

CAMBRIDGE LEARNER'S DICTIONARY

WORKSHEETS

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EXERCISE 1 - THE ALPHABET

1. ALPHABET TRIVIA QUIZ: how much do you know about the English alphabet?

How many letters are there in the English alphabet?

How many vowels and how many consonants are there?

What are the three most common letters at the beginning of words?

Look in your dictionary and see which letters have the most pages.

▲ What are the three least common letters at the beginning of words?

Look in your dictionary and see which letters have the fewest pages.

2. SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION

How do you spell?

I'm sorry, could you spell that, please?

Knowing how to pronounce and understand the letters of the alphabet can be very important.

Look at the words below and match the sounds with the sounds of the letters of the alphabet. Some have already been done for you.

okay	deep	see	visa	piece	are	eye	end	why	effort	
easy	jail	you	zed	queue	jeans	essay	empty	be	open	expert

A	day	J		S	
B		K		T	tea
C		L	elephant	U	
D		M		V	
E		N		W	"double you"
F		O		X	
G		P		Y	
H	"aytch"	Q		Z	"....." (UK)
I		R			"zee" (US)

3. Look at the abbreviations below, how do you pronounce them?

Check the meanings of any of the abbreviations you don't know in the dictionary.

DIY	B&B	asap	GMT	www	IOU
CIA	BSE	BBC	PTO	OAP	UFO

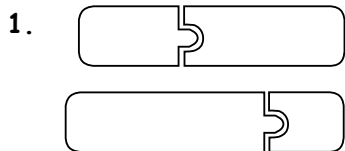
4. ALPHABETICAL ORDER

To find words in the dictionary, you need to know alphabetical order. Put the words below into alphabetical order - the first two have been done for you.

teacher	student	textbook	pen	classroom	test
pencil	study	course	learn	blackboard	revision

1. blackboard 2. classroom 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____ 11. _____ 12. _____

EXERCISE 2 - COLLOCATION



Certain words are often used together in English. Learning these common combinations can help you to speak English more naturally.

Important word combinations are shown in heavy type in the example sentences in the dictionary.

noise /nɔɪz/ *noun* [C, U] a sound, often a loud, unpleasant sound **a deafening/loud noise**
 • Stop **making** so much **noise!** • I could hear a hissing noise. • The engine's **making** funny noises. • There is some background noise on the recording. • I had to shout above the noise of the party.

Look up the words in the box below in the dictionary to check whether they are usually used with the verb "make" or the verb "do". The first two have been done for you.

a phone call	friends	a promise	a choice
business	your homework		progress
an appointment	an exercise		a decision
a mistake	research		a suggestion

MAKE	DO
a promise	an exercise

2. Complete the following sentences using the correct form of "make" or "do".

Look up the words in CAPITALS to check which verb to use.

1. We _____ a LIST of everything we needed.
2. Some CHANGES have been _____, but there is still more work to be done.
3. He _____ an EXPERIMENT to test his theory.
4. The next day, he _____ an astonishing DISCOVERY.
5. He _____ a 6-week COURSE in Computer Aided Design.
6. She ought to _____ more EXERCISE to keep fit.
7. Mum asked me to _____ the WASHING and IRONING.
8. Everyone _____ an EFFORT to be there on time.

3. Many words are often used with a particular preposition.


Choose the correct preposition for the sentences below.

Look up the words in CAPITALS in the dictionary.

1. She APOLOGIZED **from/to/for** the mess.
2. Lots of people are SCARED **of/to/at** spiders.
3. My parents WORRY **for/on/about** me if I come home late.
4. We need to make some CHANGES **with/to/on** the design.
5. There will be an investigation **about/into/over** the accident.
6. It DEPENDS **of/on/from** how much it's going to cost.
7. They finally SUCCEEDED **in/for/to** getting the car started.
8. I wrote to the manager to COMPLAIN **for/about/on** the service.

EXERCISE 3 - FINDING THE RIGHT MEANING

1. **MULTIPLE MEANINGS:** In the sentences below the underlined word has a number of different meanings. Choose the word which best fits the meaning in the sentence.

 In the dictionary words with several different meanings have **GUIDEWORDS** to help you find the right meaning.

1. Which **top** do you think I should wear - the red one or the blue one?
a. HIGHEST PART b. SURFACE c. LID d. CLOTHING
2. She's suffering from a bad **case** of flu.
a. SITUATION b. COURT OF LAW c. CRIME d. ILLNESS
3. I'm quite **fair** like my Mum, so I try to keep out of the sun.
a. EQUAL b. RIGHT c. HAIR/SKIN d. WEATHER
4. Serve this warming winter soup with a fresh crusty **roll**.
a. ROUND OBJECT b. BREAD c. LIST d. SOUND
5. Why not have a second **line** put in so that the kids can surf the Internet?
a. MARK b. ROW c. ROPE d. TELEPHONE
6. A **party** of schoolchildren have been reported missing in the mountains.
a. EVENT b. POLITICS c. GROUP d. LEGAL

2. **PHRASES:** Sometimes when words are used as part of a phrase, they have quite a different meaning.

 Phrases are shown as separate senses in a dictionary entry in **heavy type**.

Look up the entry for "now" in the dictionary to find the correct meaning of the phrase below.

I see Amanda in town **every now and then**.

- a. every time I go b. sometimes, but not often c. now and in the past

3. Complete the following phrases so that they match the definition on the right.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. There were round 50 people there. | approximately |
| 2. We all worked flat .....to get it finished on time. | using all our effort/energy |
| 3. I'll phone him thing on Monday. | at the beginning of the day |
| 4. Don't worry, we'll be there time . | very soon |
| 5. When we arrived the race was way . | already happening |
| 6. We'll have to count them again . | repeat from the beginning |
| 7. Preparations for the wedding are all hand . | being dealt with now |
| 8. We've had end of problems with the new system. | a lot |
| 9. What a mess! There are clothes place . | in many different places |
| 10. The cash machine was order . | not working |

EXERCISE 4 - VERB PATTERNS

1. When you have two verbs in a sentence, it is important to choose the correct form of the second verb. You can find out which form to choose by looking at the example sentences in the dictionary.

+ to do sth (infinitive form)

decide to do something

◦ **decide** /dɪ'saɪd/ verb **1** [I, T] to choose something after thinking about several possibilities [+ question word] *I haven't decided whether or not to tell him.* • [+ to do sth] *She's decided to take the job.*

+ doing sth (gerund form)

enjoy doing something

◦ **enjoy** /ɪn'dʒɔɪ/ verb [T] **1** If you enjoy something, it gives you pleasure. *I hope you enjoy your meal.* • [+ doing sth] *I really enjoyed being with him.*

Put the following verbs into two groups according to which pattern they are followed by.

Check in your dictionary to see which of the patterns are possible.

+ to do sth

decide
risk
promise
admit
consider
agree
expect
imagine
want
manage
regret
need

+ doing sth

2. Some of these sentences contain the wrong verb pattern and some of them are correct. Decide which sentences contain mistakes and write the correct form.

Look up the word in CAPITALS in your dictionary to check which pattern should be used.

Example: He **REFUSED to say** anything until his lawyer arrived. ✓
I **LEARNED driving** when I was eighteen. ✗

1. He **AVOIDS to do** the washing up whenever he can.
2. She had the **CHANCE to spend** a year in the USA.
3. My mum **SUGGESTED moving** it to a warmer place.
4. Because of the weather, we had a lot of **DIFFICULTIES to get** to school.
5. Small companies can't **AFFORD installing** expensive safety equipment.
6. I'm **LOOKING FORWARD to seeing** you again soon.
7. People are **USED to take** the car wherever they go.
8. It's a great film, it's definitely **WORTH to see**.
9. The government has **MANAGED reducing** unemployment.
10. Clive **INSISTED on paying** for the meal.

EXERCISE 5 - NOUN, VERB OR ADJECTIVE?

1. Some words, for example LIGHT, keep the same form as a noun, verb and adjective.

I'll just switch the light off first.	NOUN
Shall I light the candles?	VERB
We should go home now while it's still light .	ADJECTIVE

Some words have different forms:

We will know their decision next week.	NOUN	They carried out a detailed chemical analysis .
They have to decide by Thursday.	VERB	We need to analyse the figures.
It was a decisive 5-1 victory.	ADJECTIVE	He has a very analytical approach.

In the following sentences choose the correct label for the word in CAPITALS.

Look up the words in the dictionary and look for the labels *noun*, *verb* and *adj* if you are not sure.

e.g. I waited for nearly an hour at the bus STOP. Noun

NOUN
VERB
or
ADJECTIVE?

1. I STUDY every day for about an hour.
2. Many shops are CLOSED in the afternoon.
3. They gained INDEPENDENCE from Britain in 1965.
4. The company EMPLOYS around 500 hundred people.
5. Many people have private HEALTH insurance.
6. It's IMPORTANT that parents read to their children.
7. Many of the young children were really SCARED.
8. The new government promised tax CUTS.
9. Is there a station CLOSE to where you live?
10. There's been a DROP in house prices.

2. Complete the tables below by adding the correct noun, verb or adjective.

adj	noun
different	medicine danger
angry	
safe	

verb	noun
complain	advice
choose	
suggest	
correct	

3. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the word in CAPITALS.

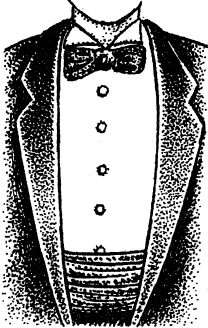
- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. The art gallery is one of the city's main visitor | ATTRACT |
| 2. Being a teacher can be a very job at times. | STRESS |
| 3. We may never know the about what happened. | TRUE |
| 4. She has to deal with a lot of clients. | FOREIGN |
| 5. All the major parties support the idea. | POLITICS |
| 6. People don't like the of taking bottles back for recycling. | INCONVENIENT |
| 7. In the summer he works as a guide. | TOURIST |
| 8. There's been enormous in the area of e-commerce. | GROW |
| 9. We hope to improve access for people. | DISABLE |
| 10. I don't think the library is until 9 o'clock. | OPEN |

EXERCISE 6 - BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

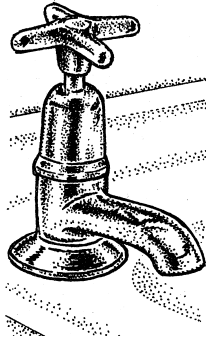
1. All the items in the pictures below are called different things in British and American English.

In the dictionary, American words are labelled *US* and British words are labelled *UK*.

dinner jacket *UK*,
tuxedo *US*



tap *UK*, faucet *US*



trainers *UK*,
sneakers *US*



biscuits *UK*,
cookies *US*



bin *UK*, trash can *US*

Find the missing British or American word with the same meaning as the word shown.

British	American	British	American
1. tyre	.....	5.	eggplant
2.	airplane	6. plait	.....
3.	bangs	7.	cilantro
4. waistcoat	.....	8. spanner	.....

2. Look at each of these sentences and decide whether they are British or American English.

Check the words in CAPITAL LETTERS in your dictionary if you are not sure.

e.g. Don't leave your clothes on the floor - put them in the CLOSET. American

1. I'll meet you at the CINEMA at 8.00.
2. Has the POSTMAN been yet?
3. It's on the sixth floor - shall we take the ELEVATOR?
4. We can stop at the next PETROL STATION to fill up with PETROL.
5. They met while they were on VACATION in Hawaii.
6. Send a copy of your RÉSUMÉ.
7. I'll meet you back in the CAR PARK in about an hour.
8. I never was very good at MATHS when I was at school.
9. You shouldn't eat so many SWEETS - they're bad for your teeth.
10. I think I've got some BAND-AIDS in my PURSE.

3. Now "translate" the sentences *US* > *UK* or *UK* > *US*.

e.g. Don't leave your clothes on the floor - put them in the WARDROBE.

EXERCISE 7 - SPORT

1. There are 17 sports hidden in the box - can you find them? Look at horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines.

E	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	T	I	A	L	O	G
S	U	S	P	E	O	T	A	I	B	O	X	I	N	G
N	Q	R	A	N	A	H	O	C	K	E	Y	N	E	B
O	N	U	M	N	T	L	B	E	R	Q	U	M	T	A
W	I	G	A	I	L	E	A	S	O	I	B	E	L	D
B	X	B	C	S	E	T	S	K	O	C	C	S	A	M
O	A	Y	I	O	H	I	K	A	F	E	T	K	N	I
A	T	S	H	R	Y	C	E	T	L	H	F	I	E	N
R	L	A	E	K	O	S	T	I	G	O	D	I	F	T
D	I	V	P	B	H	I	B	N	O	C	K	N	I	O
I	M	O	A	R	A	W	A	G	B	K	C	G	K	N
N	N	L	S	X	U	L	L	A	G	E	F	E	D	A
G	O	L	F	O	V	O	L	L	E	Y	B	A	L	L

2. WHO, WHERE and HOW?

- ▲ What do you call a person who plays football, tennis or golf?
- ▲ What do you call someone who does athletics or skiing?

▲ Where do you do these sports?

court	track	pitch	slope	course
-------	-------	-------	-------	--------

▲ What do you use?

clubs	skis	shoes	boots	racket
-------	------	-------	-------	--------

3. Now complete the table below.

SPORT	PERSON	PLACE	EQUIPMENT
Football	Footballer	Football	Football
Tennis	Tennis	Tennis
Athletics	Running
Golf	Golf	Golf
Skiing	Ski .....	.....

4. "WHAT'S THE SCORE?"

zero	lost	all	love
tied	nil	won	drew

- 1. Lucky Lad 2. Southern Belle
- England 2 - 3 Pakistan
- Liverpool 2 - 2 Real Madrid
- USA 6 - 6 Europe
- Williams 15 - 0 Hingis
- Chelsea 1-1 Arsenal
- Australia 12-0 New Zealand
- Chicago Cubs 5-0 Cincinnati Reds

- 1. Lucky Lad the race and Southern Belle came second.
- 2. England two three against Pakistan.
- 3. Liverpool two two with Real Madrid.
- 4. The competition was six six after the third round.
- 5. It's fifteen to Venus Williams at the moment.
- 6. The score was one at half time.
- 7. At the moment, Australia are leading twelve
- 8. The Chicago Cubs beat the Cincinnati Reds five to

EXERCISE 8 - IRREGULAR PAST TENSES

☐ Verbs with irregular past forms are shown in the dictionary.

• **buy**¹ /baɪ/ verb [T] *past bought* to get something by paying money for it *I went to the shop to buy some milk.* • *They bought their house for £14,000.*

• **drive**¹ /draɪv/ verb *past t drove, past p driven*
1 CONTROL VEHICLE [I, T] to make a car, bus, or train move, and control what it does *She's learning to drive.* • *He drives a red sports car.*

1. Complete the sentences with the correct past form of the verbs in brackets.

1. She has (write) to the hotel manager to complain.
2. When they (see) the policeman, they (run) away.
3. The vase (fall) off the table and (break) into pieces.
4. We (go) on holiday to Florida last year.
5. I only (sleep) for a few hours and (wake) up very early in the morning.
6. I have (speak) to my dad and he says it's OK.
7. They (find) the photographs and (send) them to Michael in America.
8. I'm sorry, he's not here. He (leave) about ten minutes ago.
9. Angela (feel) dizzy and had to sit down.
10. Tom and Anna (meet) at college.

2. GEORGE AND THE WARNING

Complete the story with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets. Be careful, some of the verbs are irregular and some are regular (ending with -ed).

☐ Check any unknown words in the dictionary.

George ¹ (turn) silently and ² (begin) to walk back to the house. He ³ (keep) close to the wall, hoping that they wouldn't see him. When he ⁴ (reach) the end of the wall, he ⁵ (start) to run back across the garden - when suddenly his foot ⁶ (hit) a stone.

George ⁷ (fall) to the ground but ⁸ (not drop) the book. He ⁹ (lie) there for a few seconds and ¹⁰ (look) back towards the wood. Then he ¹¹ (get) to his feet and ¹² (set) off again through the darkness. He had to warn Lucy.

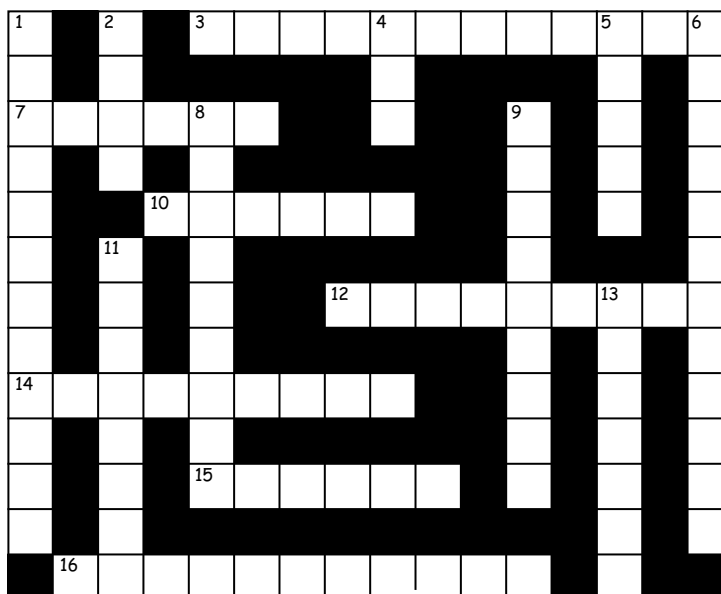
Out of breath, George finally ¹³ (arrive) at the house. He ¹⁴ (push) the huge wooden door and it ¹⁵ (swing) open with a loud creak. George ¹⁶ (know) that Lucy would be in the kitchen and headed along the hallway. Suddenly he ¹⁷ (hear) a noise behind him. He ¹⁸ (spin) round and then ¹⁹ (stand) completely frozen by what he ²⁰ (see).

3. Comprehension check:

- ▲ When did George start to run?
- ▲ Why did George fall over?
- ▲ What was he carrying?
- ▲ What noise did the door make?
- ▲ Where was Lucy?
- ▲ Why did George spin round?

EXERCISE 9 - THE RICH AND FAMOUS

1. Complete the crossword



ACROSS →

- 3 Where an actor gets ready for a performance (8,4)
- 7 The words an actor reads (6)
- 10 When a band is travelling to different towns or countries to perform (2,4)
- 12 The signature of a famous person (9)
- 14 A big car fit for a star! (9)
- 15 When the band comes back on stage to play just one more song (6)
- 16 EMI, Virgin, A&M etc (6,5)

DOWN ↓

- 1 Where you can read about the private lives of the stars (6,6)
- 2 The good guy in a film (4)
- 4 The place where a film is made (3)
- 5 Annual Hollywood film prize (5)
- 6 An American cinema (5,7)
- 8 A luxury apartment at the top of a building (9)
- 9 A person whose job is to protect a famous person (9)
- 11 The first public showing of a new film (8)
- 13 To clap at the end of a performance (7)

2. WELL-

Put the words below into three groups according to meaning:

wealthy famous prosperous fashionable elegant
rich a celebrity glamorous a household name

WELL-DRESSED

WELL-OFF

WELL-KNOWN

EXERCISE 10 - IDIOMS

1. Colours: each of these sentences contains an idiom with a colour in it. Choose one of the colours below to complete the idioms - some colours are used twice.

☐ Check any idioms you don't know in the dictionary.

See the study page on idioms, centre page 26, if you are not sure where to look.

blue	white	black	red	green	colours
------	-------	-------	-----	-------	---------

1. They told me the results over the phone, but I didn't really believe it until the letter arrived and I could see it in and
2. Then one day, completely out of the, the phone rang and it was George.
3. My sister lives in Alaska, so I only get to see her once in a moon.
4. Making fun of his football team was like a rag to a bull.
5. I'm afraid I don't have fingers. My plants always seem to die.
6. She took her final accountancy exams in December and passed with flying
7. When I heard he'd hit my sister, I just saw
8. He was beaten and in the attack.
9. Hannah's going on an all expenses paid trip to the Caribbean for three weeks and we're all with envy.

2. Food: check the meaning of the idioms in the sentences below, all containing food words, and choose the correct meaning. Look up the word in bold to find them in the dictionary.

1. She looks as though **butter** wouldn't melt in her mouth but I've seen her fighting with the younger kids.

- a. she doesn't look very strong
- b. she looks like she wouldn't do anything wrong
- c. she seems very quiet

2. You can't have your **cake** and eat it.

- a. have two things which you can't usually have at the same time
- b. have more than everybody else
- c. stay healthy if you eat too much

3. I was just content to see my daughter happily married, but a grandchild - that was really the **icing on the cake**.

- a. a big surprise
- b. something which makes a good situation better
- c. something which will cause financial problems

4. I've had to take the **carrot-and-stick** approach to disciplining my kids.

- a. only allow them to have healthy food, not sweets and chocolate
- b. tell them traditional stories to explain to them what is right and wrong behaviour
- c. reward them if they behave well and punish them if they do not

5. I don't have anything in common with my brother. We're like **chalk** and cheese.

- a. completely different from each other
- b. one is very clever, the other is stupid
- c. like different food

6. ABC News was left with egg on its face after announcing the result of the presidential election before all the votes were counted.
- were better than their competitors
 - seemed stupid
 - were taken to court
7. I tend to take what they write in the newspapers with a pinch of salt.
- never read it
 - read it very quickly
 - don't completely believe it
8. She thinks her new boyfriend is the best thing since sliced bread.
- very modern
 - more reliable than her last one
 - wonderful
9. Come on everyone, say cheese

EXERCISE 11 - PHRASAL VERBS

1. ☐ Look up the verb "cut" in the dictionary.
 How many different meanings does the verb have?
 How many phrasal verbs are there?

2. ☐ Now look up the following verbs and fill in the correct prepositions to form phrasal verbs which match the definitions.

	..... (sth)	to demand sth
CALL	(sth)	to cancel an event
	(sb)	to telephone sb again

	.....	to move to the side of the road
PULL	(sth)	to succeed in doing sth
	(sth)	to destroy a building

	..... (sb/sth)	to chase sb/sth
RUN	(sb/sth)	to hit sb in a car and drive over them
	.....	to use all of sth so there is none left

3. Now use phrasal verbs from the exercise above to complete the following sentences:

1. A gang of diamond thieves nearly a dramatic robbery at the Millennium Dome.
2. Workers the strike after management agreed to their demands.
3. The tractor finally to let the cars go past.
4. The photocopier has of paper. Can you go downstairs and get some more?
5. Consumer groups are a change in the law.

4. **A really bad day!** Complete the e-mail message below, from Julie to her friend Kate, using the correct form of the phrasal verbs from the boxes on the right. The message has been divided into three sections with a choice of phrasal verbs for each section.

Kate,

You won't believe the day I've had today. It got off to a bad start when I ¹ late because my alarm didn't ² Then on my way to work, my car ³! I tried to get it started, but after about 5 minutes I ⁴ and walked to the nearest bus stop. It was pouring with rain and by the time a bus finally ⁵ about 20 minutes later, I was completely soaked.

To make matters worse, I had an important meeting at 9.30. I ⁶ to the office at 9.45 and rushed upstairs only to ⁷ that the guy I was meant to be meeting hadn't ⁸! It ⁹ that he was ill and had phoned to ¹⁰ the meeting until next week.

It's now 5.30, it's been a miserable day, and I think I've got a cold ¹¹ I'm waiting for my boyfriend to ¹² me and give me a lift home. I can tell you, I'm really ¹³ to a nice long soak in a hot bath!

Julie :-)

find out turn up
 get in turn out
 put off

pick up come on
 look forward