountables* and *countables*. Then pair up the words which have related meanings.

recommendation	money	bread	case	information	job	advice	travel
coin	trip	work	baggage	fact	loaf		

uncountables	money
countables	coin

82.3 Correct the mistakes in these sentences. There may be more than one.

- 1 We had such a terrible weather that we left the campsite and found ^{some} ~~an~~ accommodation in town instead.
- 2 In the south of England, most houses are made of stones, but in the north, bricks are more common.
- 3 I love antique furnitures, but I would need an advice from a specialist before I bought any. My knowledges in that area are very poor.
- 4 Her researches are definitely making great progresses these days. She has done a lot of original works recently.
- 5 What equipments do you need to go skiing? If you can give me any informations, I would be grateful.
- 6 Oil exports have produced a great deal of wealths for the country.
- 7 Package holidays often include transports from the airport to your accommodations.
- 8 I don't have any experiences of working in education, but I would like to do some voluntary works in a school.
- 9 A poverty is the biggest problem in many countries.
- 10 I bought a new software that shows you the kind of weathers every country has each month of the year.

82.4 Can you add more items to the lists in C and E opposite?

Food: ~~olive oil~~ ~~salt~~ ~~milk~~ ~~honey~~

For making clothes, furniture, etc.:

For buildings:

For energy:

82.5 Over to you

Imagine you are going away for a week's holiday and you pack a suitcase with everything you need. Make a list of what you would pack. Which items on your list are *uncountable* nouns in English?