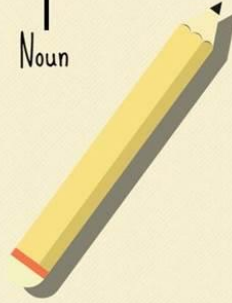


WORD CLASS

The lazy lizard crawled slowly past me.

Determiner/Article | Adjective | Noun | Verb | Adverb | Preposition | Pronoun



The brown cows are staring at me angrily.

Determiner | Adjective | Noun | Verb | Verb | Preposition | Pronoun | Adverb



Countable Nouns

can be counted

have plural
forms

dog(s)
cat(s)
book(s)
trouble(s)
country(ies)



Uncountable Nouns

cannot be counted

are treated
as singular

coffee
sugar
flour
marking
stuff
equipment
furniture
information
software
luggage
footage

have plural
forms
("varieties of...")

coffee(s)
sugar(s)
metal(s)





- ✓ I have too much marking to do this week.
- ✓ The marking is killing me.

Uncountable Nouns



Lisa bought a lot of new
furnitures last week.

I bought a lot of new
softwares for my
computer.

The five new
equipments belong to
our department.



Lisa bought a lot of new
furniture last week.

I bought a lot of new
software for my
computer.

The five new pieces of
equipment belong to our
department.

Plural Forms



We sell the finest teas at our flagship stores.



Two coffees, three teas and a muffin, please.



Collective Nouns

groups/teams of individuals

SINGULAR

acting as a single unit



The tycoon's family is always punctual.



The committee has made a decision.

PLURAL

members act as individuals



The family next door are always shouting.



The committee are always fighting among themselves.



group, team, audience, flock, public, cast, council, crew, staff, gang, company, government, panel, police

Relative Pronouns

who, whom, which, that, where, when

the teacher **WHOM** I respect
issues **THAT** are most important to us
a shop **WHICH** I will readily recommend



We want a team of
professionals **which** is
dedicated to customer care.

Serene is one of those
officers who **IS** always
helpful to students.



We want a team of
professionals **who** are
dedicated to customer care.

Serene is one of those
officers who **ARE** always
helpful to students.



TENSES

simple past

a past event
(specific time
expression)

"We left at ten
o'clock sharp."

"The ambulance
arrived five minutes
after the accident."

past perfect

a past event occurring
before another past
event

"Ben came at
10.05, but we had
already left."

"The accident had
occurred five
minutes before the
ambulance arrived."



VERBS

CLAUSE

I haven't contacted
her yet.

James does not like
deep-fried food.

The police did not
manage to stop the
protestors.

Make sure the soup
does not turn cold.

I watched the
robber climb over
the wall.

VERB GROUP

have... contacted

does... like

did... manage

does... turn

watched... climb



PREPOSITIONS

come before nouns or pronouns

The soldiers marched **PAST** the grandstand.

We went **DOWN** the hill.

Jill looks forward **TO** seeing her kids.

I am looking forward **TO** going to Japan.



Please reply my message.

I want to apply leave.

We need to rework **ON** our marketing strategy.

I need to relook **AT** my lesson plans.

I need to rethink **ON** my life goals.

They have discussed **ABOUT** the contract.

We have reviewed **ON** our procedures.



Please reply **TO** my message.

I want to apply **FOR** leave.

We need to rework our marketing strategy.

I need to relook my lesson plans.

I need to rethink my life goals.

They have discussed the contract.

We have reviewed our procedures.

CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS



Pete will EITHER buy a new
camera OR borrow his father's.

We can go to EITHER the
zoo OR the bird park.





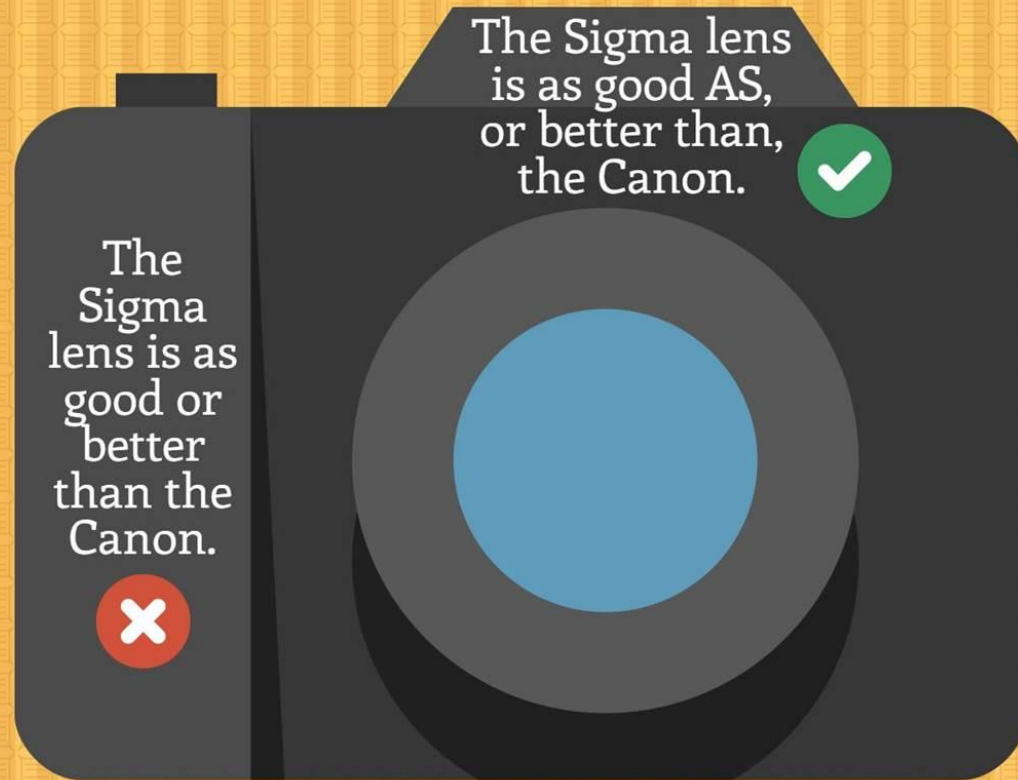
The contract
for the
anniversary
books has been
signed but have
not been
delivered yet.



Alice has
some spare
figurines
and wants
to sell one.



Alice has
some spare
figurines
and want to
sell one.



Nurul is passionate and
interested in photography.

Nurul is passionate ABOUT
and interested in photography.

short-term

STAY



I am staying
in Bukit
Panjang.

long-term

LIVE



I live in Bukit
Panjang.

I am
staying in
a hotel.



SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

NEWS



Frequency of cases
prompt hospital to
launch own study



"Frequency of
cases PROMPTS
hospital to
launch own
study"





CUTLERY ARE PLACED
BEHIND THE COUNTER



CUTLERY IS PLACED
BEHIND THE COUNTER

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

NEWS



Collection of rare
watercolours have
finally found a home



"Collection of
rare
watercolours
HAS finally
found a home"



SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

NEWS



Less tourists head
to Thailand



"FEWER
tourists head to
Thailand"





Tawandang's wait staff have the cheerful friendliness that characterise Thai service.



Tawandang's wait staff have the cheerful friendliness that **CHARACTERISES** Thai service.





The universities' drop in rankings
were probably the result of the
change in assessment criteria.



The universities' drop in rankings
WAS probably the result of the
change in assessment criteria.



Past Tense & Past Participle

British

LEAPT
DREAMT
BURNT
KNELT
LEARNT

American

LEAPED
DREAMED
BURNED
KNEELED
LEARNED

The dancer leapt/leaped across the stage.

I have always dreamt/dreamed that I would
travel around the world one day.

I burnt/burned my toast this morning.

She knelt/kneeled on the floor and prayed.

He finally learnt/learned his lesson.

Collective Nouns (Birds)



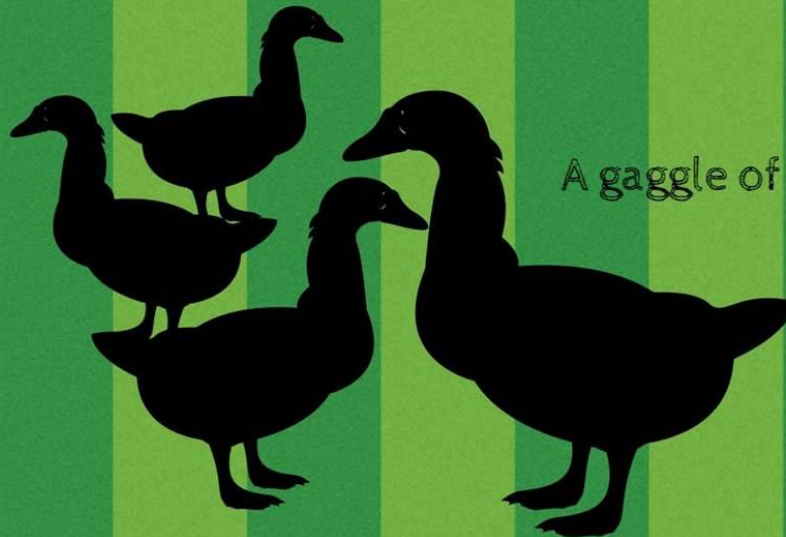
A flight of
swallows



A murder of crows

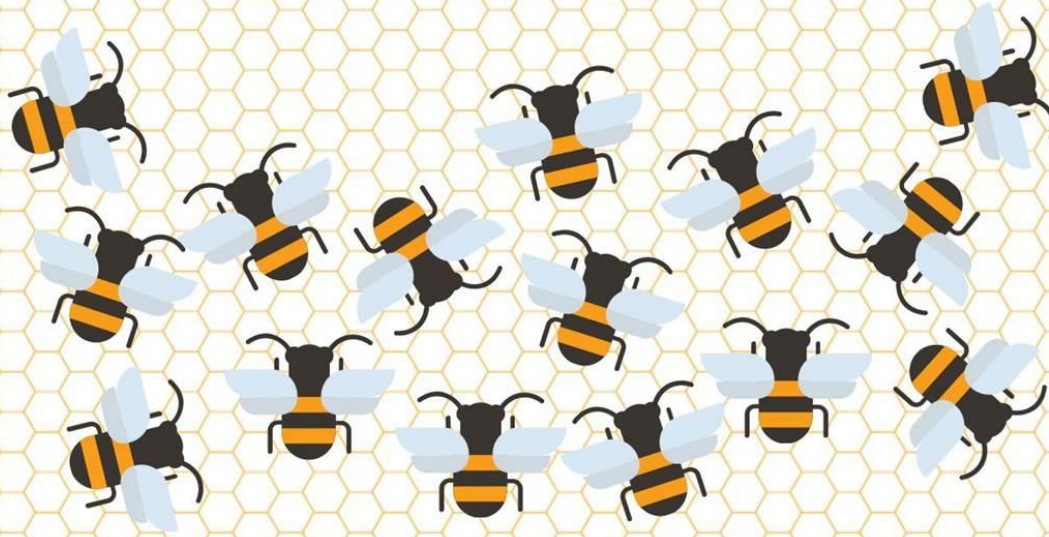


A flock of birds



A gaggle of geese

Collective Nouns



A swarm of bees

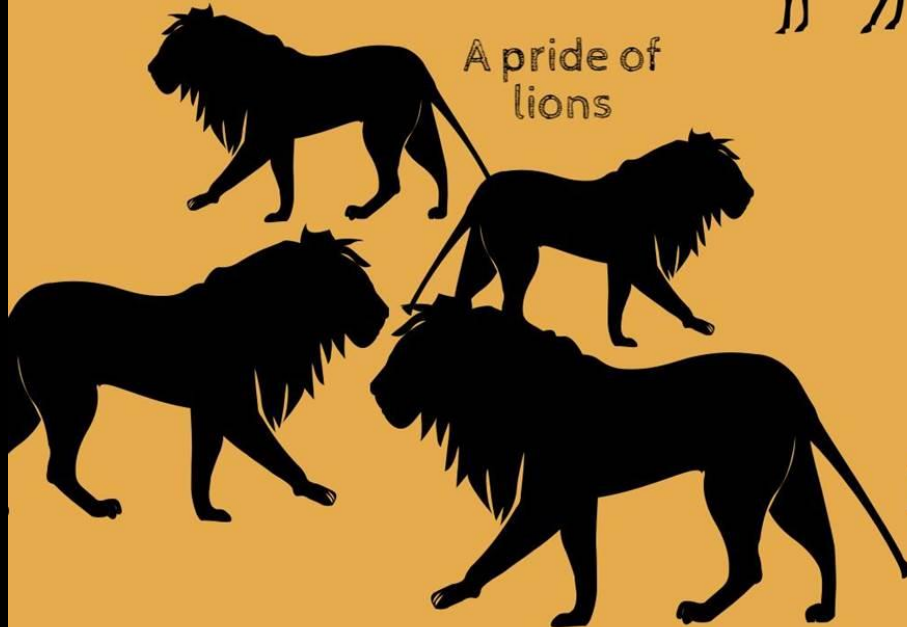
Collective Nouns



A herd of deer

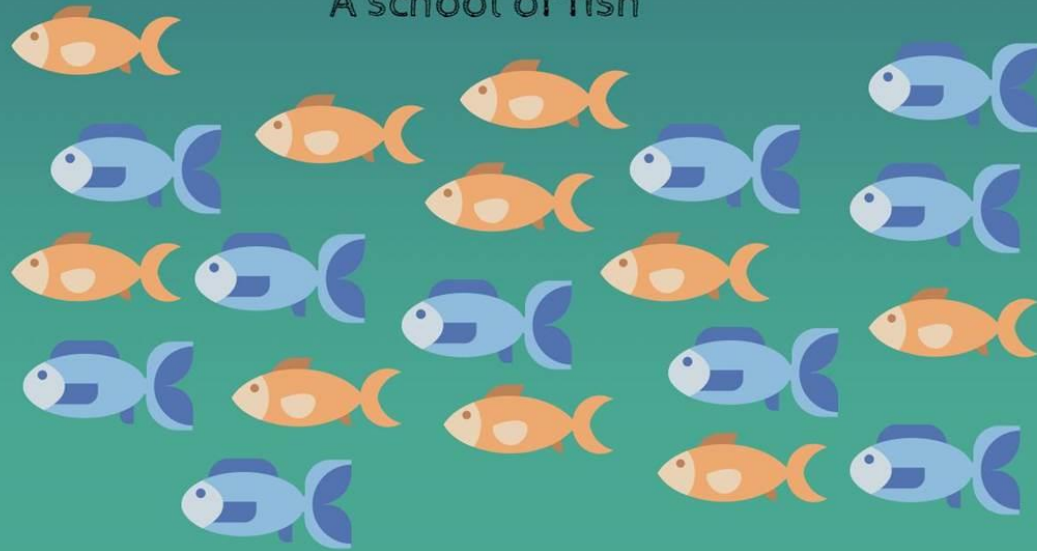


A pride of lions



Collective Nouns

A school of fish



Collective Nouns

A galaxy of stars

A fleet of airplanes



A range of
mountains



Collective Nouns



A deck of cards



A panel of experts

subject
(actor in a
sentence)

object
(word that is
acted upon)



I invited him. She invited me.

-  Jack and me heard gossip.
-  Jack and I heard gossip.
-  You heard it from Jack and I.
-  You heard it from Jack and me.

reflexive
pronoun

intensive
pronoun

"Myself"
works if it's
the object of
the sentence,
whose subject
is "I".

"Myself" can
also add
emphasis.

I consider
myself a
good
student.

I myself
have heard
others
agree.



Ensure that there's an "I" in
the sentence that "myself" is
reflecting or intensifying.

TENSES

simple past

a past event
(specific time
expression)

"We left at ten
o'clock sharp."

"The ambulance
arrived five minutes
after the accident."

past perfect

a past event occurring
before another past
event

"Ben came at
10.05, but we had
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minutes before the
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VERBS

CLAUSE

I haven't contacted
her yet.

James does not like
deep-fried food.

The police did not
manage to stop the
protestors.

Make sure the soup
does not turn cold.

I watched the
robber climb over
the wall.

VERB GROUP

have... contacted

does... like

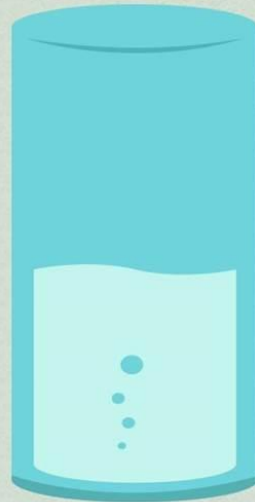
did... manage

does... turn

watched... climb



Could you
help me fill
up a quick
survey
form?



We use "fill up"
when we're
referring to
filling an empty
container with
liquid.

PREPOSITIONS

come before nouns or pronouns

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I need to rethink my life goals.

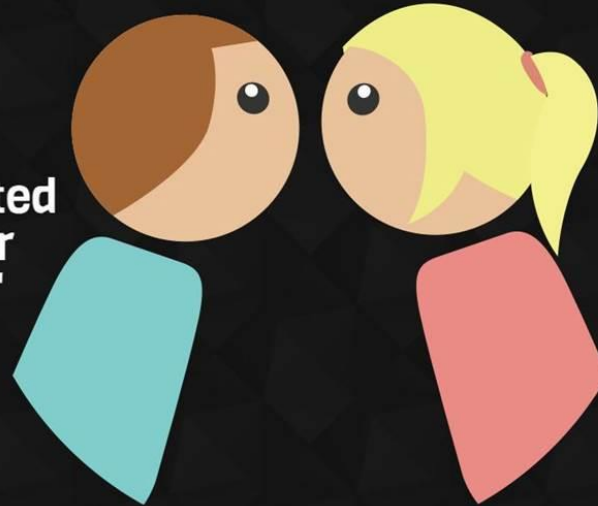
They have discussed the contract.

We have reviewed our procedures.

COMPLIMENT

an expression of praise or
the act of praising something

"He complimented
his wife on her
pretty dress."



something that completes or
makes something else better



COMPLEMENT

"That wine really
complements the
food."

CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS



Pete will EITHER buy a new
camera OR borrow his father's.

We can go to EITHER the
zoo OR the bird park.



If you've had an "off day", it means that your day has been going poorly.

It's my off day.



It's my day off!



If you're taking leave from work, you have a day off, where you are not required to work.

short-term

STAY



I am staying
in Bukit
Panjang.

long-term

LIVE



I live in Bukit
Panjang.

I am
staying in
a hotel.



MUCH

uncountable
... much sleep
... much oxygen
... much sand



countable
... many bottles
... many students

MANY



Let's have
coffee
sometime next
week.

I took some
time to finish
my cup of
coffee because
it tasted awful!

some vague or unknown
time in the future

sometime
(adverb)

some time
(adjective)

a certain amount of time
that is usually long

can be counted

"The NUMBER of work I
have is unbelievable!"



"The AMOUNT of work I
have is unbelievable!"

cannot be counted

Share the sweets among
the three of you.
Choose your favourite
candy among the four
types available.

Share the sweets
between you and
Simon.



Use "between" when you're talking about 2 distinct items, but use "among" if there are 3 or more items.

Young
people these
days are
uninterested
in politics.

As she had no
stake in the new
policy, she was
disinterested in its
implementation.

To be
"uninterested"
is to be not
interested.

To be
"disinterested"
is to be
unbiased or
impartial.



The universities' drop in rankings were probably the result of the change in assessment criteria.



The universities' drop in rankings **WAS** probably the result of the change in assessment criteria.

Use "went" when the action has already taken place.

I went to New Zealand for a holiday last year.

I should have gone to New York instead.



**SPEAK
GOOD
ENGLISH**

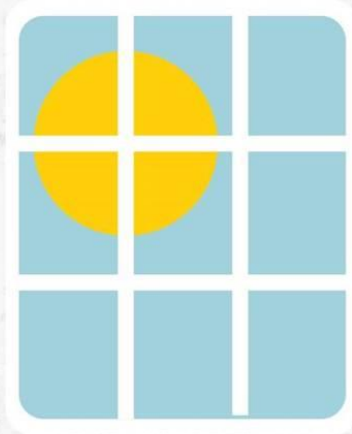
MOVEMENT





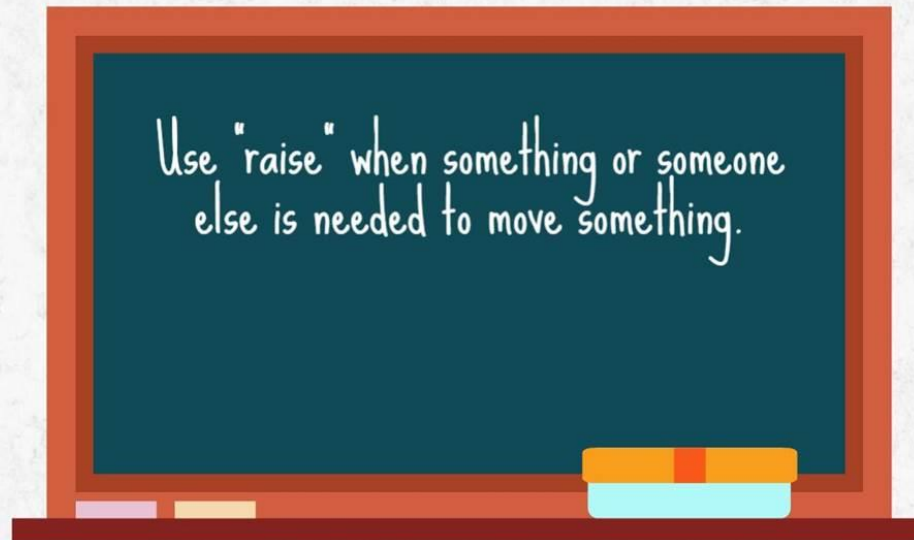
I am pleased to except this job offer! ☐

I am pleased to accept this job offer. ☒



The sun rises.

Use "rise" when referring to an object that rises by itself.



The children raised their hands to answer the teacher's question.

LOOK OVER

To examine something quickly.

OVERLOOK

To fail to notice something.

I will look over
your
assignment.

He overlooked
the mistake in
the accountant's
report.

"Thing" is used to refer to anything you don't want to, or can't, give a specific name to.



Where is that metal thing I was using to mix the cake batter?

I've got so much stuff in the kitchen that the cupboards are all full.

"Stuff" is used to describe any article, material or activity.



HOPE

When you think it is likely that something will happen

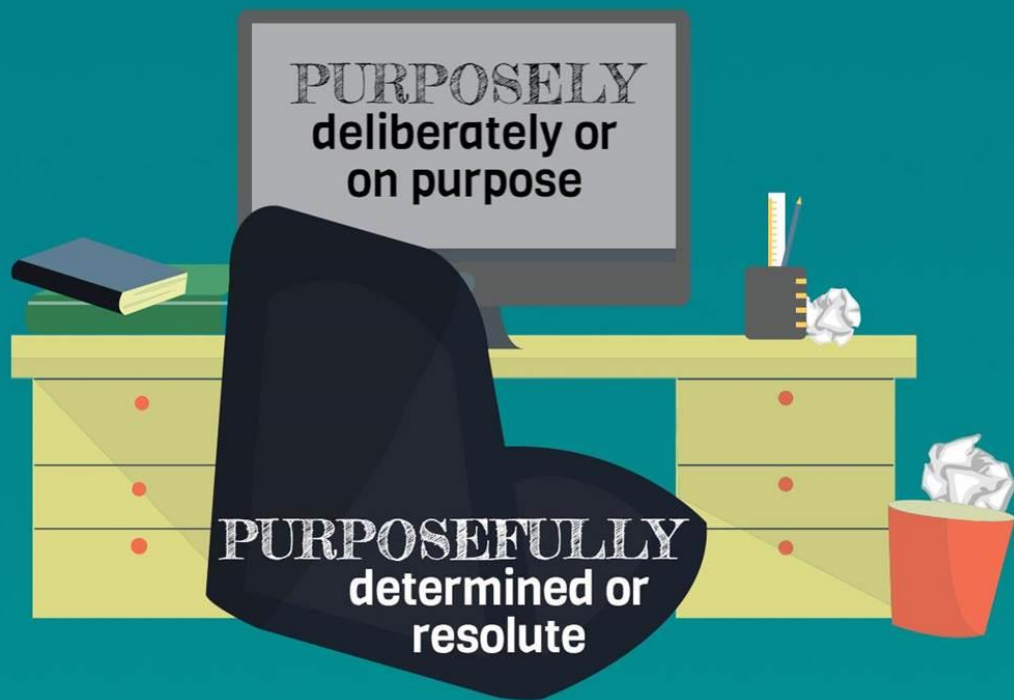
"I hope the rain will stop soon."

WISH

When there's little chance that something will happen

"I wish we could experience winter in Singapore!"

"He purposely set a difficult test to gauge his students' abilities."



"He purposefully walked into his boss's office to ask for a raise."

"Adopt" means to take something or someone, including ideas and methods, and make it one's own.

I've adopted a new puppy from the animal shelter!



"Adapt" means to change something that already exists into something that suits a new purpose.

I have to train my puppy to adapt to its new environment.

COUNCIL

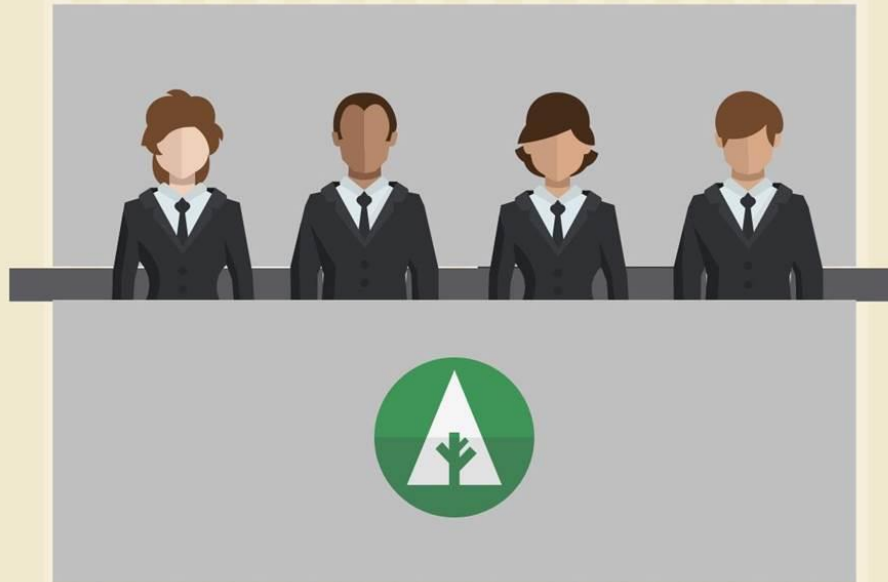
(noun)

an assembly of persons
summoned for
consultation or advice

COUNSEL

(verb)

to give advice

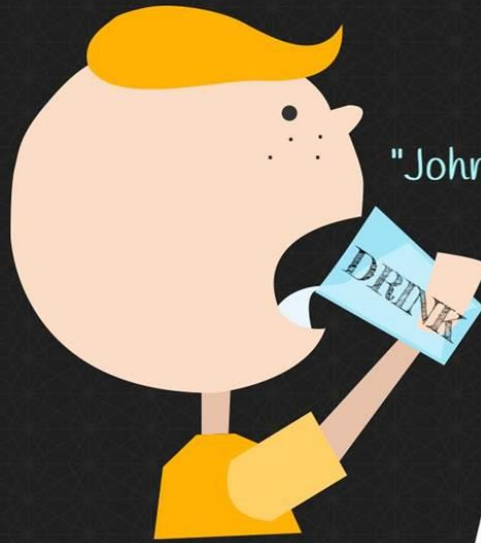


councillor

a member of a council

counselor

a person who gives advice



drank (verb)

past tense of 'drink'

"John drank that cup of water."

(verb)

past participle of 'drink',
indicating past or
completed action

"Has John drunk that
cup of water yet?"

drunk

(adjective)

affected by alcohol to
such an extent that one is
not in control of oneself

"What shall we do
with the drunk sailor?"

(noun)

a person who
is drunk

"The drunk
collapsed in a heap."

drunken (adjective)

showing the effects of drink



"He is in this drunken state because
he took too much alcohol."

IMPLICIT

being less direct
and providing hints
of meaning

After listening to
the lyrics several
times, he finally
figured out the
implicit messages
intended by the
artiste.



clearly expressed
or readily
observable

She gave him
explicit
instructions to
only tap on the
door twice.

EXPLICIT

Do you prefer to drink coffee or tea?

Rather than
repeating
ourselves, it's
sometimes easier
to use "former"
and "latter".



I prefer the
former.



I prefer the
latter.

PREY

(verb) Lions prey on deer.

(noun) Injured or young deer are easy prey for lions.



PRAY

(verb)



I pray that the deer can escape.

pray tell

An archaic way of saying "Please explain"

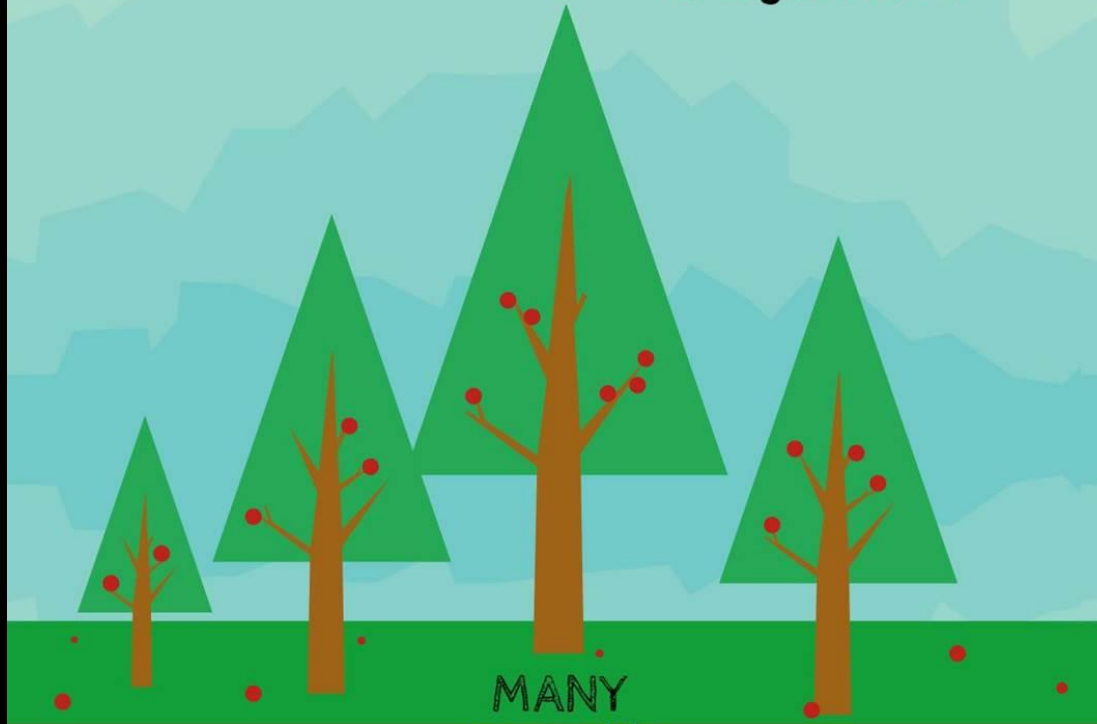
Pray tell, how will you solve this crisis?





MUCH
uncountable

"There is too much
information for me
to digest now."



MANY
countable



"There are many
dogs in the park."

SPILL

present tense



SPILT/SPILLED

past tense

In the past, 'spilt' was the standard past tense and participial form of 'spill'.

In modern English, we often use 'spilled'. Both words may be used interchangeably.



FLOUT

"The rich man flouted
the traffic rules."



"The rich
man
flaunted
his
wealth."



FLAUNT

WAVER
(VERB) to quiver, or to become weaker or indecisive



The students' attention did not waver.

The party wavered between free trade and protectionism.

WAVE
(VERB)

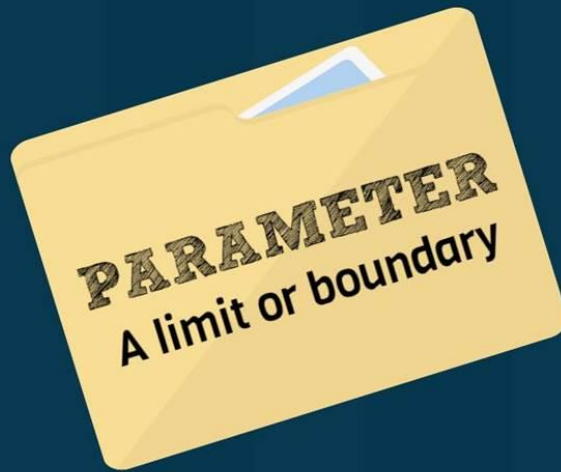
move one's hand to and fro in greeting

(NOUN)
a ridge of water moving along the surface of the sea



WAIVE
(VERB) forgo or defer
"The bank agreed to waive my annual credit card fees."

WAIVER
(NOUN) surrender of a particular right or privilege
"This scholarship will take the form of a fee waiver."



"My boss set parameters for the topics permissible for public discussion."

PERIMETER
a continuous line that forms the border of a space



PRESENT

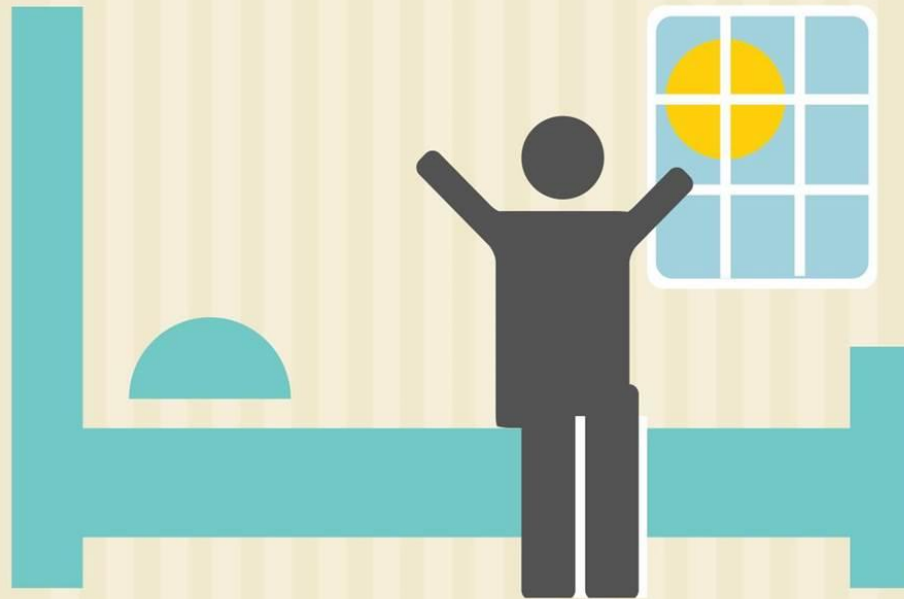
wake
waken
awake
awaken

PAST

woke
woken
awoke
awoken

PAST PARTICIPLE

woken
wakened
awoken
awakened



"Please ask her to call me
when she wakes up."

**I'm going for
a course to
upgrade my
skills.**



**I'm going for
a course to
improve my
skills.**



**"Improve" means to increase in
capability and mental capacity by
education or experience.**

**"Upgrade" is used when we
talk about equipment,
machinery or a standard.**



CORD

several strands of
string or thin rope
woven together



CHORD

a combination of three
or more musical tones
sounded simultaneously

COARSE: Rough or harsh in texture
(adjective)

"The beach has
rough, coarse sand."

COURSE:
(noun)
A route or path

"We did not know which
course of action to take."

I feel
nauseous.



To say you are
"nauseous" means
you have the ability
to make someone
else nauseated.

I feel
nauseated.

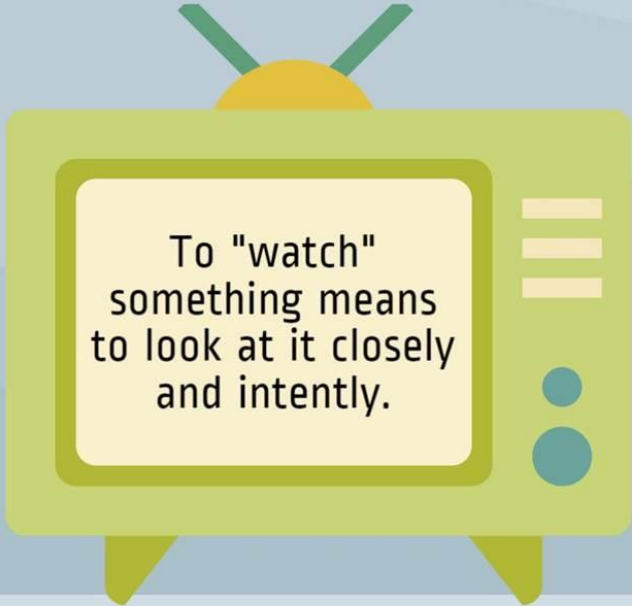


To say you are
"nauseated" means
you were made ill
by something.



When we "see"
something, it
means that we are
looking or have
spotted something.

I saw a shiny
object on the
pavement on
my way to
school.



To "watch"
something means
to look at it closely
and intently.

I watched a
movie.

could

Use "could" when referring to possibilities in the future, or when making polite requests.



Could you please help me carry these bags?

would

Use "would" when talking about unreal or unlikely situations, or when you are making polite offers.



I would travel around the world if I had more time and money.

Use "farther"
when referring
to physical
distances.

Use "further" when
talking about
metaphorical
distances.



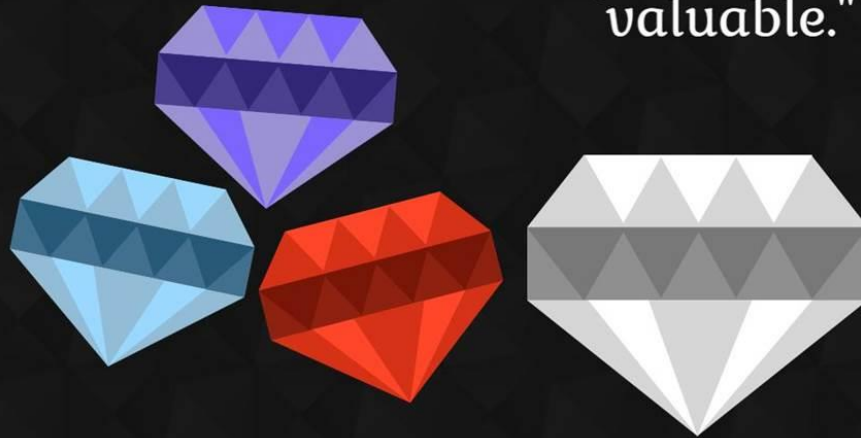
How much
farther is it
before we reach
Kuala Lumpur?

The journey
would be a lot
shorter if you
stopped
complaining
further.

VALUABLE

has considerable value,
usually measured in
monetary terms

"The crown jewels are
valuable."



INVALUABLE
very important

"Our friendship is invaluable."

SURPLUS

an amount that is leftover when the required amount has been met

We were able to return the surplus stock.



I passed him an extra shirt to try on, in case the ones he took couldn't fit.

EXTRA

something being added to an existing amount



to put in effort and
overcome some difficulty
in reaching your goal

I finally attained
my driving license
after two failed
attempts.



I breezed through
my driving test and
obtained my license
on my first try.

to get something
that doesn't require
a lot of work



"Feelings for" is
used with a
positive message.

"My feelings FOR
her are strong
and true."

The message can
be either
positive or
negative.

"My feelings
ABOUT her are
mixed."

I am waiting for
that blouse to go
ON sale.

THE ITEM IS BEING SOLD
AT A REDUCED PRICE.



ON SALE
now!

That new
condominium next
to the MRT station
is now open FOR
sale.

THE ITEM IS
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE.

FOR SALE

HIGH

expresses elevation
and describes
objects that have a
fixed reference point

TALL

expresses and
compares the height
of things

The wall is
too high
for me to
get over.

My commander
is so tall, he
towers over
everyone in the
platoon.



I'm just going to quickly scan through the newspaper.



SCAN

to actively search for something in particular

NEWS

SKIM

to get an overview of all the information present

I'm just going to skim through the newspaper.



2 approaches to studying language



Teachers need to know how errors are viewed by both prescriptive and descriptive grammarians.