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Read this before you start

So you plan to build your vocabulary! Learning vocabulary is a very important part of learning English. If you make a grammar mistake, it may be “wrong” but very often people will understand you anyway. But if you don’t know the exact word that you need, it is very frustrating for you, and the person you are talking to. Good English means having a big vocabulary!

There are better and worse ways to build your vocabulary and this book will help you to build your vocabulary quickly and effectively. You will find it is best to work:

- systematically
- regularly
- personally

Don’t just make lists of all the new words you meet — plan and choose. Think of areas **you** are interested in; look for things **you** can’t say in English, then fill those gaps in **your** vocabulary.

Don’t do ten pages one day then nothing for three weeks! Try to do one or two pages every day. Regular work will help you to build effectively.

Don’t just learn words; you also need to know how to use them. Which words does a word often combine with? This book will help you to learn more words, but also how to use the words you know more effectively. That is an important part of building your vocabulary.

Don’t just use your dictionary when you have a problem. It is an important resource. It can help you in lots of different ways. There are tips all through this book to help you use your dictionary effectively.

Don’t just make lists of new words; organise them. Again, there are tips to help you to learn and remember more of what you study.

Finally, there are a lot of words in English. Building your vocabulary is a long job! There are two more books in this series to help you learn more words, and to help you to enjoy the job!

1 Using a dictionary

If you want to learn English vocabulary, you should have a good English-English dictionary.
Use one with explanations that are easy to understand and which has sentences showing how you use the words.

Practise using a dictionary by answering these questions.

1. Meaning

Which one of these is part of a flower?

paddle pedal pension petal puddle

Of course a dictionary gives you a definition, but it helps you in other ways too. The next questions show you how.

2. Words which go together

Match a verb on the left with a noun on the right.
Use each word once only.

fail	an examination
knit	a joke
lick	an order
obey	a stamp
tell	a sweater

Some words often occur with other words; they form word partnerships. A good dictionary will give examples of the way in which words go together like this.

3. Phrasal verbs

Complete each sentence by using the correct word.
He looked the word in a dictionary.
Look! There's a car coming!
His nurse looks him very well.
Are you still looking that book you lost?

Phrasal verbs are another example of words going together. Look up some common verbs in English and see what examples you can find.

4. Word formation

Use the correct form of the word ORIGIN in each sentence.

The teacher said his writing showed

I think your plan was the best one.

They wanted to stay for two weeks.

Words often have different grammatical forms. A good dictionary will show you these.

5. Pronunciation

Which of these words has a different vowel sound?

knew	sew	few	true
bought	caught	cough	fort
treat	sweat	feet	meet
height	weight	late	great
most	roast	post	lost

You don't really know a word until you know how to pronounce it properly. This is why a good dictionary shows you the pronunciation of each word.

It is not only the sound but the stress pattern which is important, as the next question shows.

6. Stress

Underline the part of the word which has the main stress.

Examples: **ph**otograph phot**o**grapher

complete	origin	pedal
correct	original	together
dictionary	originality	understand
explanation	originally	vocabulary

Remember you can use your dictionary in many ways — not just when you are not sure of the meaning of a word!

2 Word groups — 1

It is useful to make a list of the words you use when you talk about a subject. When you learn a new word, you can add it to your list.

This book will give you some ideas but why don't you think of some subjects you are interested in and see how many words you can think of?

Put each of the words below into the correct list. Use each word once only. Can you think of any more words to add to each list?

accelerator	flowers	necklace	score
brake	giraffe	plant	single
brooch	goal	platform	station
dig	hedge	referee	team
earring	lion	return	tyre
elephant	monkey	ring	windscreen

1. ANIMALS

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3. FOOTBALL

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5. JEWELLERY

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2. THE CAR

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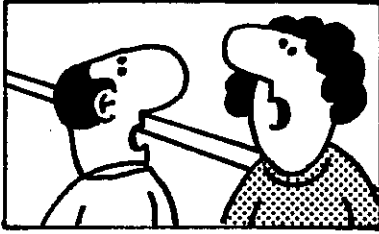
4. THE GARDEN

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6. RAIL TRAVEL

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.....
.....
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3 Everyday conversations – 1



French food is the best in the world.
— Do you really think so?

Match each sentence on the left with the best response on the right. Use each response once only.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Could you repeat that, please? | a. How do you do. |
| 2. What do you do? | b. Oh dear! What a pity! |
| 3. I'm afraid I can't come this evening. | c. Never mind. You can borrow mine. |
| 4. How do you do. | d. Good luck! |
| 5. Where do you come from? | e. Thanks. You too. |
| 6. French food is the best in the world. | f. Yes. It's half past three. |
| 7. I'm afraid I haven't got a pen. | g. So do I. |
| 8. How are you? | h. Indonesia. |
| 9. I'm taking my driving test tomorrow. | i. Yes, of course. |
| 10. Have you got the time, please? | j. Do you really think so? |
| 11. I hope the weather will get better. | k. Fine, thanks — and you? |
| 12. Have a nice time. | l. I'm a journalist. |

Write your answers here:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Can you think of any more responses you could give to the sentences on the left?

4 Word partnerships – 1

Some pairs of words often occur together. This makes listening and reading easier because when you see one word you expect the other. Here are some partnerships.

Match the verb on the left with a noun on the right. Use each word once only. Write your answers in the boxes.

Set 1

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. climb | a. a helicopter |
| 2. drive | b. a joke |
| 3. fly | c. a ladder |
| 4. grow | d. some medicine |
| 5. obey | e. some money |
| 6. prescribe | f. an order |
| 7. repay | g. a suit |
| 8. sail | h. some tomatoes |
| 9. tell | i. a vehicle |
| 10. wear | j. a yacht |

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Set 2

Now do the same with these words.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. bake | a. a beard |
| 2. cash | b. a cake |
| 3. fail | c. a cheque |
| 4. grow | d. a drink |
| 5. hum | e. an exam |
| 6. re-wind | f. a horse |
| 7. ride | g. a lie |
| 8. shine | h. a tape |
| 9. spill | i. a torch |
| 10. tell | j. a tune |

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5 The department store

Learn English and test your memory by using the world around you.

When you go shopping, ask yourself if you know the English names of the products you see. Do you know the names of the departments in a store where you might find these products? Make a list of the different departments you find in a store and write the names of products you might see in them. The exercise below should give you some ideas.

Below is a plan of a large department store. In which department would you expect to buy each of the following? You should have to go to each department once only.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. an armchair | 10. a pair of sandals |
| 2. a bar of chocolate | 11. a pair of sheets |
| 3. a brooch | 12. a pair of skis |
| 4. a clarinet | 13. a rug |
| 5. a doll | 14. a saucepan |
| 6. an encyclopedia | 15. a skirt |
| 7. some lettuce seeds | 16. a tie |
| 8. some lipstick | 17. some typing paper |
| 9. a meat pie | 18. a video recorder |

a. FURNITURE				b. CARPETS			
c. MEN'S WEAR			d. TOYS		e. MUSIC		
f. LADIES' WEAR					g. ELECTRICAL		
h. STATIONERY		i. BOOKS	j. COOKWARE		k. SPORTS		
l. JEWELLERY		m. COSMETICS	n. SHOES	o. CONFECTIONERY			
p. HOUSEHOLD LINEN			q. DELICATESSEN		r. GARDENING		

Write your answers here:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Can you think of any more things you might find in these departments?

6 Which person is it?

If you see or hear certain words you can often guess what is being spoken about and predict other words that may occur.

After you have done this exercise, underline any words connected with the answer, for example 'sheep' and 'mountain' in the first sentence.

You don't need to understand **every** word to understand what someone says. Good guessing is important too!

Choose the best word to complete the sentence.

Look up any words you don't know.

- The took his sheep up the mountain.
a. tailor b. florist c. shepherd d. burglar
- She got a to mend the leaking pipe.
a. traitor b. plumber c. accountant d. docker
- The broke into our house while we were away.
a. umpire b. trainee c. politician d. burglar
- A from each branch came to the meeting.
a. dentist b. representative c. maid d. hunter
- Most dream of leading their party one day.
a. hosts b. caretakers c. guests d. politicians
- After he came out of prison, he had to report to his once a week.
a. referee b. carpenter c. probation officer d. chef
- The said my sign meant I was very romantic.
a. astrologer b. astronomer c. applicant d. diplomat
- I asked the to make the sleeves a bit shorter.
a. sailor b. tailor c. carpenter d. courier
- It took the three hours to unload the ship.
a. dockers b. auctioneers c. undertakers d. miners
- All for the job must fill in the correct form.
a. brides b. employers c. employees d. applicants
- Shop assistants never like serving difficult
a. guests b. consumers c. customers d. clients
- The welcomed them to his church.
a. psychiatrist b. priest c. stunt man d. optician

7 Memory game

Can you name all the things in the picture? Use each of these words once only:

alarm clock
ambulance
banana
camera
cassette

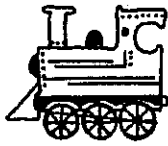
comb
corkscrew
cup and saucer
dollar bill
key

lighter
newspaper
parcel
postcard
shoe

suitcase
teddy bear
toothbrush
top hat
train



1.



2.



3.



4.



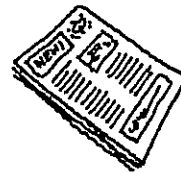
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6.



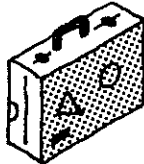
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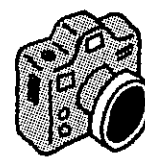
9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



15.



16.



17.



18.



19.



20.

Later in the book, you will be asked how many of these words you can remember — without looking at the words again!

8 'Come' and 'get'

Many words in English can be used in different ways.

When you look up a word in a dictionary, don't stop at the first definition. See how many other ways you can use it. Sometimes one meaning is similar to another; sometimes the same word has several completely different meanings.

Don't just learn one meaning of a new word; expand your vocabulary quickly by learning how to use the **same** word in **different** ways.

These sentences show some of the ways in which the word '**come**' can be used. Complete each sentence by using **come** (or **came**) and one of the words below. Use each of these words once only.

across **from** **out** **undone**
along **off** **over** **up**

1. Don't stay indoors all day! for a walk.
2. I this letter in the drawer of my desk.
3. , children, or we'll be late!
4. She hurt her shoulder when she her horse.
5. What's him? He never used to be like this.
6. I Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland.
7. The water in the river only to our knees.
8. Oh no! My shoelaces have again!

Now do the same with the following words to complete sentences. Use part of the verb **get** and one of these words:

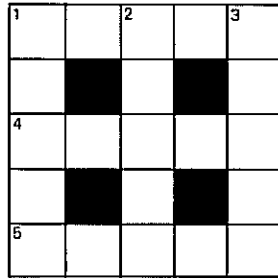
into **on** **ready** **up**
off **over** **tired** **used**

9. How do you with your neighbours?
10. I'm of all these interruptions!
11. He's still in bed. Why hasn't he yet?
12. I'm busy the house for the party.
13. It took her two months to the operation.
14. He a lot of trouble for breaking the chair.
15. the bus at the town hall.
16. I still haven't to this climate.

9 Crosswords — 1, 2

Here are some very small crosswords. Can you complete them? You might need to check one or two answers in your dictionary. You will find more crosswords later in the book.

Crossword 1



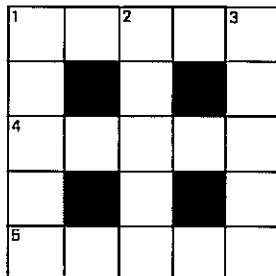
Across

1. The of the pudding is in the eating. (Proverb)
4. He's perfect. He's the man for the job.
5. I don't like this cheese. It's got a very strange

Down

1. Please in block capitals.
2. Where one door shuts, another (Proverb)
3. Untrue.

Crossword 2



Across

1. not, want not. (Proverb)
4. If you don't pay your rent, your landlord will you.
5. Keen and enthusiastic.

Down

1. there's a will, there's a way. (Proverb)
2. Everything he said was nice, but of course there was a in the tail.
3. Come on, you've got to into the spirit of the occasion.

10 Opposites — 1

When you see an adjective in a sentence, ask yourself if it is possible to replace it by its opposite. Where it is possible, you will notice that some adjectives have several opposites depending on the context.

The opposite of 'old' for example, could be 'new' or 'young' depending on the situation. Can you think of any more examples like this? Asking yourself questions about your own English—what you **do** know, and what you **don't** know—will help you to improve more quickly.

Complete each sentence with the opposite of the word in brackets. Choose from one of the following words. Use each word once only.

alcoholic	light	public	smooth
cool	permanent	sensible	strong
generous	present	shallow	thick
high	professional	sharp	tight

1. The student you mentioned is today. (ABSENT)
2. The match was between two teams. (AMATEUR)
3. He separated the knives from the others. (BLUNT)
4. The water is quite around here. (DEEP)
5. I got a very welcome when I finally arrived. (ENTHUSIASTIC)
6. He had a meal before he went out. (HEAVY)
7. Are you sure your belt isn't too ? (LOOSE)
8. The risk of fire is in this season. (LOW)
9. The millionaire was very with his tips. (MEAN)
10. They told me this was a footpath. (PRIVATE)
11. She's got such skin. (ROUGH)
12. They don't serve drinks. (SOFT)
13. Some of them asked very questions. (STUPID)
14. I'm looking for a job. (TEMPORARY)
15. He cut himself a slice of bread. (THIN)
16. She always drinks tea. (WEAK)

11 In the office

Use what you have around you to help yourself learn English. Look at the objects you find at work, school or home and ask yourself if you know how to say them in English. If not, find out and make a list of words connected with a certain place or occupation.

Look at the picture of an office. On the list below, number each item which is numbered in the picture.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| briefcase | desk | rubber |
| calculator | files | ruler |
| calendar | filing cabinet | scissors |
| chair | pad | telephone |
| clock | pencil | tray |
| computer | plant | waste paper bin |

