Vocabulary Building 2

A workbook specially designed to improve the vocabulary and writing skills of students

Betty Kirkpatrick MA
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LEARNERS PUBLISHING
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The purpose of this *Vocabulary Building Workbook* series is to provide students with practice in vocabulary development. The use of passages, rather than example sentences of the kind found in most dictionaries, demonstrates in a lively and graphic way just how words and sentences relate to each other and how English is actually put together.

Because English has many words that each have several meanings, it is very easy to use the same word several times in a piece of writing or speech. Some of these words, such as the adjectives *nice*, *good*, and *great*, are rather vague and imprecise in some of their meanings and it is, therefore, particularly common to overuse them.

Other words, such as the verbs *cover* and *touch*, may not have this problem of imprecision but they still have so many meanings that it is tempting to use them too frequently. The words themselves are perfectly acceptable in their various contexts. It is their overuse which should be avoided.

If you want to make your English speech and writing more interesting, it is important to try to introduce some variety by extending the scope of your vocabulary. This book will assist you in achieving this aim, as well as helping you to avoid repetition, by suggesting words which are similar in meaning to the word you first thought of. Such words are known as synonyms.

Each unit of this text includes:

- a specially written passage containing the same key word used ten times with different meanings, sometimes including informal meanings;
- a list of synonyms for each meaning, together with guidance on context or examples of usage;
- the same passage with blanks for students to fill in the appropriate synonyms of the key word; and
- a set of questions to test how much knowledge students have gained from the passage and list of synonyms.

Eight *Review Exercises* for further practice can be found at the end of this edition.
Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

'I'm feeling absolutely dead!' said Lucy. She and her fellow-students had just finished sitting six exams in the course of three days. In vain, they had asked the head teacher for more time between the exams, but he was dead to anything that interfered with the smooth running of the school. Changes to the exam schedule had been raised in previous years and were now, as far as he was concerned, a dead issue. The previous head teacher had been more inclined to listen to the students, but he had been dead for two years. Now the students were trying to recover from exams which had been very difficult. Although they were usually very talkative, today there was a dead silence in the room. Julie, who was usually extremely lively, was sitting looking out of the window with dead eyes. Then Mike started complaining that his fingers had gone dead because of all the writing. Bert had tried to phone his parents, but it was dead. Apparently, there was a fault on the line. All their plans to go out and celebrate the end of the exams seemed to have come to a dead halt. In any case, as Phil pointed out, the town was always dead on Wednesday nights. They all decided that, instead of going out, they would all prefer to get some sleep. They would postpone their celebrations until the weekend when they would be less tired.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to 'dead' for each blank.

'I’m feeling absolutely 1._________________,' said Lucy. She and her fellow-students had just finished sitting six exams in the course of three days. In vain, they had asked the head teacher for more time between the exams, but he was 2._________________ to anything that interfered with the smooth running of the school. Changes to the exam schedule had been raised in previous years and were now, as far as he was concerned, a 3._________________ issue. The previous head teacher had been more inclined to listen to the students, but he had been 4._________________ for two years. Now the students were trying to recover from exams which had been very difficult. Although they were usually very talkative, today there was a 5._________________ silence in the room. Julie, who was usually extremely lively, was sitting looking out of the window with 6._________________ eyes. Then Mike started complaining that his fingers had gone 7._________________ because of all the writing. Bert had tried to phone his parents, but it was 8._________________. Apparently, there was a fault on the line. All their plans to go out and celebrate the end of the exams seemed to have come to a 9._________________ halt. In any case, as Phil pointed out, the town was always 10._________________ on Wednesday nights. They all decided that, instead of going out, they would all prefer to get some sleep. They would postpone their celebrations until the weekend when they would be less tired.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1  Peter said that it was a **dead** certainty that Jack would be late.

2  I've been carrying a heavy bag and my fingers have gone **dead**.

3  The waitress was feeling **dead** after her long shift.

4  We thought the phone was working again— but it's still **dead**.

5  The teacher was **dead** to the children's request for more time to play.

6  The car came to a **dead** stop and wouldn't start again.

7  Parliament has voted against the bill and so the subject is **dead** now.

8  Phil said that the village was **dead** and that he wanted to live in the city.

9  Matt's brother has been **dead** for about a year.

10 Jane is suffering from depression and has a **dead** expression.
solid adjective
1 (of a building, part of a building, etc: The walls of the house are remarkably solid—you can hear hardly any noise through them.) strong, substantial, strongly built, well-built, sturdy.
2 (of gold, silver, etc: The ring is made of solid gold.) pure, unalloyed.
3 (of ground, land, etc: The pilot tried to land on some solid ground rather than the sea.) firm, hard.
4 (of a period of time: We will have to wait a solid day for another train.) whole, entire, complete.
5 (of work, effort, etc: Some solid work is required to finish these orders in time.) substantial, sound, real.
6 (of a person: The councillor appealed to the solid citizens of the town to support him.) upright, upstanding, decent, worthy, law-abiding.
7 (of a business company: Molly joined a solid company that had been in business for decades.) sound, secure, reliable, dependable, creditworthy.
8 (of an argument, reasoning, etc: If you want the committee to accept your proposal you will have to put forward a solid argument.) sound, well-founded, cogent, convincing.
9 (of a relationship: They have established a solid partnership over the years.) stable, firm.
10 (of support for a cause, person, etc: Support for the protest group is unlikely to remain solid.) united, unanimous, undivided.

A Trio of Friends

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

'These are really solid houses in this street,' said Joe, looking at the kitchen of Kay's parents' house and admiring some candlesticks made of solid silver. 'Yes, they were built to last,' replied Kay, as she waited for some soup to defrost. This would take some time as it was still a solid block but, as Kay had pointed out, they had plenty of time. Their friend, June, was staying with Kay and she usually took a solid hour to get dressed and put her makeup on. They had all three just finished college, having put in a great deal of solid work while studying for the past three years. Furthermore, they had all three got jobs, which made them feel as though they were about to become solid tax-paying citizens. They were all doing different things. Kay was going to be a trainee accountant with a good, solid company, which had been recommended by her father. Joe was going to do a course in journalism and June had got a job in theatre design, despite the solid arguments put forward by her parents as to why she should seek a career in something more reliable. Since their friendship was solid, having lasted through their college years, they were sure that they would keep in touch, in spite of their varied careers. This afternoon they were off to see the local football team play. Somehow, support for it remained solid although they had not played well for some time.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘solid’ for each blank.

'These are really 1. ____________ houses in this street,' said Joe, looking at the kitchen of Kay's parents' house and admiring some candlesticks made of 2. ____________ silver. 'Yes, they were built to last,' replied Kay, as she waited for some soup to defrost. This would take some time as it was still a 3. ____________ block but, as Kay had pointed out, they had plenty of time.

Their friend, June, was staying with Kay and she usually took a 4. ____________ hour to get dressed and put her makeup on. They had all three just finished college, having put in a great deal of 5. ____________ work while studying for the past three years. Furthermore, they had all three got jobs, which made them feel as though they were about to become 6. ____________ tax-paying citizens. They were all doing different things. Kay was going to be a trainee accountant with a good, 7. ____________ company, which had been recommended by her father.

Joe was going to do a course in journalism and June had got a job in theatre design, despite the 8. ____________ arguments put forward by her parents as to why she should seek a career in something more reliable. Since their friendship was 9. ____________ , having lasted through their college years, they were sure that they would keep in touch, in spite of their varied careers. This afternoon they were off to see the local football team play. Somehow, support for it remained 10. ____________ although they had not played well for some time.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1 A lot of **solid** work requires to be done on this garden.

2 We thought it was a safe, **solid** company but it has gone bankrupt.

3 The floors of this old house are really **solid**.

4 We put forward **solid** reasons for extending the village hall.

5 Is that pendant **solid** gold?

6 Jenny and Jim have had a **solid** relationship since their schooldays, but they have now quarrelled.

7 This dessert is still **solid**—we’ll have to thaw it.

8 Support for the government remained **solid** throughout the election.

9 We waited two **solid** hours for a bus.

10 Len used to be a rebellious student, but now he’s a **solid** member of the community.
Anna had cut herself on something sharp when she was cleaning the kitchen floor. It had been very sore, causing her to give a sharp cry. Unfortunately, the wound was in exactly the same place where she had cut herself the day before with a kitchen knife which had caused a sharp pain in her palm. At the time her mother had rebuked her for being careless, saying that someone as sharp as Mary should be able to avoid such accidents. Although they loved each other dearly, there was a sharp difference between the personalities of Anna's mother and father, and her father had sympathized with Anna for having hurt herself. This time Anna had cleaned the wound and applied a plaster, which she hoped her mother would not see. She was now drinking some lemonade that was rather sharp and telling her father about her wound, feeling comforted by his concern. However, there was a sharp change of subject when Anna's mother entered the room. Unlike either Anna or her father, she was a sharp dresser and was looking elegant in her business suit. A lawyer, she had just finished a court case in which her client, a jeweller, had been accused of sharp practices. During the case she had been quite sharp with her family because she had been very tired. Now that it was over and her client found innocent, she was able to relax and apologized to them for her bad temper.

**Know the Meaning**

**sharp adjective**

1 (of something with a pointed or cutting edge: Jean was walking on the sand and injured her foot on something sharp.) pointed, spiky.

2 (of a cry, etc: The animal gave a sharp cry of pain.) shrill, high-pitched, piercing, penetrating.

3 (of a pain, etc: As she ran, she got a sharp pain in her side.) stabbing, piercing, acute, intense.

4 (of a person, with reference to intelligence: The boy is very sharp for his age.) clever, intelligent, bright, quick, quick-witted.

5 (of a difference: There was a sharp distinction between the two teaching methods.) marked, clear, clear-cut, well-defined.

6 (of food or drink: The lemon pudding was too sharp for my taste.) sour, tart, acid.

7 (of a change, etc: There was a sharp change in training methods under the new coach.) sudden, abrupt, rapid.

8 (of a person, with reference to dress: Tim is a sharp dresser—he always buys the latest fashions.) smart, stylish, chic, fashionable.

9 (of a person, such as a trader, etc: The market trader was found guilty of sharp practices.) dishonest, fraudulent, unscrupulous, underhand.

10 (of a person or of a remark, etc: The teacher delivered a sharp rebuke to the children.) curt, brusque, short, snappish, caustic.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘sharp’ for each blank.

Anna had cut herself on something 1. _________________ when she was cleaning the kitchen floor. It had been very sore, causing her to give a 2. _________________ cry. Unfortunately, the wound was in exactly the same place where she had cut herself the day before with a kitchen knife which had caused a 3. _________________ pain in her palm. At the time her mother had rebuked her for being careless, saying that someone as 4. _________________ as Mary should be able to avoid such accidents. Although they loved each other dearly, there was a 5. _________________ difference between the personalities of Anna’s mother and father, and her father had sympathized with Anna for having hurt herself. This time Anna had cleaned the wound and applied a plaster, which she hoped her mother would not see. She was now drinking some lemonade that was rather 6. _________________ and telling her father about her wound, feeling comforted by his concern. However, there was a 7. _________________ change of subject when Anna’s mother entered the room. Unlike either Anna or her father, she was a 8. _________________ dresser and was looking elegant in her business suit. A lawyer, she had just finished a court case in which her client, a jeweller, had been accused of 9. _________________ practices. During the case she had been quite 10. _________________ with her family because she had been very tired. Now that it was over and her client found innocent, she was able to relax and apologized to them for her bad temper.
Exercise 2

*Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.*

1. There is a **sharp** difference of opinion between the two sides.

2. We took a **sharp** change in direction.

3. Larry cut his finger on something **sharp** when tidying up his tool shed.

4. Julie used to wear jeans all the time, but she's a really **sharp** dresser now.

5. Jill gave a **sharp** cry when she stood on a nail.

6. I can't believe that my accountant was accused of **sharp** practices—he's extremely honest.

7. Don took a **sharp** pain in his chest and thought that he was having a heart attack.

8. Jim had a headache and was unusually **sharp** with the children.

9. The little girl is very **sharp** and realized what the adults were talking about.

10. The lime drink was too dilute and not **sharp** enough.
A Weekend Trip

Know the Meaning

**hold** verb

1. (of weather: The fine spell of weather is not expected to hold beyond tomorrow.) continue, last, go on, stay, remain.
2. (of a person: to hold someone responsible for something.) consider, regard as, view as, judge.
3. (of a person, piece of writing, speech, etc: The book did not hold the child’s interest for long.) keep, retain, occupy, engage.
4. (of a person: The child held his mother’s hand as they crossed the street.) grip, clutch, grasp, clasp.
5. (of a person or group, with reference to a meeting, assembly, etc: The council decided to hold a public meeting about the new road.) call, convene, conduct, have.
6. (of a place or object, with reference to memories, associations, etc: That area of the country holds rather sad memories for my mother.) have, possess, contain, retain, harbour.
7. (of an object, with reference to weight, etc: I don’t think that stool will hold Bob’s weight—he’s so heavy.) bear, carry, take, support.
8. (of a person, with reference to an opinion, belief, etc: We hold that we should postpone the meeting.) think, believe, feel, consider, be of the opinion that.
9. (of a person, with reference to a job, position, etc: Does Pat still hold the position of club treasurer?) be in, occupy, fill.
10. (of a rule, condition, etc: The same conditions hold as last time.) stand, apply, be in force, be in effect.

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

‘Do you think the good weather will hold during the weekend?’ asked Mr Taylor. ‘It’s supposed to stay warm and fine until the end of next week at least,’ replied his wife. ‘We can hold the weather forecast people responsible if it rains.’ Mr Taylor went on to say, ‘I was wondering about going away for the weekend since the weather’s so fine. Where would you like to go?’ Usually, the four Taylor children paid little attention to what their parents were saying. However, on this occasion their father had no difficulty in holding their attention. His younger daughter, Meg, held his hand while his elder son, Jim, suggested that they held a family meeting to decide where to go. Mr Taylor said that there was no time for that and that, anyhow, he and their mother would like to go to Hopetown which held so many happy family memories. At this, Jim pointed out that he had once hurt his leg at Hopetown when a box on which he had been sitting, had failed to hold his weight. His father replied that Jim was accident-prone. ‘I hold that we take a vote on it,’ he said, who liked a good argument and held the post of president of his school debating society. They did and Jim lost. On their way to Hopetown, Mr Taylor said, ‘Remember the family rule still holds.’ Meg asked, ‘What’s that?’ ‘We all have to enjoy ourselves!’ cried the Taylor parents together.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘hold’ for each blank.

‘Do you think the good weather will 1. ___________________ during the weekend?’ asked Mr Taylor. ‘It’s supposed to stay warm and fine until the end of next week at least,’ replied his wife. ‘We can 2. ___________________ the weather forecast people responsible if it rains.’ Mr Taylor went on to say, ‘I was wondering about going away for the weekend since the weather’s so fine. Where would you like to go?’ Usually, the four Taylor children paid little attention to what their parents were saying. However, on this occasion their father had no difficulty in 3. ___________________ their attention. His younger daughter, Meg, 4. ___________________ his hand while his elder son, Jim, suggested that they 5. ___________________ a family meeting to decide where to go.

Mr Taylor said that there was no time for that and that, anyhow, he and their mother would like to go to Hopetown, which 6. ___________________ so many happy family memories. At this, Jim pointed out that he had once hurt his leg at Hopetown when a box on which he had been sitting, had failed to 7. ___________________ his weight. His father replied that Jim was accident-prone. ‘I 8. ___________________ that we take a vote on it,’ he said, who liked a good argument and 9. ___________________ the post of president of his school debating society. They did and Jim lost. On their way to Hopetown, Mr Taylor said, ‘Remember the family rule still 10. ___________________.’ Meg asked, ‘What’s that?’ ‘We all have to enjoy ourselves!’ cried the Taylor parents together.
Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. I don’t think that small folding chair will hold Dick’s weight.

2. The old house holds lots of happy associations for me.

3. We hope that this sunny weather holds until our holiday.

4. Jeff still holds that George is guilty.

5. It is unfair to hold Fred accountable for the accident.

6. Rita holds an important post in the civil service.

7. The lecturer was boring and could not hold the audience’s attention.

8. The same regulation still holds.

9. Meg held her boyfriend’s hand as they walked down the street.

10. We held a meeting of the residents of the village to discuss traffic problems.
A Spanish Trip Is Planned

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

Jim had taken a part-time job as a hotel door-keeper because he wanted to have enough money to cover a trip to Spain. He must remember to take out insurance to cover theft and medical expenses. Since he was learning Spanish at college, he wanted to get to know more about the country. He had taken out several library books, all covering different aspects of the country. One of his friends, who was spending a year in south-west France, had a car and it was their intention to drive to southern Spain. They had yet to work out how many kilometres they could cover each day. Last time he had been in France it had been near one of the ski resorts and, of course, the ground had been covered in snow. However, they were going in mid-summer when it was liable to be very hot in the south. Being fair-skinned, Jim would have to cover his skin in a high-factor sunscreen. Today he had been told to cover the hotel front entrance and try to keep out journalists and photographers trying to cover a story about one of their guests. This was a film star who had been attacked in the street. Usually she went around covered in silk and furs but today she was avoiding attention in jeans and a sweater. It was difficult to keep the press out. Jim had just spotted a photographer trying to enter with a pile of clothes covering his camera.

Know the Meaning

cover verb
1 (of a person, with reference to payment: We had just enough money to cover lunch.) pay for, pay the cost of, be enough for, be sufficient for.
2 (of an insurance policy: Does the policy cover delayed flights?) insure against, protect against, compensate for.
3 (of a statement, article, etc: The report covered all aspects of the business.) deal with, take in, include, comprise.
4 (of a driver, walker, etc: The drivers estimated how many miles they could cover in an hour.) travel, complete, do.
5 (of flowers, snow, etc: A mass of bluebells covered the ground.) overspread, lie over, carpet, blanket.
6 (of a person, with reference to a cream, etc: She covered her face in moisturizing cream.) smear, coat, daub.
7 (of a policeman, guard, etc: The police were covering all the entrances to the bank.) guard, defend, shield, protect.
8 (of a journalist, etc: The journalists had been sent to cover the mining disaster.) report on, write about.
9 (of a garment, etc: The child was covered in a woollen garment.) dress, clothe, attire.
10 (of a person, with reference to concealment: The prisoner covered his head with his hands as he left the court.) shield, hide, conceal.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘cover’ for each blank.

Jim had taken a part-time job as a hotel door-keeper because he wanted to have enough money to 1. ___________ a trip to Spain. He must remember to take out insurance to 2. ___________ theft and medical expenses. Since he was learning Spanish at college, he wanted to get to know more about the country. He had taken out several library books, all 3. ___________ different aspects of the country. One of his friends, who was spending a year in south-west France, had a car and it was their intention to drive to southern Spain. They had yet to work out how many kilometres they could 4. ___________ each day. Last time he had been in France it had been near one of the ski resorts and, of course, the ground had been 5. ___________ in snow. However, they were going in mid-summer when it was liable to be very hot in the south. Being fair-skinned, Jim would have to 6. ___________ his skin in a high-factor sunscreen. Today he had been told to 7. ___________ the hotel front entrance and try to keep out journalists and photographers trying to 8. ___________ a story about one of their guests. This was a film star who had been attacked in the street. Usually she went around 9. ___________ in silk and furs but today she was avoiding attention in jeans and a sweater. It was difficult to keep the press out. Jim had just spotted a photographer trying to enter with a pile of clothes 10. ___________ his camera.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. The ground **was covered** in a thick frost.

2. The trainee journalist is sent to **cover** local weddings.

3. Will that money **cover** the cost of the meal?

4. The empress **was covered** in costly silks.

5. The holiday insurance **didn't cover** us for loss of earnings.

6. The film star **covered** her head with a shawl to avoid the cameras.

7. The course **covers** the basics of dressmaking.

8. Mary **covered** her arms in a cream to soothe the itch.

9. They thought that they **could** easily **cover** 200 kilometres in the first day.

10. The police **were covering** the security men with guns as they took the money away.
A House in the Country

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

The Nathans had two houses, one in the town and one in the country. The town house was quite small but the one in the country had five bedrooms. In fact, they had had a lot of trouble finding it, spending several months contacting estate agents, many of whom had not had the courtesy to send any details of properties. Anne Nathan, saying that she simply would not have such behaviour, wrote several letters of complaint. When they first saw this house, they had absolutely no doubts about it and bought it right away. Frequently they invited friends down for the weekend and they always had a good time. The guests usually had dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday before returning to town. At the moment her husband, Ram, was doing a lot of the work for these weekends because she was heavily pregnant and felt very tired. When she had the baby, she was intending to live in the country full time for at least a few months. She had already a lot of baby clothes and equipment from friends down there. It was her hope that she could arrange to work from home, going up to town perhaps only once a week. Ram was hoping that he could do the same because they had a lot of computer equipment in the country house. However, he felt that it might take some considerable time to persuade his employers to let him do that. Meanwhile he would just be able to visit family at weekends and holidays.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘have’ for each blank.

The Nathans 1. _________ two houses, one in the town and one in the country. The town house was quite small but the one in the country 2. _________ five bedrooms. In fact, they 3. _________ a lot of trouble finding it, spending several months contacting estate agents, many of whom had not 4. _________ the courtesy to send any details of properties. Anne Nathan, saying that she simply would not 5. _________ such behaviour, wrote several letters of complaint. When they first saw this house, they 6. _________ absolutely no doubts about it and bought it right away. Frequently they invited friends down for the weekend and they always 7. _________ a good time. The guests usually 8. _________ dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday before returning to town. At the moment her husband Ram was doing a lot of the work for these weekends because she was heavily pregnant and felt very tired. When she 9. _________ the baby, she was intending to live in the country full time for at least a few months. She 10. _________ already a lot of clothes and equipment from friends down there. It was her hope that she could arrange to work from home, going up to town perhaps only once a week. Ram was hoping that he could do the same because they had a lot of computer equipment in the country house. However, he felt that it might take some considerable time to persuade his employers to let him do that. Meanwhile he would just be able to visit family at weekends and holidays.
**Exercise 2**

*Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.*

1. Bill **had** some misgivings about leaving his job.

2. Shall we **have** lunch in the garden?

3. The family **have** four television sets in all.

4. We **had** the most entertaining evening at the new show.

5. The house **has** only one bathroom.

6. Pat **had** her baby in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

7. Mike **has had** a great deal of disappointment in the last few years.

8. The children **have** a great many gifts at Christmas.

9. The woman who stole the pram **had** no shame.

10. The teacher said that she simply **would not have** such untidy work from her pupils.
Molly was feeling both excited and nervous. During her college vacation she had been doing secretarial work for a visiting diplomat. Now she had been asked to attend a party at the embassy and this was sure to be a great occasion. Apart from anything else, the embassy was a wonderful house with a great expanse of lawns going down to a river. Her friends told her that she must describe the occasion in great detail to them after the party. At first she had told them that she was too nervous to go since the great people from several countries would be there. However, they had told her not to be a great fool but to go to the party and enjoy it. ‘The great thing,’ said her friend Eddie, ‘is just to be your natural self.’ As she was about to leave for the party, her friends came to wish her luck and tell her that she was looking great. When she arrived at the party Molly, who was a great film enthusiast, was amazed and delighted when she was introduced to one of her favourite film stars. Being an enthusiastic tennis player, she was even more delighted to meet two people who had been great tennis players a decade ago. After the party Molly had to admit that she had had a great time. She was extremely glad that her friends had persuaded her to go. As promised, she told them all about it.

**Know the Meaning**

**great adjective**

1. (of an event, occasion, etc: The ball at the castle was a great occasion.) splendid, grand, magnificent.
2. (of land, etc: A great stretch of woodland formed part of the estate.) large, big, extensive, huge, vast.
3. (Joe's mistake caused great confusion. Great damage was caused by the bomb.) much, considerable, substantial.
4. (of a person: Many of the great people of the land attended the royal ball.) top, leading, important, notable, eminent, distinguished.
5. (of a person: Alice must be a great idiot to trust Ned again.) complete, absolute, utter, total.
6. (of a situation, event, etc: The great thing to do is to remain calm. That was a great moment in the history of the club.) important, vital, crucial.
7. (of a person, with reference to appearance: The bridal couple looked great.) attractive, good-looking, beautiful, handsome, wonderful, sensational.
8. (of a person: The boys are great cricket fans.) enthusiastic, keen, eager, devoted.
9. (of a person: Dave used to be one of the country's great cricketers.) expert, talented, able, skilful, ace (informal).
10. (of an occasion, outing, etc: The children had a great day by the sea.) enjoyable, wonderful, marvellous, splendid, terrific, fantastic (informal).
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to 'great' for each blank.

Molly was feeling both excited and nervous. During her college vacation she had been doing secretarial work for a visiting diplomat. Now she had been asked to attend a party at the embassy and this was sure to be a 1. ________________ occasion. Apart from anything else, the embassy was a wonderful house with a 2. ________________ expanse of lawns going down to a river. Her friends told her that she must describe the occasion in 3. ________________ detail to them after the party. At first she had told them that she was too nervous to go since the 4. ________________ people from several countries would be there. However, they had told her not to be a 5. ________________ fool but to go to the party and enjoy it. ‘The 6. ________________ thing,’ said her friend Eddie, ‘is just to be your natural self.’ As she was about to leave for the party, her friends came to wish her luck and tell her that she was looking 7. ________________. When she arrived at the party Molly, who was a 8. ________________ film enthusiast, was amazed and delighted when she was introduced to one of her favourite film stars. Being an enthusiastic tennis player, she was even more delighted to meet two people who had been 9. ________________ tennis players a decade ago. After the party Molly had to admit that she had had a 10. ________________ time. She was extremely glad that her friends had persuaded her to go. As promised, she told them all about it.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1  Fred is a great idiot to risk cheating in the exam.

2  Adam looked great in his evening suit.

3  A great banquet was to be held at the palace.

4  Many of the teenagers are great followers of the local football team.

5  There was a great stretch of water in the valley below.

6  Mary is a great sprinter and easily won the race.

7  Tom's actions caused great trouble for the family.

8  We saw a really great show at the theatre.

9  Many of the great people in the land were invited to the state banquet.

10  The great thing to remember is that you can easily win the match.
Moving House

Know the Meaning

move verb
1 (of a person, with reference to accommodation: I didn't realize that our neighbours were moving.) move house, move out, move away, relocate.
2 (of a person, with reference to a suggestion, proposal, etc: Sheila moved that we cancel the party.) suggest, propose, advocate, recommend.
3 (often in passive with reference to a person: The girls were moved to hysterical laughter by the antics of the clown.) rouse, stir, prompt, lead.
4 (with reference to a person: You won't move George on any issue once he had made his mind up.) change, alter, budge.
5 (Medical research has moved very rapidly in recent years.) progress, advance, proceed, move on.
6 (with reference to a person: The tourists were moved by the sight of the beggars.) affect, touch, upset.
7 (of a person: You will have to move rapidly if you want to buy Colin's car—several people are interested in it.) act, take action, do something.
8 (of a person, with reference to an object: We moved the table from the kitchen to the dining-room.) transport, transfer, shift.
9 (of a person: We moved from shop to shop looking for Molly.) walk, pass, go, proceed.
10 (usually in passive) (of a person: Peter was only moved to look for other accommodation when his landlord gave him notice.) motivate, drive, rouse, spur on.

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

The Wang family were about to move because their house was no longer big enough for them. When their parents first moved it, the idea of leaving moved the Wang children to tears. They had tried to persuade their parents not to go, but nothing could move their father's attitude. One of the problems was that he was going to work from home some of the time and needed a room to use as a study. Technology moves fast nowadays and many people, who were equipped with home computers, were in a similar position. Their mother was moved by the children's reaction to leaving the family home, but they had suddenly found a house which they liked and felt that they should move immediately before someone else bought it. Now the day had come when they were to leave. The removal men had arrived in a large van and were now moving their possessions from one house to another. Mrs Wang was so afraid that they might break something valuable that she kept moving from room to room to make sure that everything was all right. It seemed as though the men took many breaks and only worked when they felt moved to do so. Although the children were still feeling sad and went to say goodbye to their bedrooms and the garden, they were also beginning to look forward to living in their new house, which was just a few streets away. At least they would all have more room.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘move’ for each blank.

The Wang family were about to 1.______________ because their house was no longer big enough for them. When their parents first 2.______________ it, the idea of leaving 3.______________ the Wang children to tears. They had tried to persuade their parents not to go, but nothing could 4.______________ their father’s attitude. One of the problems was that he was going to work from home some of the time and needed a room to use as a study. Technology 5.______________ fast nowadays and many people, who were equipped with home computers, were in a similar position. Their mother 6.______________ by the children’s reaction to leaving the family home, but they had suddenly found a house which they liked and felt that they should 7.______________ immediately before someone else bought it. Now the day had come when they were to leave. The removal men had arrived in a large van and were now 8.______________ their possessions from one house to another. Mrs Wang was so afraid that they might break something valuable that she kept 9.______________ from room to room to make sure that everything was all right. It seemed as though the men took many breaks and only worked when they felt 10.______________ to do so. Although the children were still feeling sad and went to say goodbye to their bedrooms and the garden, they were also beginning to look forward to living in their new house, which was just a few streets away. At least they would all have more room.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Computer technology **moves** very quickly.

2. The teacher **was moved** by the sight of the little girl's tears.

3. I was sorry to hear that my neighbour intended to **move**.

4. If we want to book this bargain holiday we **must move** fast.

5. The workers **moved** that they have an extra day's holiday.

6. I **moved** my bookcase from the living room to the study.

7. The audience **was moved** to loud laughter by the comedian.

8. We **were moved** to complain when the neighbours held a noisy party in the garden at midnight.

9. No one **will move** Peggy on the matter of private education.

10. The young couple **moved** from room to room, choosing colour schemes for each one.
Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

Paul set his books on his desk and looked at the choice of essay subjects. Although none of them appealed to him, he was really going to have to set his mind to this essay if he were going to have it finished in time. Before he set pen to paper, he decided that he would like some background music and so he went to switch on his CD player. Then he thought that he had better set his watch to the right time because he had to phone his friend, Len, at 7 p.m. to set a date for their next football training session. That set him thinking about the team’s next game and how marvellous it would be if they could maintain the goal-scoring record which they had set last year. Still, he hadn’t started his essay. After he wrote a few lines, he looked through the window to watch the sun set. Somehow he just wasn’t in the mood for essay writing. Just as he had completed about half a page his sister, Jill, came in, saying that she had made a dessert for dinner which had not set properly. This reminded him that he had not done any of the household chores which his mother had set him this morning. Usually he hated doing household chores, and tried to avoid them as much as possible. However, at the moment, anything was better than essay writing. Off he went to mop the kitchen floor, whistling happily.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘set’ for each blank.

Paul 1._______________ his books on his desk and looked at the choice of essay subjects. Although none of them appealed to him, he was really going to have to 2._______________ his mind to this essay if he were going to have it finished in time. Before he 3._______________ pen to paper, he decided that he would like some background music and so he went to switch on his CD player. Then he thought that he had better 4._______________ his watch to the right time because he had to phone his friend, Len, at 7 p.m. to 5._______________ a date for their next football training session. That 6._______________ him thinking about the team’s next game and how marvellous it would be if they could maintain the goal-scoring record which they had 7._______________ last year. Still, he hadn’t started his essay. After he wrote a few lines, he looked through the window to watch the sun 8._______________ . Somehow he just wasn’t in the mood for essay writing. Just as he had completed about half a page his sister, Jill, came in, saying that she had made a dessert for dinner which had not 9._______________ properly. This reminded him that he had not done any of the household chores which his mother had 10._______________ him this morning. Usually he hated doing household chores, and tried to avoid them as much as possible. However, at the moment, anything was better than essay writing. Off he went to mop the kitchen floor, whistling happily.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Have Meg and Ralph _set_ a date for their wedding yet?

2. That was a very high standard to _set_ for the competition.

3. Beth _set_ the books on the floor by her desk.

4. We _sat_ on the balcony and watched the sun _set_ behind the horizon.

5. I'm sure that if you _set_ your mind to it, you can win.

6. This jelly _has_ not _set_ yet.

7. Phil likes to make several pencil drawings of his subject before he _sets_ brush to canvas.

8. We _have_ all _been set_ different tasks as a punishment.

9. Before we leave we _should set_ our watches so that they all read the same time.

10. Alice's reaction _set_ Joe to doubting her innocence.
Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

The Lawson family had taken a holiday cottage in a very remote part of the country. Many of their friends thought it was a **wild** idea and urged them to get a house nearer a town. 'It's **wild** country out there,' said Mike Lawson's friend Derek. Mike replied, 'We want somewhere really quiet where the children can be as **wild** as they like.' The Lawsons knew little about the area, having taken a **wild** guess about where would meet their requirements. When the parents told their children, Jane, Rick and Craig, about the holiday, they all went **wild** with delight. Jane was even more pleased because she was allowed to take along her friend, Carol, and Carol was **wild** about anything to do with nature. Craig, who was only six years old, wanted to know if there would be **wild** tribes where they were going. 'It's not that remote!' said his mother, Freda. 'The local people will be much like us.' Craig looked disappointed until his father said, 'Never mind! There are sure to be some **wild** animals there.' It was time to set off. When they arrived at their holiday house it was a really **wild** night with heavy rain and strong winds. When they got out of the car, Carol's curly hair quickly became a **wild** mess but she said, 'I don't care! I'm going to forget about worrying what I look like up here!' Mike replied, 'Good idea!' and they all went to admire their home for the summer.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘wild’ for each blank.

The Lawson family had taken a holiday cottage in a very remote part of the country. Many of their friends thought it was a 1. ___________ idea and urged them to get a house nearer a town. ‘It’s 2. ___________ country out there,’ said Mike Lawson’s friend Derek. Mike replied, ‘We want somewhere really quiet where the children can be as 3. ___________ as they like.’ The Lawsons knew little about the area, having taken a 4. ___________ guess about where would meet their requirements. When the parents told their children, Jane, Rick and Craig, about the holiday, they all went 5. ___________ with delight. Jane was even more pleased because she was allowed to take along her friend, Carol, and Carol was 6. ___________ about anything to do with nature. Craig, who was only six years old, wanted to know if there would be 7. ___________ tribes where they were going. ‘It’s not that remote!’ said his mother, Freda. ‘The local people will be much like us.’ Craig looked disappointed until his father said, ‘Never mind! There are sure to be some 8. ___________ animals there.’ It was time to set off. When they arrived at their holiday house it was a really 9. ___________ night with heavy rain and strong winds. When they got out of the car, Carol’s curly hair quickly became a 10. ___________ mess but she said, ‘I don’t care! I’m going to forget about worrying what I look like up here!’ Mike replied, ‘Good idea!’ and they all went to admire their home for the summer.
Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. The fans were **wild** with joy when their team won the cup.

2. It was a story about two **wild** tribes who wore skins and lived in caves.

3. Anna is not used to city life—she comes from a very **wild** part of the country.

4. The city children had never seen **wild** animals before.

5. Molly has some **wild** idea about giving up college to become a model.

6. The yachtsmen were not expecting such **wild** weather.

7. Jack led rather a **wild** youth.

8. Sara’s hair is always a **wild** mess of curls when it’s windy.

9. It was a **wild** guess but, in fact, I was right about the number of miles to town.

10. Sue is **wild** about that dress in the shop window.
Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

'Did daddy use to live here in the old days?' asked Alice. The family had come to see the village where their father had been brought up. Her father, Peter, laughed, saying, 'Enough of the old! I'm not that old. I'm only 40!' When they were walking past Peter's old house he began to feel quite nostalgic. His parents had moved away quite a long time ago. Now his father was dead and his mother was in a home for old people. Peter, having stopped to speak to some of the inhabitants, was delighted to discover that many of the village's old customs and traditions were still in force. Too often these days, anything from the past was dismissed as being old and irrelevant. Inevitably there had been some changes. When Peter lived there, there had been a disused old mill but it had been pulled down to make way for a block of flats. The man who had run the post office, although not much over middle age, had been regarded as too old for the job and was now retired. Peter decided to go and see him but when they reached his house his wife was embarrassed to receive visitors. Being in the midst of cleaning the house, she was wearing her old clothes. After they spent an enjoyable hour with their friends, Peter was distressed that the man who had collected old cars no longer lived there. 'Nothing stays the same!' said Peter sadly.

Know the Meaning

**old** adjective

1 (of time: The play was set in the old days.) olden, by-gone, early.

2 (of a person: Jock has white hair, but he's not that old.) advanced in years, advanced in age.

3 (of a place: Mick visited his old home town) former, previous.

4 (of a person: Rob's mother got very frail and old.) elderly, advanced in years, advanced in age, aged, up in years, long in the tooth (informal/humorous)

5 (of a custom, etc: Many of the old traditions have died out.) age-old, long-established, long-standing, time-honoured.

6 (of a convention, rule, etc: The young members of the club said they were tired of all the old conventions.) old-fashioned, out-of-date, outdated, outmoded, old-hat (informal).

7 (of a broken-down building, etc: The old factory had been empty for years and was now dangerous.) dilapidated, run-down, broken-down, ramshackle, tumbledown.

8 (of a person: He was considered old for the job.) too old, past his/her prime, past it (informal), over the hill (informal).

9 (of a garment: We were old clothes to clean out the garage.) discarded, cast-off, shabby, worn.

10 (of a car: It was a race for old cars.) vintage, veteran, antique.
Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘old’ for each blank.

‘Did daddy use to live here in the 1. _______ ________ days?’ asked Alice. The family had come to see the village where their father had been brought up. Her father, Peter, laughed, saying, ‘Enough of the old! I’m not that 2. _________________. I’m only 40!’ When they were walking past Peter’s 3. ________________ house he began to feel quite nostalgic. His parents had moved away quite a long time ago. Now his father was dead and his mother was in a home for 4. ________________ people. Peter, having stopped to speak to some of the inhabitants, was delighted to discover that many of the village’s 5. ________________ customs and traditions were still in force. Too often these days, anything from the past was dismissed as being 6. ________________ and irrelevant. Inevitably there had been some changes. When Peter lived there, there had been a disused 7. ________________ mill but it had been pulled down to make way for a block of flats. The man who had run the post office, although not much over middle age, had been regarded as too 8. ________________ for the job and was now retired. Peter decided to go and see him but when they reached his house his wife was embarrassed to receive visitors. Being in the midst of cleaning the house, she was wearing her 9. ________________ clothes. After they spent an enjoyable hour with their friends, Peter was distressed that the man who had collected 10. ________________ cars no longer lived there.

‘Nothing stays the same!’ said Peter sadly.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Many of the old children's games are no longer played.

2. There are a lot of old shacks by the railway line.

3. The children were read a story about the old days.

4. If the company consider you old for the job, they declare you redundant.

5. Paula has quite a wrinkled face, but she's not that old.

6. Beth got into old clothes to redecorate her bedroom.

7. Wendy felt sad when she saw her old house again.

8. Paul made a lot of money for that old car.

9. Fred's father is old, but he's in good health.

10. The young people said that those old rules were no longer relevant.
Know the Meaning

fail verb
1 (of a person: We never fail to be amazed at Jack's good luck.) cease, stop (+-ing: We never stop being amazed at Jack's good luck.).
2 (of a person, with reference to an exam, test, etc: Several students failed the history exam.) not pass, be unsuccessful in, not make the grade in.
3 (of a plan, scheme, etc: Our scheme to raise money failed.) not succeed, be unsuccessful, fall through, be in vain, come to nothing.
4 (of light: Let's not put the lamps on until the light fails.) fade, grow less, die away, peter out.
5 (of a person, system, object, etc: When Pam's father died, she felt that the doctors had failed him.) let (someone) down, disappoint, desert.
6 (of health: When the old lady's health failed, she went into hospital.) decline, deteriorate, get worse.
7 (of a person: George's father is old and failing rapidly.) weaken, grow weak, become feeble.
8 (of a crop, harvest, etc: The apple crop failed this year.) be unproductive, be inadequate, be insufficient.
9 (of a business: Many businesses failed during the recession.) go bankrupt, collapse, go bust (informal), go under.
10 (of a machine or engine: The car's engine failed and we had to walk.) break down, stop working, conk out (informal).

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

Jack's mother never failed to be surprised at his attitude to his college work. Throughout the term he would be quite calm about it, saying confidently that he was working very hard. However, the week before the exams he always panicked and insisted that he was bound to fail. His parents and sister would then make many attempts to calm and remind him of his comments about having worked during the term, but these failed. Having been given a few days' study leave, he would read in the garden until the light failed and then go to his bedroom and study there until well after midnight. His parents made sure that he ate regular meals and took some exercise but still they felt that they were failing him in some way. They were also trying to avoid Jack worrying his grandmother, whose health was failing. She had been quite strong a year ago when she came to live with them but now she seemed to be failing rapidly. Jack's father had other problems as well. He owned both a farm and a farm shop and neither was doing well. The previous season's crop had failed because of drought and the shop looked as though it would fail if trade did not improve soon. On the morning of his first exam Jack was sure that the engine of the car was going to fail, but all was well. He completed the exams in time and, indeed, passed them all.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘fail’ for each blank.

Jack’s mother never 1. ________________ to be surprised at his attitude to his college work. Throughout the term he would be quite calm about it, saying confidently that he was working very hard. However, the week before the exams he always panicked and insisted that he was bound to 2. ________________. His parents and sister would then make many attempts to calm and remind him of his comments about having worked during the term, but these 3. ________________. Having been given a few days’ study leave, he would read in the garden until the light 4. ________________ and then go to his bedroom and study there until well after midnight. His parents made sure that he ate regular meals and took some exercise but still they felt that they 5. ________________ him in some way. They were also trying to avoid Jack worrying his grandmother, whose health 6. ________________. She had been quite strong a year ago when she came to live with them but now she seemed to 7. ________________ rapidly. Jack’s father had other problems as well. He owned both a farm and a farm shop and neither was doing well. The previous season’s crop had 8. ________________ because of drought and the shop looked as though it would 9. ________________ if trade did not improve soon. On the morning of his first exam Jack was sure that the engine of the car was going to 10. ________________, but all was well. He completed the exams in time and, indeed, passed them all.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Sam's grandmother's health has been failing for some time.

2. The elderly man has failed noticeably since coming into hospital.

3. Jane says that she never fails to wonder at Sue's self-confidence.

4. The rice crop failed because of unusual weather conditions.

5. Laura failed the exam because she was ill.

6. Many small businesses fail not long after starting up.

7. We didn't expect our plan to fail.

8. The washing machine's motor failed suddenly.

9. We couldn't finish our tennis game because the light failed.

10. Diane was counting on Rob's help but we weren't surprised when he failed her.
Mike and two of his college friends, Paul and Jerry, had agreed to help a local farmer during their winter holidays, while two of his workers were off ill. Since the work was very hard, they were always very tired at the end of the day and unwilling to get up in the morning. This particular morning was worse than usual as it was very cold and the ground was hard with frost. As the farmer was rather a hard man, they were all afraid of being late, and reluctantly got out of bed. He had already had a few hard words for them one morning when they were very slightly late and they did not want to repeat this experience. One thing they all agreed on. Although the problem of what to do when they left college was a hard one, the life of a farmer was not for them. Living conditions seemed to be very hard and the hard facts were that, despite all the work, the farmer did not make much money. The work could be dangerous, too. Paul had received a hard kick from a horse, which had left him limping. The farmer, who was pleased that the boys were all hard workers, tried to give Paul some brandy for the pain but Paul refused the offer since he never took hard liquor. For the most part the friends were glad when they returned to college. That was a much more comfortable life.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to 'hard' for each blank.

Mike and two of his college friends, Paul and Jerry, had agreed to help a local farmer during their winter holidays, while two of his workers were off ill. Since the work was very 1.________________, they were always very tired at the end of the day and unwilling to get up in the morning. This particular morning was worse than usual as it was very cold and the ground was 2.________________ with frost. As the farmer was rather a 3.________________ man, they were all afraid of being late, and reluctantly got out of bed. He had already had a few 4.________________ words for them one morning when they were very slightly late and they did not want to repeat this experience. One thing they all agreed on. Although the problem of what to do when they left college was a 5.________________ one, the life of a farmer was not for them. Living conditions seemed to be very 6.________________ and the 7.________________ facts were that, despite all the work, the farmer did not make much money. The work could be dangerous, too. Paul had received a 8.________________ kick from a horse, which had left him limping. The farmer, who was pleased that the boys were all 9.________________ workers, tried to give Paul some brandy for the pain but Paul refused the offer since he never took 10.________________ liquor. For the most part the friends were glad when they returned to college. That was a much more comfortable life.
Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Knowing which job to take was a **hard** decision.

2. The **hard** facts are that we are going to have to sack some of the staff.

3. Working in the quarry was very **hard** work.

4. In the accident Pat received a **hard** knock on the head.

5. The ground is too **hard** to dig.

6. You will have to prove that you are a **hard** worker to get that job.

7. The new teacher won't accept work handed in late—he seems a very **hard** man.

8. Peter occasionally drinks a glass of wine but he never takes **hard** liquor.

9. His parents had some **hard** words for Oliver when he had a party and wrecked the house.

10. The region had been affected by famine and life was very **hard**.
Know the Meaning

heavy adjective
1 (of a responsibility, etc: Looking after their invalid mother is too heavy a responsibility for young teenagers.) weighty, onerous, burdensome.
2 (of a task, work, etc: They were given heavy tasks.) hard, difficult, arduous, demanding.
3 (of a load, etc: The work involved carrying heavy loads.) weighty, hefty, substantial, bulky.
4 (of soil: There is very heavy soil in that region.) muddy, sticky, clayey.
5 (of a person: Jim is a very heavy man and needs to lose weight.) big, large, bulky, stout, fat.
6 (of a subject, etc: Len always bought newspapers which dealt with heavy issues.) serious, heavyweight, weighty, deep, profound.
7 (of traffic, trading, etc: The traffic on the motorway is always heavy.) substantial, considerable, abundant.
8 (of the sky: The sky was heavy just before the snow started.) cloudy, overcast, dark, grey.
9 (of rain: The heavy rain caused flooding in some areas.) torrential, pouring (used before noun: pouring rain), severe.
10 (of the sea: The sea was too heavy to take the boat out.) rough, stormy, wild, turbulent.

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

Twins Eric and Carol had been given a very heavy responsibility. They had been asked by their parents to go and look after their Uncle Bob for two weeks while they were on holiday from college. The owner of a market garden, he had hurt his back and had to rest. The twins were not pleased. They both found the workload very heavy for the tasks included carrying heavy boxes of vegetables around and digging. This latter job was particularly difficult as the soil in the area was very heavy. They also had to help their uncle in and out of his chair and bed and he was a very heavy man. Since their aunt had died just a few months ago, their uncle was still sad and rather silent. When he spoke, he seemed to want to speak about heavy subjects, like the economic state of the country. They were sorry for him, but Eric and Carol wanted some fun. However, the nearest town was some miles away and the traffic into it was usually heavy. The weather did not help either. Usually they woke to heavy skies and frequently there was heavy rain before the end of the morning. They heard that fishermen were having difficulty with heavy seas. How relieved the twins were when the two weeks came to an end! They were glad to return home and let their cousins do their share of looking after Uncle Bob.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘heavy’ for each blank.

Twins Eric and Carol had been given a very 1. ______________ responsibility. They had been asked by their parents to go and look after their Uncle Bob for two weeks while they were on holiday from college. The owner of a market garden, he had hurt his back and had to rest. The twins were not pleased. They both found the workload very 2. ______________ for the tasks included carrying 3. ______________ boxes of vegetables around and digging. This latter job was particularly difficult as the soil in the area was very 4. ______________. They also had to help their uncle in and out of his chair and bed and he was a very 5. ______________ man. Since their aunt had died just a few months ago, their uncle was still sad and rather silent. When he spoke, he seemed to want to speak about 6. ______________ subjects, like the economic state of the country. They were sorry for him, but Eric and Carol wanted some fun. However, the nearest town was some miles away and the traffic into it was usually 7. ______________. The weather did not help either. Usually they woke to 8. ______________ skies and frequently there was 9. ______________ rain before the end of the morning. They heard that fishermen were having difficulty with 10. ______________ seas. How relieved the twins were when the two weeks came to an end! They were glad to return home and let their cousins do their share of looking after Uncle Bob.
Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Bill was a heavy man and the deck chair collapsed under him.

2. The rush hour had not yet started but the traffic out of town was already heavy.

3. Taking care of a baby is a heavy responsibility for someone so young.

4. The skies are very heavy—it’s going to rain shortly.

5. We have all been allocated heavy jobs.

6. The rain became heavy and we ran for shelter.

7. We carried several heavy loads of garden rubbish to the refuse truck.

8. The ship ran aground in heavy seas.

9. Digging the garden is difficult—the ground is very heavy.

10. The play was a bit heavy for Bob’s taste—he prefers something amusing.
A Trip to the Supermarket

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

Mrs Chen and her children, Jill and Peter, were going round the supermarket on a Sunday afternoon. The shop was full and the children were bored. They had already been there for a full hour. How much more could their mother buy? Her trolley was already full. She had taken with her a full list of all the things which they needed, ticking them off as she put the goods in the trolley. All they could now see was a long line of ticks. Still their mother was looking at various goods. Now she had stopped to speak to someone. It was Mrs Lee, whom they did not really like. She had a very full figure which looked even fuller because she always wore very full skirts. Mrs Lee liked a good gossip and had a very full voice that could be heard from quite a long way away. Mrs Chen suggested that Jill and Peter go to the coffee shop, saying that she would come and get them when she had gone through the check-out. Jill and Peter were not very keen since they had just had breakfast and were full. However, they went to the coffee shop only to discover that all the tables were full. Worse, Jill knocked over a coffee cup on a table with her bag. The cup was full and its contents went all over the skirt of the woman at the table. She was furious. Jill and Peter hurried back to their mother.

Know the Meaning

full adjective
1 (of a room, place, etc: It was Saturday and the shops were full.) crowded, packed, chock-a-block.
2 (We waited a full week for the parcel to arrive.) whole, entire, complete.
3 (Mary had bought groceries and her basket was full) filled, filled up, filled to capacity, full up, loaded.
4 (We need a full list of entrants to the competition.) complete, comprehensive, detailed, exhaustive.
5 (of the human body: Sara has too full a figure to wear such short skirts.) well-built, well-rounded, ample, plump.
6 (The dress had a tight bodice and a full skirt.) wide.
7 (of voice: They were looking for a new choir member with a very full voice.) rich, deep, strong.
8 (It was not long after lunch and they were still full.) replete, sated.
9 (The seats in the hall were all full.) occupied, taken, in use.
10 (These tea cups are full.) filled, filled to the brim, brimful.
**Exercise 1**

*Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘full’ for each blank.*

Mrs Chen and her children, Jill and Peter, were going round the supermarket on a Sunday afternoon. The shop was 1.____________ and the children were bored. They had already been there for a 2._____________ hour. How much more could their mother buy? Her trolley was already 3._____________. She had taken with her a 4._____________ list of all the things which they needed, ticking them off as she put the goods in the trolley. All they could now see was a long line of ticks. Still their mother was looking at various goods. Now she had stopped to speak to someone. It was Mrs Lee, whom they did not really like. She had a very 5._____________ figure which looked even fuller because she always wore very 6._____________ skirts. Mrs Lee liked a good gossip and had a very 7._____________ voice that could be heard from quite a long way away. Mrs Chen suggested that Jill and Peter go to the coffee shop, saying that she would come and get them when she had gone through the check-out. Jill and Peter were not very keen since they had just had breakfast and were 8._____________. However, they went to the coffee shop only to discover that all the tables were 9._____________. Worse, Jill knocked over a coffee cup on a table with her bag. The cup was 10._____________ and its contents went all over the skirt of the woman at the table. She was furious. Jill and Peter hurried back to their mother.
**Exercise 2**

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. The girls were wearing **full** summer skirts.

2. Sue had the **full** voice of an opera singer.

3. The market was so **full** that we could not see the shops properly.

4. We had had a late breakfast and were still feeling very **full**.

5. We waited a **full** week for an appointment with the lawyer.

6. The seats in the theatre were all **full**.

7. The basket was **full** and very heavy.

8. The coffee cup was **full** when the child knocked it over.

9. Sally is very slender, but her sister had quite a **full** figure.

10. You will be sent a **full** list of the books which are required for next year.
First Time Away from Home

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

Judy was excited. This morning she was leaving on a trip to visit her aunt in the south of the country. Since it was usually very warm there in the summer, she had packed all her light clothes. Because her aunt lived by the sea, there were often light breezes, even on the hottest days, especially in the evenings. Therefore Judy had also packed two heavier sweaters although these had quite a summery look, being light in colour. There was an ink mark on one of them, but it was very light and she could get it out later. Judy was dancing round her bedroom with excitement when her mother gave a light tap on the door. Judy had bought some books of rather a light nature to read on the train and she now put them in her bag. A few weeks ago she had had a light attack of flu and could still eat only light meals. She had lost weight and her mother was worried that she was now much too light. As she was still looking rather pale, it would do her good to get some sea air. Her aunt would be glad of her company as she ran a small boarding house, and Judy had said that she would be happy to do some light chores. This being her first time away from home, Judy might be a little homesick at first but she would soon recover and have an enjoyable time.
Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘light’ for each blank.

Judy was excited. This morning she was leaving on a trip to visit her aunt in the south of the country. Since it was usually very warm there in the summer, she had packed all her 1. _________________ clothes. Because her aunt lived by the sea, there were often 2. _________________ breezes, even on the hottest days, especially in the evenings. Therefore Judy had also packed two heavier sweaters although these had quite a summery look, being 3. _________________ in colour. There was an ink mark on one of them, but it was very 4. _________________ and she could get it out later. Judy was dancing round her bedroom with excitement when her mother gave a 5. _________________ tap on the door. Judy had bought some books of rather a 6. _________________ nature to read on the train and she now put them in her bag. A few weeks ago she had had a 7. _________________ attack of flu and could still eat only 8. _________________ meals. She had lost weight and her mother was worried that she was now much too 9. ________________. As she was still looking rather pale, it would do her good to get some sea air. Her aunt would be glad of her company as she ran a small boarding house, and Judy had said that she would be happy to do some 10. _________________ chores. This being her first time away from home, Judy might be a little homesick at first but she would soon recover and have an enjoyable time.
Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Sara felt a light tap on her shoulder.

2. Jim had a light attack of food poisoning.

3. We were wearing light clothes but the weather turned cold.

4. The child hardly eats anything and has to be coaxed into eating even a light meal.

5. A light breeze kept the day from being too hot.

6. As a child Jane was very chubby but she's very light now.

7. The girls' dresses were light in colour.

8. They're employed to do light chores such as dusting.

9. This biography is not exactly light reading material.

10. I got most of the mud off the football shirt but a light stain remained.
A Hiking Trip

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

‘What we need is a few strong men!’ said Sheila. She and some friends were on a hiking trip and their backpacks seemed to be getting very heavy as the day went on. Her remarks got a strong reply from Anna, who came from a family of strong women who were all in favour of feminism. ‘Nonsense!’ she said. ‘We can manage very well by ourselves, we don’t need men!’ Sheila replied that she was just joking to tease Anna. She then turned her attention to the fact that Joan’s backpack had a small hole in it. ‘They said in the shop that it was made of very strong material,’ complained Joan, ‘and this is the first time I’ve used it.’ Molly, who had a strong interest in consumer affairs, told Joan that she must be sure to demand her money back from the shop. ‘You certainly have a very strong argument for doing so,’ agreed Sheila. ‘Faulty goods demand strong measures.’ Being midday, the sunlight was very strong and they decided to seek some shade and have a rest and a snack. Most of them had cold drinks but Pat preferred to have some of the strong coffee which she had in her Thermos flask. She also had some chocolate with her. This she offered to the others but Molly was on a diet and was strong enough to refuse. After the short rest, they continued on their hike, feeling refreshed.

Know the Meaning

strong adjective
1 (of a person, with reference to physical strength): It will take someone strong to lift that heavy weight. powerfully built, muscular, brawny, sturdy.
2 (of a reaction, feeling, etc: The speaker’s remarks got a strong reaction.) forceful, vehement, passionate, intense, fervent.
3 (of a person, with reference to personality: Bella had had to be strong to get a job in the all-male team.) assertive, forceful, formidable, aggressive, high-powered.
4 (of a material: The workers were wearing garments of a strong material.) durable, heavy-duty, hard-wearing.
5 (of interest, etc: strong interest.) keen, enthusiastic, fervent.
6 (of a reason, case, etc: strong reasons.) forceful, powerful, cogent, convincing, compelling.
7 (of action, etc: The police had to take strong action against the vandals.) firm, forceful, tough, drastic, severe.
8 (of light: strong sunlight.) bright, intense, glaring, dazzling.
9 (of a drink: This lime squash is too strong.) concentrated, undiluted.
10 (of a person, with reference to persuasion, temptation, etc: Beth was strong enough to refuse temptation.) strong-minded, firm, resolute, determined.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘strong’ for each blank.

‘What we need is a few 1. ___________________ men!’ said Sheila. She and some friends were on a hiking trip and their backpacks seemed to be getting very heavy as the day went on. Her remarks got a 2. ___________________ reply from Anna, who came from a family of 3. ___________________ women who were all in favour of feminism. ‘Nonsense!’ she said. ‘We can manage very well by ourselves, we don’t need men!’ Sheila replied that she was just joking to tease Anna. She then turned her attention to the fact that Joan’s backpack had a small hole in it. ‘They said in the shop that it was made of very 4. ___________________ material,’ complained Joan, ‘and this is the first time I’ve used it.’ Molly, who had a 5. ___________________ interest in consumer affairs, told Joan that she must be sure to demand her money back from the shop. ‘You certainly have a very 6. ___________________ argument for doing so,’ agreed Sheila. ‘Faulty goods demand 7. ___________________ measures.’ Being midday, the sunlight was very 8. ___________________ and they decided to seek some shade and have a rest and a snack. Most of them had cold drinks but Pat preferred to have some of the 9. ___________________ coffee which she had in her Thermos flask. She also had some chocolate with her. This she offered to the others, but Molly was on a diet and was 10. ___________________ enough to refuse. After the short rest, they continued on their hike, feeling refreshed.
**Exercise 2**

*Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.*

1. All the villagers have a **strong** interest in their community.

2. The bad behaviour of some of the students calls for **strong** measures.

3. Two **strong** young men arrived to move the furniture.

4. Working in such a **strong** light hurts my eyes.

5. The speech got a **strong** response from the audience.

6. The child won’t take the orange drink if it’s **strong**.

7. Freda’s **strong** personality makes some people dislike her.

8. Simon was studying and he tried to be **strong** when his friends tried to persuade him to go to a party.

9. We put forward a **strong** argument for not having the building pulled down.

10. You should wear gloves of a **strong** material when disposing of the rubbish.
Know the Meaning

keep verb

1 (with reference to a promise, pledge, etc: Don’t rely on Phil—he never keeps his promises.) abide by, stick to, carry out, fulfil, honour.

2 (with reference to a person: Mike just went to the hospital for a check-up, but they kept him for observation.) keep (someone) in, detain, hold on to.

3 (Jean kept working long past retirement age.) go on, carry on, continue to.

4 (with reference to dependants: Don has to keep a large family on a small salary.) provide for, support, maintain.

5 (with reference to a custom, etc: The young people don’t keep the old traditions.) observe, keep to, abide by, follow.

6 (of a shopkeeper, etc: The local newsagent keeps a whole range of magazines.) sell, stock, have for sale.

7 (Jill keeps her lecture notes in the bottom drawer of her desk.) store, have.

8 (of milk, food, etc: Milk does not keep long in this hot weather.) last, stay fresh, keep fresh.

9 (with reference to a state or quality: We tried to keep warm by covering ourselves with a blanket. The child cannot keep quiet.) stay, remain.

10 (with reference to information: Mary’s mother was very ill and they tried to keep news of the accident from her.) conceal, hide, keep secret, withhold.

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

‘What kept you?’ Sue asked Bert, rather annoyed. ‘You promised to be here by midday and you usually keep your promises.’ Bert replied, ‘Sorry, I couldn’t help it. I had to take my father to the hospital with chest pains and they kept him in for observation. It seems that he hasn’t been feeling well for some time, but he just kept working without saying anything. He was worried about going sick and not being able to keep my mother and the younger children.’ ‘That’s terrible!’ said Sue. ‘Can I go and see him?’ ‘The doctor said that he’s not to have many visitors yet. He said only close family were to go and for a short time at that. We better keep the hospital rules. You can probably go tomorrow. Meanwhile, I have to take a few things to him. Does your local shop keep fruit? He wants some oranges.’ ‘Yes,’ said Sue, ‘but I have some that you can take. I keep them in a bowl in the kitchen and there’s some more fruit in the fridge. It keeps longer in there.’ Bert thanked her and went to get the fruit. Although he was worried, he was trying to keep calm. One thing was quite certain. It was absolutely essential to keep his anxiety from his mother as she was worried enough. He left Sue’s flat to go over and see her, telling Sue that he would be back after he had delivered his father’s things to the hospital.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘keep’ for each blank.

‘What kept you?’ Sue asked Bert, rather annoyed. ‘You promised to be here by midday and you usually 1. __________ your promises.’ Bert replied, ‘Sorry, I couldn’t help it. I had to take my father to the hospital with chest pains and they 2. __________ him in for observation. It seems that he hasn’t been feeling well for some time, but he just 3. __________ working without saying anything. He was worried about going sick and not being able to 4. __________ my mother and the younger children.’ ‘That’s terrible!’ said Sue. ‘Can I go and see him?’ ‘The doctor said that he’s not to have many visitors yet. He said only close family were to go and for a short time at that. We better 5. __________ the hospital rules. You can probably go tomorrow. Meanwhile, I have to take a few things to him. Does your local shop 6. __________ fruit? He wants some oranges.’ ‘Yes,’ said Sue, ‘but I have some that you can take. I 7. __________ them in a bowl in the kitchen and there’s some more fruit in the fridge. It 8. __________ longer in there.’ Bert thanked her and went to get the fruit. Although he was worried, he was trying to 9. __________ calm. One thing was quite certain. It was absolutely essential to 10. __________ his anxiety from his mother as she was worried enough. He left Sue’s flat to go over and see her, telling Sue that he would be back after he had delivered his father’s things to the hospital.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Susie was punished for failing to keep the school rules.
   
2. We keep a supply of logs for the fire in the garden shed.
   
3. Adam kept his promise to his late father and studied medicine.
   
4. The butter will keep longer in the fridge.
   
5. When Bill went to hospital he didn't think that the doctor would keep him there.
   
6. We sheltered in a barn to keep dry in the storm.
   
7. Their mother keeps worrying about Alan and Polly, even though they're grown-up and doing well.
   
8. Joe is worried about his daughter being so late but he's trying to keep his concern from his wife.
   
9. The local shop keeps milk and bread.
   
10. Rose and John are having a baby but I don't know how John will afford to keep a family.
Will and his close friend, Henry, were just coming out of their local football ground. It had been a close game and had fittingly ended in a draw. Now they were on their way to Henry's flat which was close to the football ground. It was a very close day and they were going in search of a cool drink. As Henry was putting his key in the door, he looked curiously at the man coming out of the flat next door. When the man had gone, Henry said, 'That man bears a close resemblance to the one featured on a TV crime programme last night. He's wanted for armed robbery.' 'I saw the programme' said Will, 'but I wasn't paying very close attention to it and I didn't get a good look at the man.' Henry thought of phoning the police but decided to ask one of his neighbours quite casually if she knew their new neighbour. 'No,' she said. 'I tried to chat to him but he was very close about where he had come from and what he was doing. He is also close with money—he wouldn't give a donation to charity.' Then Henry felt it was his duty to phone the police, giving them a close description of the man. A few hours later he heard a lot of noise and saw a police van at the door. Then the police rang to tell him that the man was now under close arrest.

**Know the Meaning**

**close** adjective

1 (of friends: Jane and Lucy had been close friends all their lives.) bosom, good, intimate, devoted, pally (informal).

2 (of a competition, etc: The last set of the tennis tournament was close.) evenly-matched, tight, hard-fought, neck-and-neck.

3 (of a building, place, etc: We could visit Jan—her house is quite close.) near, nearly.

4 (of weather: The weather was very close and gave Mary a headache.) muggy, stuffy, airless, oppressive.

5 (of a likeness: That woman bears a close resemblance to someone I know.) marked, strong, distinct, pronounced.

6 (of attention, etc: We didn't pay very close attention to the directions and got lost.) careful, assiduous.

7 (of a person, with reference to information: Anna is very close about her past.) secretive, unforthcoming, guarded, uncommunicative, close-lipped.

8 (of a person with reference to money: Old Joe is very wealthy, but he is very close with his wealth.) mean, miserly, stingy, tight, tight-fisted.

9 (of a description, report, etc: The driver was not able to give a close description of the accident.) accurate, precise, exact, true.

10 (The accused was kept under close arrest until he could be charged.) tight, secure, strict.
Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to 'close' for each blank.

Will and his 1. ________________ friend, Henry, were just coming out of their local football ground. It had been a 2. ________________ game and had fittingly ended in a draw. Now they were on their way to Henry's flat which was 3. ________________ to the football ground. It was a very 4. ________________ day and they were going in search of a cool drink. As Henry was putting his key in the door, he looked curiously at the man coming out of the flat next door. When the man had gone, Henry said, 'That man bears a 5. ________________ resemblance to the one featured on a TV crime programme last night. He's wanted for armed robbery.' 'I saw the programme,' said Will, 'but I wasn't paying very 6. ________________ attention to it and I didn't get a good look at the man.' Henry thought of phoning the police but decided to ask one of his neighbours quite casually if she knew their new neighbour. 'No,' she said. 'I tried to chat to him but he was very 7. ________________ about where he had come from and what he was doing. He is also 8. ________________ with money—he wouldn't give a donation to charity.' Then Henry felt it was his duty to phone the police, giving them a 9. ________________ description of the man. A few hours later he heard a lot of noise and saw a police van at the door. Then the police rang to tell him that the man was now under 10. ________________ arrest.
Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Martin is very close about the details of his childhood.

2. Peggy is too close with her money to contribute to Stan's birthday present.

3. The two girls had been close friends since childhood.

4. I was quite far away from the car crash and so I was unable to give a close description of it.

5. The match was close but our team won in the closing minutes.

6. He is on a charge of murder and so will be kept under close confinement.

7. We could go to the supermarket now—it's quite close.

8. We were told to pay close attention to what the teacher was saying.

9. Close days like this always make Lucy feel tired.

10. That vase bears a close resemblance to the one that was stolen from my house.
Know the Meaning

**rough adjective**

1. (of a period of time, situation, etc.: Will's had a rough few months since he lost his job.) hard, difficult, tough, unpleasant.

2. (of a person: Bill's parents were worried because he seemed to have some rough friends.) uncouth, coarse, uncivilized.

3. (of a voice: Your voice sounds rather rough – do you have a cold?) harsh, husky, hoarse.

4. (of a guess, estimation, etc.: At a rough calculation the town is about 40 kilometres away.) approximate, vague, loose, imprecise, inexact.

5. (of the sea: The ocean was quite rough when the boat set out.) choppy, turbulent, heavy.

6. (of weather: The weather was very rough when we began our cruise.) stormy, wild, violent.

7. (of material, an animal’s coat, etc.: The dog had a rough, brown coat. The cloth had a very rough finish.) shaggy, hairy, bushy, fuzzy.

8. (informal) (of a person: Sue had had flu and is still feeling rather rough.) ill, unwell, sick, off colour.

9. (of words, etc.: The farmer had few rough words for the boys who stole his apples.) harsh, stern, sharp, angry.

10. (of a drawing, plan, etc.: The artist made a few rough sketches before painting Beth's portrait.) rudimentary, basic, crude, unfinished.

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

Leo and Mick were on holiday and wished to visit a small island which had a ruined castle and a bird sanctuary. They were advised to ask Hector, one of the fishermen, if he would take them. 'He's had a rough time recently and could do with the money. You might think he's rather a rough character, but he's very pleasant,' they were told. When they met Hector, they found that he had such a rough voice that they could hardly understand him. At a rough estimate they thought that he might be about 35 but he could be any age. Hector said that he would take them there in his small boat next day but warned that the sea could be quite rough. In fact next day the weather was so rough indeed that Leo thought that Hector wouldn’t want to go. However, he was waiting for them by the shore, a dog with a rough black coat, having come to see them off. It wasn't a good journey. Mick started to feel very rough with the rocking of the boat. He was so glad to see land that he jumped up suddenly and nearly overturned the boat. Hector had a few rough words to say to him. Fortunately, the weather cleared while they were on the island and they were able to make a few rough sketches of the castle and the birds. It seemed a very short time before Hector returned for them.
Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘rough’ for each blank.

Leo and Mick were on holiday and wished to visit a small island which had a ruined castle and a bird sanctuary. They were advised to ask Hector, one of the fishermen, if he would take them. ‘He’s had a 1. ________________ time recently and could do with the money. You might think he’s rather a 2. ________________ character, but he’s very pleasant,’ they were told. When they met Hector, they found that he had such a 3. ________________ voice that they could hardly understand him. At a 4. ________________ estimate they thought that he might be about 35 but he could be any age. Hector said that he would take them there in his small boat next day but warned that the sea could be quite 5. ________________. In fact next day the weather was so 6. ________________ indeed that Leo thought that Hector wouldn’t want to go. However, he was waiting for them by the shore, a dog with a 7. ________________ black coat, having come to see them off. It wasn’t a good journey. Mick started to feel very 8. ________________ with the rocking of the boat. He was so glad to see land that he jumped up suddenly and nearly overturned the boat. Hector had a few 9. ________________ words to say to him. Fortunately, the weather cleared while they were on the island and they were able to make a few 10. ________________ sketches of the castle and the birds. It seemed a very short time before Hector returned for them.
Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. The boat tossed about on rough seas.

2. Our dog had a rough coat which needed lots of brushing.

3. The children have had a rough time since their father died.

4. Nora had a very tiring journey and is feeling rather rough.

5. Anna's parents are snobs and think that the villagers are all rough people.

6. The park attendant spoke a few rough words to the children and made them cry.

7. Derek has a sore throat and his voice is very rough.

8. These are just rough plans—they're going to be finalized by an architect.

9. At a rough calculation the job should take about a month.

10. The weather was very rough but Rob still took the rowing boat out.
A New Arrival

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

'I asked you to call me this morning,' grumbled John to his mother as he stumbled downstairs. 'I thought that you were already up,' said his mother. 'How on earth did you sleep through the church bells? They've been calling people to worship for about twenty minutes.' John ignored this and asked, 'Has anyone called me?' John's mother replied that his friends, Jenny and Tom, had phoned about five minutes ago to say that they would call at the house in about an hour.' John explained that they were going to talk about the fact that the president of the tennis club had called a meeting to point out that membership was dwindling fast. 'I call it disgraceful that a village this size can't support a tennis club,' said John. 'It's probably because so many of the young people are studying in the city and you and Jenny are waiting to be called to the Bar there.' Just then John heard someone calling his mother's name. It was their next-door neighbour who was extremely pregnant. 'Please will you call a doctor! I think the baby's on its way! And my husband's out.' John rushed to make the call and also contacted the neighbour's husband. Soon the mother-to-be was in hospital with her husband by her side. When John and his parents went to see her and the baby next day, John was very pleased that she and her husband had decided to call the baby John.

Know the Meaning

call verb
1 (with reference to a person being awakened.) wake, wake (someone) up, get (someone) up.
2 (of bells, etc.: The bells are calling people to church.) summon, bid.
3 (with reference to a telephone.) phone, telephone, ring, give (someone) a ring.
4 (with reference to a personal visit.) visit, pay a visit, stop by, drop in.
5 (with reference to a meeting, assembly, etc.) convene, assemble.
6 (Ken said that he called it outrageous that the children were allowed to misbehave.) consider, think, regard as, deem, judge.
7 (with reference to the legal profession: Jack is studying law and hopes that he will be called to the bar one day.) appoint, select.
8 (Someone called my name and I turned round.) shout, cry out, call out.
9 (with reference to someone who will help: Jim immediately called a doctor when Ellie collapsed.) send for, ask for, summon.
10 (with reference to a child: Bill and his wife have called the baby Rose.) name, christen; (with reference to a place, building, book, etc.: Bob has called his sandwich bar Nosh.) name, entitled, style; (May called Bert a fool. Terry called the flat a dump.) describe as, pronounce, dub, term, label.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘call’ for each blank.

‘I asked you to 1. _______________ me this morning,’ grumbled John to his mother as he stumbled downstairs. ‘I thought that you were already up,’ said his mother. ‘How on earth did you sleep through the church bells? They’ve been 2. _______________ people to worship for about twenty minutes.’ John ignored this and asked, ‘Has anyone 3. _______________ me?’ John’s mother replied that his friends, Jenny and Tom, had phoned about five minutes ago to say that they would 4. _______________ at the house in about an hour.’ John explained that they were going to talk about the fact that the president of the tennis club 5. _______________ a meeting to point out that membership was dwindling fast.

‘It’s disgraceful that a village this size can’t support a tennis club,’ said John. ‘It’s probably because so many of the young people are studying in the city and you and Jenny are waiting to 7. _______________ to the Bar there.’ Just then John heard someone 8. _______________ his mother’s name. It was their next-door neighbour who was extremely pregnant. ‘Please will you 9. _______________ a doctor! I think the baby’s on its way! And my husband’s out.’ John rushed to make the call and also contacted the neighbour’s husband. Soon the mother-to-be was in hospital with her husband by her side. When John and his parents went to see her and the baby next day, John was very pleased that she and her husband had decided to 10. _______________ the baby John.
Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. The head is calling a meeting of all the teaching staff.

2. Not all lawyers are called to the Bar.

3. I asked the hotel porter to call me at 6 a.m.

4. Sally suddenly saw Ned and called his name.

5. It was Sunday and the church bells were calling people to prayer.

6. When the man collapsed, we called an ambulance.

7. Henry called me and left a message on my answering machine.

8. The new parents have called the baby Molly.

9. My mother was ill and her friend called, bringing some beautiful flowers.

10. Eric has called his book Forgotten Dreams.
Know the Meaning

drop verb

1 (of water) drip, trickle.
2 (of a water level, river, etc: The water level has dropped considerably:) fall, sink, go down, subside, abate.
3 (of prices or demand) fall, go down, decrease, grow less.
4 (with reference to a subject, topic, etc: We should drop the subject of politics if we want to stop Joe and Sara arguing:) stop, give up, discontinue, abandon.
5 (with reference to workers, etc) dismiss, discharge, sack, make (someone) redundant, let (someone) go, shed.
6 (informal) (of a person: Bella worked such long hours that eventually she dropped from lack of sleep:) collapse, faint, fell down, become unconscious.
7 (with reference to an activity: Pam had to drop what she was doing and call for an ambulance:) stop, cease, leave, finish, bring to a halt, discontinue, abandon, finish.
8 (with reference to an object) let fall, let drop, fail to hold.
9 (informal) (with reference to a partner: Tom's girlfriend dropped him and went off with someone else:) leave, throw (someone) over, jilt, give (someone) up, abandon, chuck (informal).
10 (of an object: The plane dropped from the sky:) fall, descend, come down, plummet.

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

It had been raining heavily for several days. Although it had stopped now, water still dropped from the trees. The high level of the floodwater was dropping rapidly, but a lot of damage had been caused to several houses and the town was cut off. It was only possible to get out by boat and very few people had boats. 'Prices will start dropping here after this, you'll see!' said one pessimist, and was immediately told to drop that subject for the moment. There was enough to worry about without that. Since quite a few of the workers employed by the local authorities had been dropped recently because of lack of money, it was taking a long time to clear up the mess caused by the flood. Volunteers had been working day and night and they were now very tired. One of them had just dropped from exhaustion and had been taken to hospital. Another volunteer had had to drop what she was doing and go and see that her elderly parents were OK. Yet another had caused great annoyance by dropping a box of food in the water for food was scarce right then. In fact, her mind was not on the clear-up operation because her boyfriend had just dropped her and she was feeling miserable. People in general were feeling very dispirited but suddenly a cheer went up. Packages were dropping from a plane above and they very probably contained food and essential supplies.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘drop’ for each blank.

It had been raining heavily for several days. Although it had stopped now, water still 1.___________ from the trees. The high level of the floodwater 2.___________ rapidly, but a lot of damage had been caused to several houses and the town was cut off. It was only possible to get out by boat and very few people had boats. ‘Prices will start 3.___________ here after this, you’ll see!’ said one pessimist, and was immediately told to 4.___________ that subject for the moment. There was enough to worry about without that. Since quite a few of the workers employed by the local authorities 5.___________ recently because of lack of money, it was taking a long time to clear up the mess caused by the flood. Volunteers had been working day and night and they were now very tired. One of them had just 6.___________ from exhaustion and had been taken to hospital. Another volunteer had had to 7.___________ what she was doing and go and see that her elderly parents were OK. Yet another had caused great annoyance by 8.___________ a box of food in the water for food was scarce right then. In fact, her mind was not on the clear-up operation, because her boyfriend had just 9.___________ her and she was feeling miserable. People in general were feeling very dispirited but suddenly a cheer went up. Packages 10.___________ from a plane above and they very probably contained food and essential supplies.
Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1 If sales don’t improve, the firm will have to drop several of its workforce.

2 Drop what you’re doing and get out of the building—there’s a fire!

3 Water dropped from our rain hats.

4 Tom yelled when he dropped the iron bar on his foot.

5 The level of the river is dropping in the drought.

6 Sue’s fiancé dropped her just before the wedding and married her best friend.

7 When plans were passed for a new airport house prices in the area dropped.

8 The bird had been shot and dropped from the sky.

9 The children were told to drop the subject of extra pocket money.

10 Tina was almost dropping from sheer tiredness.
Appreciating a Little Sister

Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

‘Leave my things alone!’ shouted Carol to her little sister, Nell, who was watching her put on her makeup. ‘Don’t be so nasty to her!’ said her mother. ‘She’s just a baby and people are more important than things!’ Carol replied, ‘One thing is that she moves my makeup around and I can’t find it. The other day she used a lipstick on her doll and it was the latest thing. I had spent a fortune on it.’ Carol’s mother then remarked, ‘You did things like that when you were a child. We all do. Try not to get so angry with her. Patience is an essential thing to have when dealing with children.’ ‘Sorry! I’ll try to treat Nell better. I’m going to the local shops for a few things. Do you want anything?’ Her mother replied, ‘See if you can find one of those things for freshening air. Someone’s been smoking in the living room and it smells dreadful.’ When Carol came back from the shops, her mother looked worried. Apparently, Nell’s friend, Phil, had been run over. Having a thing about dogs, he had run over the street to avoid one. The good thing was that he didn’t have any severe injuries. ‘That was a terrible thing to happen! I’m glad he’s not too badly hurt,’ said Carol and went to give her little sister a special hug. She was very glad that it wasn’t her little sister who had been run over.

Know the Meaning

thing noun
1. (Pam’s packing all her things—she’s moving house.) belongings, possessions, stuff (informal).
2. (Their furniture was destroyed in the fire but they were all safe and said that things are of little importance in such a situation.) object, article, inanimate object.
3. (It’s a small thing, but I prefer the window open.) point, fact, detail, feature, factor.
4. (informal) (The fashion designers were showing the latest thing in evening wear.) fashion, style, trend, vogue, craze.
5. (Most children do naughty things like that.) deed, action, act, feat.
6. (Tact is a thing that Jenny lacks.) quality, characteristic, feature, trait.
7. (I need several things from the supermarket.) item, article.
8. (Tim’s gone to buy one of those things for hanging plant pots from.) gadget, device, object.
9. (Bob yells when he sees a spider—he has a thing about them.) phobia, fear, dislike, aversion to.
10. (The wedding was the only pleasant thing that happened this year.) event, occurrence, incident.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘thing’ for each blank.

‘Leave my 1. _______________ alone!’ shouted Carol to her little sister, Nell, who was watching her put on her makeup. ‘Don’t be so nasty to her!’ said her mother. ‘She’s just a baby and people are more important than 2. _______________!’ Carol replied, ‘One 3. _______________ is that she moves my makeup around and I can’t find it. The other day she used a lipstick on her doll and it was the latest 4. _______________. I had spent a fortune on it.’ Carol’s mother then remarked, ‘You did 5. _______________ like that when you were a child. We all do. Try not to get so angry with her. Patience is an essential 6. _______________ to have when dealing with children.’ ‘Sorry! I’ll try to treat Nell better. I’m going to the local shops for a few 7. _______________. Do you want anything?’ Her mother replied, ‘See if you can find one of those 8. _______________ for freshening air. Someone’s been smoking in the living room and it smells dreadful.’ When Carol came back from the shops, her mother looked worried. Apparently, Nell’s friend, Phil, had been run over. Having a 9. _______________ about dogs, he had run over the street to avoid one. The good thing was that he didn’t have any severe injuries. ‘That was a terrible 10. _______________ to happen! I’m glad he’s not too badly hurt,’ said Carol and went to give her little sister a special hug. She was very glad that it wasn’t her little sister who had been run over.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1 People do foolish things when they’re in love.

2 I bought a few things in the market.

3 The room in the flat was too small to hold Rita’s things.

4 I’m looking for one of those things to put on wine bottles, once they have been opened.

5 Sam is very materialistic and put things before his family and friends.

6 Pete can’t go up the tower—he has a thing about heights.

7 One thing that annoys Anna about Brian is his loud laugh.

8 The accident at the factory was a terrible thing.

9 This is the latest thing in bridal wear.

10 Concentration is one thing which Garry lacks—and yet he’s very clever.
**Know the Meaning**

**draw** verb

1. (with reference to lots, straws, etc. where choice is involved: We drew lots to see who would do the driving.) choose, select, pick.

2. (with reference to a picture, etc: The class were asked to draw a picture of a castle.) sketch, make a drawing of, paint, portray.

3. (with reference to earnings: Sam works very hard, but draws a small salary.) receive, obtain, get, earn.

4. (with reference to a conclusion: We drew the conclusion that Mary was ill.) deduce, infer, come to, reach, arrive at.

5. (of an exhibit, performance, etc: The show drew huge audiences.) attract, gather, lure, capture the attention of, engage the interest of.

6. (with reference to a cart, plough, etc: The horse was drawing a caravan.) pull, haul, drag, tow.

7. (with reference to water: The cottage had no water supply and we had to draw water from a well in the garden.) pull up, haul up, extract.

8. (with reference to money: Mike went to the bank to draw money to pay his bills.) draw out, withdraw, take out.

9. (with reference to curtains: We switched on the lights and drew the curtains.) close, shut, pull.

10. (The warrior drew his sword from its sheath. The man drew a sheaf of banknotes from his wallet.) pull out, extract, withdraw, produce.

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**Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.**

The art class were excited because some were going out of the school for the day, having drawn numbers out of a hat to see who would go. It had been decided that it would do the students good to have some outside subjects to draw, but it was felt that a reasonably small group would be quite enough to supervise. One of the art teachers, Mrs Williams, had said rather cynically that she didn’t draw a high enough salary to escort even one member of her class, let alone the whole lot. ‘Presumably we can draw the conclusion you’re not keen on the idea,’ said Mr Jones. ‘Not at all,’ replied Mrs Williams. ‘I think it’s an excellent idea if the students behave properly.’ The place that had been chosen for the experiment was an old-fashioned farm on the edge of town, which regularly drew large numbers of visitors. Visitors could see horses drawing ploughs and people in peasant dress drawing water from a well in a bucket attached to a rope. At the farm Mr Jones went to the bank machine by the farm office to draw some money to pay for the entrance fees. He thought at first that the office was closed because someone had drawn the curtains. However, an attendant appeared. Mr Jones drew a whistle from his pocket, saying that they had to go back to the bus when he blew it. Despite the misgivings of Mrs Williams, all the students behaved well and drew some excellent sketches.
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to 'draw' for each blank.

The art class were excited because some were going out of the school for the day,
1. ___________ numbers out of a hat to see who would go. It had been
decided that it would do the students good to have some outside subjects to
2. ___________, but it was felt that a reasonably small group would be quite
enough to supervise. One of the art teachers, Mrs Williams, had said rather cynically that
she didn’t 3. ___________ a high enough salary to escort even one member
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Mr Jones went to the bank machine by the farm office to 8. ___________ some money to pay for the entrance fees. He thought at first that the office was closed,
because someone 9. ___________ the curtains. However, an attendant
appeared. Mr Jones 10. ___________ a whistle from his pocket, saying that
they had to go back to the bus when he blew it. Despite the misgivings of Mrs Williams,
all the students behaved well and drew some excellent sketches.
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. The puppet show drew large crowds.

2. It is quite hard work drawing water in a bucket from a well.

3. We drew straws to decide which of us would get the free theatre tickets.

4. I'm going to the bank to draw money out to pay for my holiday.

5. The students were drawing a vase of flowers.

6. Please draw the curtains if you're going to switch on the light.

7. With such good qualifications you should be able to draw a substantial salary.

8. The man drew a packet of sweets from his pocket.

9. It's difficult not to draw the conclusion that Bill is lazy.

10. The pony was drawing a small cart.
Read the following passage carefully, paying particular attention to the words in bold type.

‘You can’t be serious!’ said Jenny to her husband, George, who had just announced that he was going to teach their son to drive. ‘This is just the right time for me—I’m saving my holiday to take before the end of next month.’ George was quite offended when Jenny suggested that he was not at all the right person for the job and that they should employ a professional instructor. She pointed out that her husband and son argued about everything, including politics, one having right views and one having left. In order to postpone the lessons a little longer and in the hope that George would change his mind, Jenny said, ‘Anyway the car’s engine doesn’t sound right. You should get it repaired. Please don’t do it yourself. You made a right mess of it last time.’ Meanwhile George was ignoring her, pretending to read a car-driving manual. Realizing that it was only a pretence, Jenny said, ‘It helps to read it right side up.’ Just for interest she asked him a few questions from the book. George didn’t get any of them right. He went on to say that it would be difficult to find an instructor whom they could trust. ‘Nonsense, I’m sure a properly qualified instructor can be relied upon to do the right thing.’ George did take his son out for a drive but was back within minutes, crying, ‘Right! I’m phoning an instructor! I told him to take the right lane and he took the left!’
Exercise 1

Find a suitable word that is similar in meaning to ‘right’ for each blank.

‘You can’t be serious!’ said Jenny to her husband, George, who had just announced that he was going to teach their son to drive. ‘This is just the 1. ____________ time for me—I’ve got three weeks holiday to take before the end of next month.’ George was quite offended when Jenny suggested that he was not at all the 2. ____________ person for the job and that they should employ a professional instructor. She pointed out that her husband and son argued about everything, including politics, one having 3. ____________ views and one having left. In order to postpone the lessons a little longer and in the hope that George would change his mind, Jenny said, ‘Anyway the car’s engine doesn’t sound 4. ____________ . You should get it repaired. Please don’t do it yourself. You made a 5. ____________ mess of it last time.’ Meanwhile George was ignoring her, pretending to read a car-driving manual. Realizing that it was only a pretence, Jenny said, ‘It helps to read it 6. ____________ side up.’ Just for interest she asked him a few questions from the book. George didn’t get any of them 7. ____________ . He went on to say that it would be difficult to find an instructor whom they could trust. ‘Nonsense, I’m sure a properly qualified instructor can be relied upon to do the 8. ____________ thing.’ George did take his son out for a drive but was back within minutes, crying, 9. ____________ ! I’m phoning an instructor! I told him to take the 10. ____________ lane and he took the left!’
Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in bold with a suitable alternative.

1. Jim was a **right** fool to resign without first finding another job.

2. You failed to give the **right** answer to any of the questions.

3. You've come at the **right** moment—I've just finished work.

4. Being rude was not the **right** way to act.

5. The **right** person for this post needs a great deal of patience.

6. Cars made in the UK have the driving wheel on the **right** side.

7. Joan's political views are too **right** for Alex.

8. **Right**! We'll do what you want.

9. That engine doesn't look **all right** to me.

10. Could you place the books **right** side up on the table.
A hostage situation

'Someone has just called to say that a woman is being held hostage in a house in Hill Street,' said Chief Inspector Brown to members of the Lumley police force. 'He says that he heard her screaming that she was a prisoner. There may be nothing in it, but we must move quickly in case there is. Sergeant Martin, take Constable Roberts with you and see if there's anything wrong. Call immediately for back-up if need be.'

As the police officers approached the house a man opened the door and drew a gun. 'Go away!' he shouted. 'This is between me and my wife. If you come any further I'll shoot her!' Then he closed the door.

Sergeant Martin contacted the police station to explain the situation. He saw that the man was watching him from the upstairs window of the house, still holding the gun.

Chief Inspector Brown said, 'I'm on my way with reinforcements. I've asked for two armed officers to join us. Don't do anything till we get there!'

When Chief Inspector Brown got there, he called to the man in the house. 'We know you're armed and we'll shoot if we have to. Open the window and throw the gun out of it and then we can talk.'

The window was opened and they heard the noise of something hitting the ground, but it was getting dark now and it was hard to see exactly what it was. Certainly, the thing was the right size for a gun.

The police officers who were covering the back entrance to the house while the others were keeping a close watch on the front heard a sudden noise. Realizing that the man was trying to escape that way, they called to him to put his hands up. He did so and they arrested him.
Read the following passage carefully. Provide a suitable word or phrase that is similar in meaning to each word in bold. You may need to rephrase the sentence.

A reluctant holidaymaker

Dear Jenny

I hope you have a great (1.) time in Greece. I really envy you. You’re certain to have two solid (2.) weeks of sunshine. I, on the other hand, am likely to have two solid weeks of rain because I’m going with my parents to Brighthaven, a small seaside resort on the north coast. My aunt has (3.) a holiday house there and we’re borrowing it for two weeks.

It’s a very picturesque place but the weather can be very wild (4.). There’s quite an attractive beach, but it’s pebbly, not sandy and, anyhow, it’s far too cold ever to sit there. I once cut my foot very badly on a rock and I had a sharp (5.) pain in my foot for several days afterwards.

I’ve been to Brighthaven several times and the main problem is that there’s nothing to do there. The town is quite full (6.) in the summer and it’s quite lively during the day, but it’s dead (7.) in the evening. There’s no cinema, certainly no nightclubs or wine bars, and not even a decent coffee bar or restaurant. I suppose it’s an ideal place for families with young children, but I’m not a child any more. I think my parents sometimes forget that!

I don’t usually go on holiday with my parents any more and I don’t really want to go on this one. However, my grandmother is going and she wants my brother and me to be there to make it a family holiday. She’s getting quite old (8.) now and is not very well. She can’t get upstairs in her house now and she’s had her bed moved (9.) downstairs. I think she may come and live with us soon, which will be a heavy (10.) responsibility for my mother, although we all love my grandmother very much.

Send me a postcard from Greece.

Love

Liz
Read the following passage carefully. Provide a suitable word or phrase that is similar in meaning to each word in bold. You may need to rephrase the sentence.

**Garden tasks**

‘Uncle Jack asked me to call (1. ) yesterday on my way back from work and I found that he’s injured his back. He’s asked me if I’ll help him with his garden,’ said Mr Black to his two sons, Ben and Tony, ‘and I could do with some strong (2. ) lads like yourselves to give me a hand.’

‘Dad!’ protested Ben. ‘It’s Saturday morning and we were planning to hang out with our friends.’

‘Ask them to come and help as well,’ suggested Mr Black. ‘I’m sure Uncle Jack would pay them. I’ll see you up at Uncle Jack’s in half-an-hour.’

When their father had gone, Tony said to Ben, ‘We can’t possibly ask anybody to help. Uncle Jack’s so close (3. ) with his money that he’ll either not pay anything at all or pay a pittance.’

‘I can ask Tom to help for a bit,’ said Ben. ‘I helped him demolish an old (4. ) shed in his father’s garden last week. I’ll go and get him.’

‘Right (5. )!’ said Tony. ‘I’ll see you at Uncle Jack’s.’

Having arrived there, Ben said to Tony, ‘I’d forgotten how big Uncle Jack’s garden is. How long do you think it’ll take us?’

‘Dad says that, at a rough (6. ) estimate, it will take about five hours, with four of us working at it, but you know what an optimist Dad is!’ said Tony. ‘He’s set (7. ) me the task of digging these flower beds and the soil is very heavy (8. ). It’s a back-breaking job.’

‘Where’s Uncle Jack?’ asked Ben.

‘He’s inside lying down,’ said Tony. ‘He was apparently digging the garden when he hurt his back. The ground was very hard (9. ) because it had been very frosty. Even now, I’m having (10. ) great difficulty in breaking it up.’

In the end it took the four of them all day to complete the work.
A shopping trip

‘Hi, Sally. It’s Amy here,’ said Amy on the phone to her close friend. ‘What about coming shopping on Saturday?’

‘I’d love to,’ said Sally. ‘There’re a few things (1. ) I need to get anyhow.’

‘I need a new dress,’ said Amy. ‘It’s Bill’s firm’s annual dinner and dance next week and it’s going to be rather a great (2. ) occasion this year because the firm’s a hundred years old.’

‘Oh, well,’ said Sally. ‘You’ll have to get a very special dress for that. You’d better draw (3. ) plenty of money out of the bank!’

‘I’ll just put it on Bill’s credit card,’ said Amy. ‘After all, it’s because of his work that I need it.’

On Saturday morning, Amy got quite despondent after about an hour when she had failed (4. ) to find anything she liked.

‘You’ll find something if you set (5. ) your mind to it,’ said Sally. ‘There’re a lot of shops we haven’t tried.’

‘I’m ready to drop (6. ),’ said Amy a short time later, ‘and I’ve just seen myself in that mirror. My hair’s so wild (7. ) after trying all those dresses on. I’m going home.’

‘You can’t do that,’ said Sally. ‘I promised Bill I’d help you find something sensational. He’ll hold (8. ) me responsible if you go home with nothing. We’ll just have to keep (9. ) looking.’

Just then Amy spotted a dress in a window of a small boutique. ‘That’s just what I’m looking for, but that’s a very expensive shop,’ she said. ‘There’s no price tag on the dress but, judging from the price of the other clothes in the window, I doubt if $900 would cover (10. ) it and I’m not spending that!’

Fortunately, the dress was not as expensive as Amy had feared and she was very pleased with her purchase.
Read the following passage carefully. Provide a suitable word or phrase that is similar in meaning to each word in bold. You may need to rephrase the sentence.

An unusual birthday present

Jim and Molly had spent a lot of time trying to think what they could give their mother as a fiftieth birthday present. She was a popular person and she would have a great many gifts. Suddenly, Molly had an idea. 'I know! Mum’s a great art fan still, isn’t she?'

'Oh yes,' replied Jim. 'She’s always going to art exhibitions.'

'Then let’s get her portrait painted,' suggested Molly.

Jim thought this was a good idea, although he pointed out that it wasn’t the kind of surprise present they could keep from their mother.

Mrs Brown said that she did, indeed, have a strong interest in the world of art and that it was a very innovative idea. However, she also said that she’d like time to think about the idea.

'Well, at least she didn’t reject it outright as a wild idea,' said Molly.

Molly and Jim were delighted when their mother not only consented to the idea, but also suggested a suitable artist. She knew that the family would prefer a close representation of her and some modern portrait painters were reluctant to do such work.

There was not much time before their mother’s birthday. However, Molly and Jim were fortunate enough to find a portrait painter who held a position at the local art college and who was prepared to take on the assignment right away. Within a few days of having the commission confirmed he presented himself at their mother’s house and began to draw her.

He asked if there was anywhere reasonably accessible in the house where he could leave his painting things so that he didn’t have to move them to and fro. Fortunately, Molly was able to find a suitable cupboard and the artist was able to keep painting each day until the light failed.

The portrait was finished on time and was much admired.
**Review Exercise 6**

Read the following passage carefully. Provide a suitable word or phrase that is similar in meaning to each word in bold. You may need to rephrase the sentence.

**A hold-up**

We were all in high spirits as we climbed on the supporters’ bus. We all thought it was a **dead** (1.) certainty that our football team would win. If we did win we would **set** (2.) a new league record as the only team to remain unbeaten away from home in a single season. Thus, the seats in the bus were all **full** (3.) — or at least they would be by the time the latecomers got there.

All of our players had been playing together now for a couple of seasons and, in that time, they had established a really **solid** (4.) partnership with each other. The opposing team, on the other hand, had a number of young, inexperienced players in it and their best striker was unable to play because of a knee injury. When he was young, he was widely acknowledged to be one of the county’s **great** (5.) players, but he now only played in the local league.

Finally, the bus was full, the last person to arrive being a reporter from the local paper who was going to **cover** (6.) the match. The sky had begun to look rather **heavy** (7.), as though it were going to rain soon, but the rain would not dampen our spirits and the team were well used to playing in the rain.

Just a few miles from the football ground disaster struck. In front of the bus was a **tractor drawing** (8.) a cart full of hay. Suddenly the cart toppled, spilling bales of hay over the road. This got a **strong** (9.) reaction from the fans but there was nothing we could do about it but offer to help clear the road. We missed the first part of the match, but we got there for the second half and we won!
Read the following passage carefully. Provide a suitable word or phrase that is similar in meaning to each word in bold. You may need to rephrase the sentence.

Doubts about the countryside

I'm not at all sure that it was a good idea to come on a farm holiday. I thought it would be a good opportunity for our city-bred children to get some fresh country air and see real live animals.

Within a few hours of our arrival, Jenny had taken her first ever asthmatic attack. The farmer has two dogs with rough (1.) coats and Jenny seems to be allergic to their hair. She has promised never to go near the dogs again and I can only hope that she keeps (2.) that promise.

Maggie, who has a thing (3.) about spiders, saw one in the barn almost as soon as we got there and promptly had a fit of hysterics. She now wants to stay indoors all the time and I've had to take strong (4.) action to get her to go outside. She thinks I'm being a very hard (5.) mother!

Paul is a keen angler and was devastated to discover that the level of the local river has dropped (6.) considerably in recent weeks because of an unseasonable drought. Apparently, the river is no use for fishing now. On the plus side, the weather is still very warm, but with a light (7.) breeze. I hope this weather holds (8.) for the remainder of our stay.

Jack is sulking because there is only one shop in the local village and it does not have (9.) either his favourite magazine or his favourite sweets. He says that he doesn't like the country and asks constantly when we're going to go back to the city.

The farmhouse is lovely, a charming stone-built old house with remarkably solid (10.) walls, and the countryside around is very picturesque. The children could be having a wonderful time exploring — if they'd only stop complaining!
Traffic discussion

A meeting called (1.) by local residents to discuss the council’s proposed new traffic measures took place in the town hall last night. This is an important issue for the town and the meeting drew (2.) a large crowd.

Solid (3.) arguments were put both for and against the council’s proposals and, on the whole, it was a good-tempered meeting. Still, it is obviously a subject about which many residents feel passionate and many feel that the council has yet to come up with the right (4.) answer to what is a very difficult problem.

Several local shop-owners moved (5.) that the council drop (6.) the present practice of closing the High Street to traffic on weekends. They said that their sales had fallen dramatically since the introduction of this pedestrian-only zone and that, if this continued, some businesses were bound to fail (7.). Some retailers said they had come supplied with hard (8.) facts in relation to the sales position and proposed to present these to council members.

One of the council members present, James Robinson, said that he sympathized with the point of view of the objectors, but that the High Street with its charming, historic buildings was one of the main things (9.) that attracted visitors to the town. The old (10.) system of allowing parking on both sides of the street on the High Street had caused such congestion that visitors had stopped coming to the town. He also said that there were two large car parks at either end of the High Street.

Towards the end of the meeting, Councillor Peter Jackson outlined the council’s proposals for extending parking restrictions to some of the town’s suburbs and produced some rough (11.) plans of the proposed scheme. These aroused a great deal of protest and another meeting has been scheduled for next Monday evening.
### 1 Postponed Celebrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 exhausted</td>
<td>1 absolute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 unresponsive</td>
<td>2 without feeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 outdated</td>
<td>3 worn out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 deceased</td>
<td>4 off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 utter</td>
<td>5 indifferent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 expressionless</td>
<td>6 abrupt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 numb</td>
<td>7 passé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 not working</td>
<td>8 dull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 sudden</td>
<td>9 gone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 uneventful</td>
<td>10 blank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2 A Trio of Friends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 well-built</td>
<td>1 sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pure</td>
<td>2 secure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 hard</td>
<td>3 sturdy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 whole</td>
<td>4 well-founded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 substantial</td>
<td>5 pure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 upright</td>
<td>6 firm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 sound</td>
<td>7 hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 cogent</td>
<td>8 united</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 stable</td>
<td>9 entire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 unanimous</td>
<td>10 upright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3 Kitchen Accidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 pointed</td>
<td>1 clear-cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 piercing</td>
<td>2 sudden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 stabbing</td>
<td>3 pointed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 clever</td>
<td>4 stylish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 marked</td>
<td>5 shrill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 sour</td>
<td>6 underhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 abrupt</td>
<td>7 acute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 smart</td>
<td>8 brisk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 dishonest</td>
<td>9 bright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 curt</td>
<td>10 tart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4 A Weekend Trip

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 continue</td>
<td>1 will bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 consider</td>
<td>2 possesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 keeping</td>
<td>3 lasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 clutched</td>
<td>4 is of the opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 conduct</td>
<td>5 judge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 contained</td>
<td>6 occupies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 support</td>
<td>7 could, engage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 believe</td>
<td>8 stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 occupied</td>
<td>9 gripped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 applies</td>
<td>10 convened</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5 A Spanish Trip Is Planned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 pay for</td>
<td>1 was blanketed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 provide for</td>
<td>2 write about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 dealing with</td>
<td>3 be enough for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 travel</td>
<td>4 was attired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 overlaid with</td>
<td>5 didn’t compensate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 smear (his skin) with</td>
<td>6 concealed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 guard</td>
<td>7 includes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 reporting on</td>
<td>8 coated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 clothed</td>
<td>9 could, complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 concealing</td>
<td>10 were protecting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6 A House in the Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 owned</td>
<td>1 harboured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 contained</td>
<td>2 take</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 had experienced</td>
<td>3 possesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 shown</td>
<td>4 experienced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 tolerate</td>
<td>5 contains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 felt</td>
<td>6 was delivered of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 enjoyed</td>
<td>7 has undergone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 ate</td>
<td>8 are given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 gave birth to</td>
<td>9 expressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 had received</td>
<td>10 would, put up with</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7 A Great Occasion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 splendid</td>
<td>1 complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 large</td>
<td>2 handsome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 considerable</td>
<td>3 magnificent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 eminent</td>
<td>4 devoted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 utter</td>
<td>5 vast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 important</td>
<td>6 talented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 beautiful</td>
<td>7 much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 keen</td>
<td>8 wonderful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 expert</td>
<td>9 top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 marvellous</td>
<td>10 crucial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 8 Moving House

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 move house</td>
<td>1 advances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 suggested</td>
<td>2 was touched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 stirred</td>
<td>3 move away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 change</td>
<td>4 must take action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 progresses</td>
<td>5 proposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 was affected</td>
<td>6 shifted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 act</td>
<td>7 was roused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 transporting</td>
<td>8 were driven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 walking</td>
<td>9 will budge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 motivated</td>
<td>10 passed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9 A Postponed Essay
Exercise 1
1 laid
2 direct
3 applied
4 adjust
5 fix
6 started
7 established
8 going down
9 solidified
10 assigned

Exercise 2
1 decided on
2 fix
3 placed
4 sink
5 focus, on
6 has, thickened
7 lays
8 have, been allocated
9 should regulate
10 prompted, doubt

10 Wild Country
Exercise 1
1 rash
2 desolate
3 unrestrained
4 random
5 frantic
6 enthusiastic
7 savage
8 undomesticated
9 stormy
10 untidy

Exercise 2
1 beside themselves
2 barbaric
3 uncivilized
4 untamed
5 madcap
6 blustery
7 undisciplined
8 tawled
9 uninformed
10 mad

11 Revisiting the Past
Exercise 1
1 olden
2 advanced in years
3 former
4 elderly
5 age-old
6 outmoded
7 dilapidated
8 past his prime
9 shabby
10 vintage

Exercise 2
1 long-established
2 tumbledown
3 bygone
4 past it
5 advanced in years
6 cast-off
7 previous
8 vintage
9 up in years
10 old-fashioned

12 Exam Nerves
Exercise 1
1 ceased
2 be unsuccessful
3 were in vain
4 petered out
5 were disappointing
6 was deteriorating
7 be getting weak
8 been unproductive
9 go bankrupt
10 break down

Exercise 2
1 has been declining
2 has weakened
3 stops
4 was insufficient
5 did not pass
6 go to the wall
7 come to nothing
8 conked out
9 faded
10 disappointed

13 Life on the Farm
Exercise 1
1 arduous

Exercise 2
1 difficult

14 Looking after Uncle Bob
Exercise 1
1 onerous
2 hard
3 weighty
4 clayey
5 large
6 serious
7 substantial
8 grey
9 pouring
10 stormy

Exercise 2
1 stout
2 considerable
3 weighty
4 dark
5 arduous
6 torrential
7 substantial
8 rough
9 sticky
10 heavy-weight

15 A Trip to the Supermarket
Exercise 1
1 crowded
2 whole
3 filled to capacity
4 complete
5 well-built
6 wide
7 deep
8 replete
9 occupied
10 filled to the brim

Exercise 2
1 wide
2 rich
3 packed
4 replete
5 entire
6 taken
7 filled to capacity
8 brimful
9 well-rounded
10 comprehensive

16 First Time Away from Home
Exercise 1
1 lightweight
2 slight
3 pale
4 faint
5 gentle
6 entertaining
7 mild
8 small
9 underweight
10 easy

Exercise 2
1 faint
2 minor
3 thin
4 insubstantial
5 soft
6 slight
7 pastel
8 undemanding
9 amusing
10 faded

17 A Hiking Trip
Exercise 1
1 muscular
2 vehement
3 forceful
4 heavy-duty

Exercise 2
1 enthusiastic
2 severe
3 strapping
4 bright
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keen</th>
<th>Forceful</th>
<th>Shouting</th>
<th>Have named</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convincing</td>
<td>Undiluted</td>
<td>Send</td>
<td>Paid a visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>For</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drastic</td>
<td>Assertive</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Has entitled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intense</td>
<td>Firm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrated</td>
<td>Persuasive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolute</td>
<td>Hard-wearing</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**18 Delayed by Illness**

**Exercise 1**
1. Fulfil
2. Detained
3. Went on
4. Provide for
5. Ablide by
6. Sell
7. Store
8. Lasts
9. Stay
10. Hide

**Exercise 2**
1. Observe
2. Store
3. Honoured
4. Stay fresh
5. Detain
6. Stay
7. Carries on
8. Conceal
9. Stocks
10. Support

**22 Flooded**

**Exercise 1**
1. Dripped
2. Was sinking
3. Going down
4. Leave
5. Had been dropped
6. Collapsed
7. Stop
8. Letting fall
9. Abandoned
10. Were descending

**Exercise 2**
1. Discharge
2. Leave
3. Trickled
4. Let, fall
5. Is subsiding
6. Jilted
7. Decreased
8. Plummeted
9. Give up
10. Was, fainting

**23 Appreciating a Little Sister**

**Exercise 1**
1. Belongings
2. Objects
3. Point
4. Fashion
5. Deeds
6. Quality
7. Items
8. Gadgets
9. Phobia
10. Event

**Exercise 2**
1. Actions
2. Articles
3. Possessions
4. Devices
5. Objects
6. Fear
7. Feature
8. Occurrence
9. Style
10. Characteristic

**24 An Outside Art Class**

**Exercise 1**
1. Having selected
2. Sketch
3. Receive
4. Deduce
5. Attracted
6. Pulling
7. Hauling
8. Withdraw
9. Had closed
10. Produced

**Exercise 2**
1. Attracted
2. Hauling
3. Picked
4. Withdraw
5. Were sketching
6. Shut
7. Earn
8. Extracted
9. Reach
10. Was pulling

**25 Driving Lessons**

**Exercise 1**
1. Convenient
2. Fitting
3. Right-wing
4. Normal
5. Complete
6. Front
7. Accurate
8. Proper
9. OK
10. Right-hand

**Exercise 2**
1. Utter
2. Correct
3. Ideal
4. Decent
5. Appropriate
6. Right-hand
7. Reactionary
8. Very well
9. Fine
10. Face

**21 A New Arrival**

**Exercise 1**
1. Wake
2. Summoning
3. Phoned
4. Pay a visit
5. Had convened
6. Consider
7. Be appointed to

**Exercise 2**
1. Is convening
2. Are appointed
3. Wake (me) up
4. Shouted
5. Were bidding
6. Summoned
7. Rang

**19 Observant Jamie**

**Exercise 1**
1. Bosom
2. Evenly-matched
3. Near
4. Muggy
5. Marked
6. Careful
7. Secretive
8. Mean
9. Precise
10. Secure

**Exercise 2**
1. Unforthcoming
2. Misery
3. Devoted
4. Exact
5. Neck-and-neck
6. Tight
7. Nearby
8. Assiduous
9. Airless
10. Distinct

**20 An Island Visit**

**Exercise 1**
1. Hard
2. Uncouth
3. Gruff
4. Approximate
5. Choppy
6. Stormy
7. Shaggy
8. Ill
9. Harsh
10. Rudimentary

**Exercise 2**
1. Turbulent
2. Bushy
3. Difficult
4. Unwell
5. Uncivilized
6. Stern
7. Hoarse
8. Rough-and-ready
9. Inexact
10. Wild
Review Exercise 1 - A hostage situation
1 rung/phoned/telephoned
2 act/take action
3 pulled out/produced
4 clutching/grasping/gripping
5 shouted/cried
6 difficult/not easy
7 object/article
8 correct
9 guarding/keeping watch over
10 careful

Review Exercise 2 - A reluctant holiday maker
1 enjoyable/wonderful/marvellous
2 whole/entire/complete
3 owns
4 stormy/rough/blustery
5 stabbing/piercing
6 crowded/packed/chock-a-block
7 dull/boring
8 elderly/advanced in years
9 shifted/ transferred
10 weighty/onerous

Review Exercise 3 - Garden tasks
1 visit/drop in/stop by
2 sturdy/muscular/brawny
3 mean/miserly/stringy
4 dilapidated/ ramshackle/broken-down
5 All right/Very well/OK!
6 approximate/vague/inexact
7 assigned/given/allocated
8 muddy/sticky/clayey
9 firm/solid/close-packed
10 experiencing/encountering

Review Exercise 4 - A shopping trip
1 items/articles
2 splendid/grand/magnificent
3 withdraw/take out
4 not succeeded (in finding)
5 apply/turn/concentrate/focus
(your mind on it)
6 collapse/fall down/faint
7 dishevelled/untidy
8 consider/judge/regard me
(as responsible)
9 continue/go on/carry on
10 pay for/be enough for

Review Exercise 5 - An unusual birthday present
1 receive/be given
2 keen/enthusiastic
3 excellent/fantastic/wonderful
4 hide/conceal/keep secret
5 keen/enthusiastic/passionate/fervent
6 mad/crazy/madcap
7 true/exact/precise
8 sketch
9 equipment/gear/stuff
10 faded

Review Exercise 6 - A hold-up
1 absolute/utter/complete
2 establish
3 occupied/taken
4 stable/firm
5 top/leading/foremost
6 report on/write about
7 cloudy/overcast/dark
8 pulling/towing/hauling
9 forceful/powerful/vehement

Review Exercise 7 - Doubts about the countryside
1 shaggy/hairy/bushy
2 sticks to/abides by/fulfils
3 phobia about/fear of/aversion to
4 firm/tough/drastic/forceful
5 harsh/stern/unfeeling
6 subsided/sunk/gone down
7 slight/mild/gentle/soft
8 continues/lasts/goes on/remains
9 stock/sell
10 strong/strongly built/sturdy

Review Exercise 8 - Traffic discussion
1 convened
2 attracted/captured the attention of
3 Sound/Convincing/Cogent
4 correct/suitable/ideal
5 suggested/proposed
6 cease/stop/discontinue/abandon
7 go bankrupt/collapse/go bust/go under
8 plain/blunt
9 features/qualities
10 former/previous
11 rudimentary/unfinished/preliminary
Vocabulary Building

This series of four workbooks is specifically designed to provide students with a sound understanding of English vocabulary and ample practice in its use.

Workbooks 1 and 2 focus on the use of such common words as good, fair, fine and nice which either are rather vague in meaning or tend to be overused. By working through the 25 exercises in each book, students should be able to improve their vocabulary, as well as make their own writing more interesting and effective.

About the Writer

A graduate of Edinburgh University, Betty Kirkpatrick has had a long and distinguished career as editor, publisher and writer of English reference books. She was the editor of the Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary, the editor of Roget's Thesaurus and the compiler of the Oxford Paperback Thesaurus. Her Dictionary of Clichés, published by Bloomsbury, is also available in a US edition and a Japanese edition. A language consultant to the Encarta Dictionary and a consultant to Collins school dictionaries, she writes a weekly language column for the Herald newspaper, based in Glasgow.