16 EVENTS

PAGE 141

ceremony /ˈserəməni/ Noun

a *ceremony* is a formal event which involves a traditional set of actions

Collocates: a wedding/funeral ceremony

they were married in a religious ceremony last weekend | wedding ceremonies are frequently performed in the park | the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games | over 2000 guests attended the ceremony at Westminster Abbey

Adjective: *ceremonial*

a ceremonial parade will take place in Moscow on May 8th

parade /pəˈreɪd/ Noun

a *parade* is a big event when a lot of people or vehicles go through the streets of a town as part of a big celebration

the parade will set off from the Town Hall | a military parade | the parade took over an hour to pass by the front of our shop | there were street parades, followed by fireworks in the evening

religious /rəˈlɪdʒəs/ Adjective

someone who is *religious* believes in a god and follows the rules of a particular religion. A *religious* activity is one that is organised by a particular religion

a religious ceremony | many of them were deeply religious | many religious leaders disagreed with the government | she taught religious education in the local school

Noun: *religion*

they did not belong to any organised religion | she taught us to respect all religions

PAGES 142–143

background /ˈbækˌgraʊnd/ Adjective

if an object is in the *background*, it is behind the main thing you are looking at. Sounds you can hear but are not listening to are in the *background*

Collocates: background music | background noise | in the background

it was good background music | the TV was on in the background | you could see it in the background | the dance music continued in the background

bowl /bəʊl/ Noun

a *bowl* is a round, deep dish with an open top that you use to serve food

a few bowls of olives | a glass bowl | a wooden bowl | he poured some soup into the bowls

buffet /ˈbʊfeɪ/ Noun

a *buffet* is a meal at a social event or in a hotel or restaurant in which people take food from a large table and sit somewhere else to eat it

there was a buffet, and everyone helped themselves | a cold buffet (with only cold food) | a buffet meal | they serve a good breakfast buffet at the hotel

chat /tʃæt/ Verb

if you *chat*, you talk to someone in a friendly and informal way

Collocates: chat to someone

it was nice to see people and chat at the party | we chatted for a while before his train arrived | she spent the journey chatting to her aunt on the phone

Noun: *chat* | Adjective: *chatty*

Collocates: a chat with someone

Nice to see you! Have you got time for a chat? | I had a long chat with the neighbour yesterday | my granddaughter's only three but she's very chatty (talks a lot)

clear /klɪə(r)/ Verb

if you *clear* a place, you make it empty by removing everything from it

the second DJ completely cleared the dance floor | police cleared the area around the accident | will you help me clear the table? | I had to clear a space on my desk for the new computer

convert /kənˈvɜː(r)t/ Verb

if you *convert* something, you make it into something different

Collocates: convert something into something

it used to be a factory, but they converted it into an events venue a few years ago | the house has been converted into flats | our house used to be a school before it was converted | they've just moved into a converted church

Noun: *conversion*

we've had a loft conversion done (the space under the roof has been made into a room)

distant /ˈdɪstənt/ Adjective

if someone is *distant*, they are not very friendly or interested in the people around them

they were a bit cold and distant, to be honest | he's become rather distant since he lost his job | his father stood silent, looking distant

gorgeous /ˈgɔː(r)dʒəs/ Adjective

someone who is *gorgeous* is very attractive. Something that is *gorgeous* is beautiful or tastes wonderful

Collocates: absolutely/utterly gorgeous | drop-dead gorgeous

his new girlfriend is absolutely gorgeous | you look drop-dead gorgeous! (extremely attractive) | thank you for the flowers, they're gorgeous | a gorgeous chocolate cake | what a gorgeous day!

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impressive /ɪmˈpresɪv/ Adjective
something that is *impressive* is very good and makes you admire it

the organisation of the whole event was very impressive | *his piano playing was really impressive* | *an impressive achievement* | *the view from the hotel towards the Tower of London was impressive*

Adverb: *impressively* | Verb: *impress*

an impressively large collection of CDs | *her singing really impressed me* | *we were very impressed by the food in the restaurant*

mix /mɪks/ Verb
if you *mix* at a social occasion, you move around talking to lots of different people rather than just talking to one or two people the whole time

No-one was really mixing at the party | *she was very shy and found it difficult to mix*

occasion /əˈkeɪʒ(ə)n/ Noun
an *occasion* is an event that is important

Collocates: a special occasion | mark the occasion

what was the occasion for the party? Was it someone's birthday? | *I only wear this dress on special occasions* | *how are we going to celebrate the occasion?* | *a tree was planted to mark the occasion of the Queen's visit*

pick at /ˈpɪk ˌæt/ Phrasal verb
if you *pick at* food, you eat only small amounts of it

there were some crisps for guests to pick at | *I wasn't hungry so I didn't eat the chicken and just picked at the salad*

reception /rɪˈsepʃ(ə)n/ Noun
a *reception* is a big formal party for a celebration such as a wedding, or in order to welcome someone somewhere

Collocates: a wedding reception | an official reception | hold a reception

my brother's holding his wedding reception on a boat | *a reception for 500 people was held in the evening* | *we were welcomed to the conference at a reception in the town hall* | *the couple were given £2,000 towards their wedding reception (to help pay for it)*

round /raʊnd/ Adverb
if you have people *round*, they come to your home on a social visit

Collocates: have someone round | come round | go round

I had a few friends round for dinner | *why don't you come round on Thursday after work?* | *we're going round to the neighbours' tonight to hear about their holiday*

ruin /ˈruːɪn/ Verb
to *ruin* something means to spoil it completely

there was a big argument which ruined the rest of the evening for me | *the rain ruined my shoes* | *I know it will just ruin my life if I don't get in to university* | *I was so late for the interview it ruined my chances of getting the job*

set up /ˌset ˈʌp/ Phrasal verb
if you *set* something *up*, you make all the necessary preparations for it to start and to work properly

we've set up a new website | *she wants to set up her own business when she finishes university* | *she spent the evening setting up her new computer* | *I run the company now, but it was my father who set it up*

supposed /səˈpəʊzd/ Adjective
if something is *supposed* to happen, it has been planned and is meant to happen in a particular way. If you say that something is *supposed* to be true, most people believe it, although you are not sure

Collocates: supposed to be

don't tell her about the party – it's supposed to be a surprise | *I haven't read it, but it's supposed to be a really good book* | *you're supposed to buy a ticket before you get on the train* | *he was supposed to be coming home for the weekend but his car broke down*

surprise /sə(r)ˈpraɪz/ Noun
a *surprise* is something exciting or shocking that happens which you did not expect

Collocates: by surprise

don't tell her about the party – it's meant to be a surprise | *it was a pleasant surprise to get your email* | *the question took me by surprise* | *he paid a surprise visit to his brother in Manchester*

Verb: *surprise* | Adjective: *surprising* | Adjective: *surprised* | Adverb: *surprisingly*

the news surprised us all | *the ending of the film was really surprising* | *it was rather surprising to get a letter from her after 15 years* | *he looked surprised when I told him who I was* | *I was really surprised how much I enjoyed the film* | *it's surprisingly easy to make a cake*

venue /ˈvenjuː/ Noun
a *venue* is the place where an event is happening or is going to happen

it's an amazing venue for a party | *a perfect venue for weddings* | *a popular concert venue* | *the World Cup is held at various venues across the country*

Pages 144–145

age /eɪdʒ/ Noun
you can refer to certain periods of time as a particular *Age*. For example, the period when people used stone for making things is called the *Stone Age*. A later period is called the *Iron Age* because people discovered iron and used it to make tools, weapons etc.

Collocates: the Stone/Bronze/Iron Age | the Age of Steam | the Atomic/Nuclear Age

people have lived in the region since the Stone Age | *the 1960s were known as the Space Age (because people started exploring space and went to the Moon for the first time)* | *the 19th century was the age of steam and steel* | *the Nuclear Age*

civil war /ˌsɪv(ə)l ˈwɔː(r)/ Noun
a *civil war* is a war fought between groups of people within one country

the English civil war was nearly 400 years ago | *after the revolution of 1917, Russia faced several years of civil war* | *he fought in the Spanish civil war*

communist /ˈkɒmjʊnɪst/ Adjective
communism is the political system that controlled Russia and the Soviet Union from 1917, and a lot of Eastern

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Europe from 1945 until 1991. They had a *communist* political system, and that period in their history is the *communist* period

in 1920, Kazakhstan became part of the communist Soviet Union | the communist party of the Soviet Union | fears of a communist revolution | the formerly communist countries of Poland and Bulgaria

Noun: *communism* | Noun: *communist*

Russian communism came to an end in 1991 | under communism, there was no private property (everything belonged to the state) | she became a communist during the war

economic /ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk/ Adjective
a country's economy is all the business activity that goes on and the money that is moving around the country. Things related to the economy are *economic*

there were political and economic problems in the country | the economic situation is getting worse | our economic policy is failing | an economic crisis (serious problems for business activity)

Noun: *economy* | Noun: *economics*

the economy is recovering after the crisis of 2008 | free-market economics (where the government does not control business activity)

empire /ˈempaɪə(r)/ Noun
an *empire* is a group of countries that is controlled by just one country. An *empire* is also a group of companies controlled by one person or organisation

the Roman Empire lasted about 500 years | the ancient Egyptians established a huge empire | Murdoch created a global business empire

Noun: *emperor* | Noun: *empress* | Adjective: *imperial*

Napoleon liked to call himself emperor | he took his orders directly from the empress Catherine | Britain's imperial past

establish /ɪˈstæblɪʃ/ Verb
to *establish* something means to start it or build it so that it will last for a long time

London was established by the Romans | my grandfather established the company in 1963 | a committee was established to check the work of the engineers | it was an all-boys school when it was established, but now it takes girls too

Noun: *establishment*

the first business establishments here opened in 1905 | he left all his money to the city's educational establishments

exporter /ɪkˈspɔː(r)tə(r)/ Noun
an *exporter* is a company or country that sells goods to other countries. Countries or companies that buy goods from other countries are importers

Kazakhstan is also an exporter of other natural resources | Thailand is one of the world's largest rice exporters | Asia's oldest car exporter | Japan is one of the largest importers of wood products in the world | by 2020 the US will be a net exporter of gas (it will sell more gas abroad than it buys from other countries)

Verb: *export* | Noun: *export*

in 2005, the company exported 20,000 tons of steel | last year we sent over £2 billion pounds of exports to Europe

force /fɔː(r)s/ Verb
to *force* someone to do something means to make them do it even though they really do not want to

Collocates: force someone to do something

the last Kazakh nomads were forced to live on farms or work in industry | my parents never tried to force me to go to university | I forced myself to get out of bed at five o'clock | there's no point trying to force me. I won't pay you a penny

free spirit /ˌfriː ˈspɪrɪt/ Noun
a *free spirit* is someone who does only what they want to do and does not behave in the way people are expected to behave. If you call someone a *free spirit*, you admire them because of the way they live

the name for Kazakhstan comes from a word for "free spirit" | as a child she had been very wild, a free spirit | Bev was a free spirit and always said exactly what she thought

friendship /ˈfren(d)ʃɪp/ Noun
friendship is the state of being someone's friend and the feelings friends have for each other

Collocates: develop a friendship (with someone) | a close friendship

on 22nd March, we celebrate friendship and unity | after 12 years, we met up again and renewed our friendship | she developed a strong friendship with Picasso | it was the beginning of a lifelong friendship (a friendship that lasted all their life) | their close friendship ended only when Joshua died

Noun: *friend* | Adverb: *friendly*

Collocates: a close friend | best friend

Charles became a close friend while we were in Switzerland | I was so sad when my best friend moved to Hull | I still have lots of friends from my schooldays | our new neighbours are very friendly

grass /grɑːs/ Noun uncount
grass is a low green plant that grows all over the ground. It is made up of thin pointed green leaves

they moved around to find grass and water for their animals | the snake disappeared in the long grass | he's cutting the grass in the back garden | it had rained in the night and the grass was still wet | all cows eat grass

Adjective: *grassy*

a quiet, grassy lane led up to the church | the children ran down the grassy hillside

independent /ˌɪndɪˈpendənt/ Adjective
if a country is *independent*, it controls itself and does not have another country ruling it

Collocates: become independent

the United States became independent in 1776 | Mugabe is the only leader Zimbabwe has had since it became independent

Noun: *independence*

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Collocates: gain independence

Kazakhstan gained independence in 1991 | *the country is fighting for its independence*

invade /ɪnˈveɪd/ Verb
when an army *invades* a country, it goes in there and tries to take control of the country by fighting

the Vikings first invaded Britain in 786 | *20,000 soldiers were waiting for the order to invade* | *Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812*

Noun: *invasion* | Noun: *invader*

Collocates: launch an invasion

the German invasion of Russia was launched on 22 June 1941 | *the invasion was successful and a new government was set up* | *the invaders took control of the whole country within weeks* | *the invasion was launched (started) on June 6th*

Islam /ˈɪslɑːm/ Noun uncount
Islam is the religion that follows the teachings of Mohammed. People who belong to this religion are called Muslims

Islam was introduced to the region in the eighth century | *major world religions, such as Christianity, Islam and Judaism*

Adjective: *Islamic*

he studied Islamic law | *an Islamic school in Ankara*

key /kiː/ Adjective
a *key* event, thing, or person is one that is very important in a particular situation

two key events had an important influence on the region | *a key figure in the French Revolution* | *a key part of the course is the two weeks work experience on a farm* | *write down the three key points from chapter 1*

king /kɪŋ/ Noun
a *king* is a man who rules a country, and whose son or daughter will rule after he dies. A woman who rules a country in this way is a queen. In Britain, the queen is the head of the country, but she has a parliamentary government that makes the laws

the king was killed in 1649 | *Henry VIII is probably the most famous English king* | *a list of all the English kings and queens since 1066*

leader /ˈliːdə(r)/ Noun
the *leader* of an organised group is the person who is in charge of it and who is responsible for all the big decisions

political and religious leaders joined together to agree a plan of action | *the leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party gave a speech in Edinburgh last night* | *effective schools need effective leaders* | *Churchill was a great leader*

Verb: *lead* | Noun: *leadership*

she led a team of 12 scientists | *under his leadership, the school improved enormously*

Muslim /ˈmʊsləm/ Adjective
a *Muslim* is someone who belongs to the religion of Islam. *Muslim* traditions and beliefs are based on Islam

Iran is a Muslim country | *a Muslim religious leader* | *Muslim teachers* | *she was born into a Muslim family*

Noun: *Muslim*

I was the only Muslim in my class at school | *a mosque is a building where Muslims go to pray*

occupy /ˈɒkjʊpaɪ/ Verb
to *occupy* a country means to stay and control it after invading it

the Vikings eventually occupied half the country | *Macau was previously occupied by Portugal* | *the Channel Islands were the only parts of Britain to be occupied during the last war*

Noun: *occupation*

during the occupation no one was allowed to leave the city

parliament /ˈpɑː(r)ləmənt/ Noun
a *parliament* is a group of people who have been chosen to make the laws and govern a country. In the English Civil War, *Parliament* was all the people who did not want the king to control the country, but who wanted to choose a group of people to rule

she was elected to parliament in 2010 | *the Houses of Parliament (where the group of people meets)* | *a member of parliament* | *three weeks before the election, parliament is dissolved (stops meeting until after the election)*

Adjective: *parliamentary*

parliamentary elections are due next year

party /ˈpɑː(r)ti/ Noun
a political *party* is an organised group that tries to get elected and become the government in a country

she joined the Labour party when she was 16 | *the two main parties each got over 40% of the votes* | *Corbyn was 66 when he became party leader* | *a party political broadcast (a short programme on television or radio where a political party tries to persuade people to vote for them)*

political /pəˈlɪtɪk(ə)l/ Adjective
politics is the work of getting power and running a country. Things that are to do with politics are *political*, and the people involved are *politicians*

there were political problems for a while | *our political system needs to change* | *his political career ended when he lost the election in 1997* | *there were two main political parties in the country* |

Adverb: *politically* | Noun: *politics* | Noun: *politician*

she was politically active at university | *he went into politics because he wanted to improve people's lives* | *we spent the evening arguing about politics* | *people don't always trust politicians* | *Barack Obama was the most famous politician in the world*

producer /prəˈdjuːsə(r)/ Noun
a *producer* of something is a company or country that makes that thing or that takes it out of the ground

Collocates: a producer of something

Kazakhstan is now the 11th largest producer of oil and gas in the world | *Scotland is a major producer of wood*

Verb: *produce*

they produce 20 tons of paper a week | *Kazakhstan is an important oil-producing country*

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rapidly /ˈræpɪdli/ Adverb
if something happens *rapidly*, it happens very quickly

the population grew rapidly | *things improved rapidly after the election* | *the disease can spread very rapidly*

Adjective: *rapid*

a period of rapid population growth

region /ˈriːdʒ(ə)n/ Noun
a *region* is a large area of a country

people have lived in the region for thousands of years | *it can get very cold in the northern and eastern regions of Russia* | *beyond this region lie the great nations of Asia* | *coastal regions (near the sea) have a lower temperature* | *he wrote a book about German regions and cities*

Adjective: *regional*

a regional government | *regional cooperation is strong and improving*

resource /rɪˈzɔː(r)s/ Noun
resources are things that you have and can use. Natural *resources* are things like coal, gas, oil, iron, etc. that are in the ground and that can be taken out and used

they are an exporter of natural resources | *the country is rich in natural resources* | *the university library is a fantastic resource*

route /ruːt/ Noun
a *route* is the roads and direction you follow to get from one place to another

the Silk Road trade route went through Talaz | *I'm going to try a different route when we go to Scotland next week* | *what's the shortest route home from here?* | *it's important to plan your route before you set off* | *we took the scenic route (not the fastest way, but the prettiest)*

rule /ruːl/ Verb
to *rule* a country means to have power and control over it

Collocates: rule over something

America was once ruled by Britain | *Queen Elizabeth I ruled for nearly 45 years* | *Stalin ruled over Russia and another 14 Soviet republics*

Noun: *rule* | Noun: *ruler*

Collocates: be under someone's rule

the area was under British rule for 200 years | *the region is under military rule (controlled by the army, not by civilian politicians)* | *her rule was firm but fair* | *Peter the Great was a strong ruler*

shortage /ˈʃɔː(r)tɪdʒ/ Noun
if there is a *shortage* of something, there is not enough of it

Collocates: a shortage of something

there were serious food shortages during the winter | *many companies are facing staff shortages (not enough workers)* | *there's a shortage of teachers in London*

Adjective: *short*

Collocates: be short of something | run short of something

I'm a bit short of cash at the moment. Can you lend me £10? | *if you're short of carrots, just use more potato* | *they were running short of petrol*

trade /treɪd/ Noun uncount
trade is the business activity of buying and selling or goods

Talaz was a city on the Silk Road trade route | *our company does a lot of trade with China* | *a trade delegation (a group of business people who go to another country to try and encourage more trade)* | *he believes in free trade (the ability to buy and sell goods with another country without paying taxes when goods go into a country)* | *we need to increase trade with Europe* | *the tourist trade (the business of making money by encouraging tourists to visit an area)*

Verb: *trade* | Noun: *trader*

Collocates: trade with someone

we trade with companies in 17 countries | *they earned a living as shopkeepers and traders*

unique /juːˈniːk/ Adjective
if something is *unique*, there is only one of it, and there is nothing else that is the same

the unique Kazakh culture developed over the next 200 years | *this is a unique opportunity* | *the band had a unique style of music* | *I met a lot of interesting and unique people*

Adverb: *uniquely*

her language ability makes her uniquely qualified for the job (no one else has the same skills as her)

-wing /wɪŋ/ Noun
in politics, people who are on the *left-wing* have ideas that are based on socialism and equality. People on the *right-wing* believe in capitalism

Michael Foot was a politician on the left-wing of the Labour party, while Tony Blair was on the right-wing | *she thought that Johnson was too right-wing so she didn't vote for him*

PAGES 146–147

come up /ˌkʌm ˈʌp/ Phrasal verb
when the sun *comes up*, it appears in the sky at the beginning of the morning and it becomes light. At the end of the day, the sun goes down and it becomes dark

we reached the peak just as the sun was coming up | *I watched the sun come up then went inside for breakfast*

Opposite – Phrasal Verb: *go down*

we hurried home, hoping to get back before the sun went down

consider /kənˈsɪdə(r)/ Verb
if you *consider* something, you think about it carefully before making a decision

Collocates: consider doing something

have you considered going to university? | *I considered taking the job, but in the end decided to go travelling for a year* | *you should consider your decision carefully, then ring me to let me know*

Noun: *consideration*

Collocates: give consideration to something | under consideration

they gave serious consideration to the idea of opening a new shop in Leeds | *after long consideration, the judge*

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decided not to send him to prison | *two new laws are under consideration*

controversial /ˌkɒntrəˈvɜː(r)ʃ(ə)l/ Adjective
if something or someone is *controversial*, different people hold different opinions about them very strongly and cannot agree about them

Collocates: highly/deeply controversial | a controversial subject/issue/topic | a controversial decision

he was a controversial figure, but I liked him | *the government has done a few controversial things recently* | *a highly controversial issue* | *a controversial politician* | *the referee made a number of controversial decisions* | *his controversial remarks were reported on radio and TV*

Adverb: *controversially* | Noun: *controversy*

Collocates: cause controversy

controversially, there were no women teachers in the school | *the proposals caused a lot of controversy*

experimental /ɪkˌsperɪˈment(ə)l/ Adjective
an experiment is a scientific test that you do to see what happens under certain conditions. Activities that you do like this are *experimental*

the medicine was still in the experimental stage | *the experimental methods of Dr Hughes* | *an experimental research project* | *the experimental nature of his work* | *the experimental results were encouraging*

Adverb: *experimentally* | Verb: *experiment* | Noun: *experiment*

Collocates: experiment on someone or something | carry out/conduct an experiment

it has been proved experimentally that the plant will not grow in the dark | *we experimented on rabbits before giving the drug to humans* | *I don't think they should carry out experiments on animals* | *we spent the whole chemistry lesson doing just one experiment*

grateful /ˈgreɪtf(ə)l/ Adjective
if you are *grateful* to someone, you are glad that they have helped you or given you something

Collocates: be/feel grateful to someone | be/feel grateful for something

I'll always be grateful to the doctor who saved my sight | *I'm grateful for all your help* | *I'd be very grateful if you could phone me* | *the families were very grateful for the work she did*

Adverb: *gratefully* | Noun: *gratitude*

any suggestions will be gratefully received | *he accepted my offer with gratitude*

peak /piːk/ Noun
a *peak* is the top of a mountain

we reached the peak just as the sun was coming up | *Mont Blanc is the highest peak in Europe* | *the mountain peak was still a long way ahead of us* | *snow-covered peaks*

regret /rɪˈgret/ Noun
if you have *regrets* about something, you feel bad about it and wish things had happened differently

Collocates: have (a) regret

one of my biggest regrets was that I missed his memorial service | *he has finally expressed regret for his unacceptable behaviour* | *I had no regrets at all about leaving school before the exams*

Verb: *regret*

Collocates: regret that | regret doing something

she sometimes regrets the decisions she has made | *I regret what happened that day in Rome* | *he regretted sending the email while he was still angry*

restore /rɪˈstɔː(r)/ Verb
if you *restore* something that was broken or not working properly, you repair it or do something so that it starts working normally again

luckily, my sight was restored | *we must restore peace to the country after the war* | *the church has been beautifully restored*

Noun: *restoration*

the doctor couldn't promise complete restoration of my hearing | *restoration of the cathedral took over 20 years*

severely /sɪˈvɪə(r)li/ Adverb
severely means extremely badly

my eyes had been severely damaged in an accident at work | *he became severely depressed after losing his job* | *two passengers were severely injured in the crash*

Adjective: *severe* | Noun: *severity*

there will be severe storms in the south of the country tomorrow | *you should see a doctor if you're suffering from severe chest pain* | *the severity of his illness worried his family*

sexual discrimination /ˌsekʃuəl dɪˌskrɪmɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount
discrimination is behaviour that deliberately deals with a person or group of people unfairly and unequally. *Sexual discrimination* or *sex discrimination* is unfair treatment of someone because of their gender (whether they are male or female); *racial discrimination* is unfair treatment of people because of the colour of their skin

Collocates: racial/gender/sex discrimination

she fought for women's rights and against sexual discrimination | *there was no evidence of racial discrimination in the school* | *although it's not as common, men can also suffer from sex discrimination* | *discrimination still happens, even though it's against the law*

Verb: *discriminate*

Collocates: discriminate against someone

some people say the new law discriminates against women | *he said the tax system discriminates against small companies*

sight /saɪt/ Noun uncount
someone's *sight* is their ability to see things

luckily, my sight was restored | *she lost the sight in one eye after the accident* | *the doctors saved my sight by operating straight away* | *he's still got very poor sight* | *these birds have a powerful sense of sight*

stage /steɪdʒ/ Noun
a *stage* is a particular period of time during a process

Collocates: the early/final stages of something

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the medicine was still in the experimental stage | *we're still in the early stages of the project* | *the building is in its final stage, and should be finished next month* | *most pupils start here at the age of 11, but some join the school at a later stage*

surgeon /ˈsɜː(r)dʒ(ə)n/ Noun
a *surgeon* is a doctor who cuts people's bodies open in order to repair them or replace parts of them

thanks to my surgeon, I can now see my two kids | *it takes years of training to become a surgeon* | *the surgeon removed a lump from my knee* | *a top heart surgeon (a surgeon who specialises in operating on people's hearts)*

welcoming /ˈwelkəmɪŋ/ Adjective
if someone you do not know is *welcoming*, they are very friendly to you when you arrive somewhere

the people there were very welcoming when we arrived | *she gave a welcoming smile* | *a hotel with a welcoming atmosphere* | *the staff are very friendly and welcoming*

Verb: *welcome* | Adjective: *welcome*

Collocates: make someone welcome

the owner liked to welcome guests at the door of the hotel | *John, the manager, welcomed us and showed us around* | *they were so friendly that we felt welcome from the start* | *the staff made us welcome after our long journey*

Page 148

continent /ˈkɒntɪnənt/ Noun
a *continent* is one of the seven large areas of land on the earth. They are Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia

Asia is the largest continent, and Australia is the smallest | *an attempt to cycle across the continent in three weeks* | *when he got to Cuba, Columbus thought he had discovered a continent, not an island*

earth /ɜː(r)θ/ Noun
the *earth* is the planet that we live on

he now knew the earth was round | *Asia is the largest continent on the earth* | *a photograph of the earth taken from the moon* | *the earth is about 4 billion years old*

flat /flæt/ Adjective
something that is *flat* is level and even, not round or curved

people used to think the world was flat | *put the board on a flat surface* | *Holland is very flat (it doesn't have many hills)*

persuade /pə(r)ˈsweɪd/ Verb
if you *persuade* someone to do something, you talk to them and give them reasons which make them do it

Collocates: persuade someone to do something | persuade someone that

Columbus persuaded the king to give him some money | *her teacher persuaded her to start doing judo* | *she persuaded her father that it was a good idea* | *I tried to persuade him to change his mind*

Noun: *persuasion* | Adjective: *persuasive* | Adverb: *persuasively*

after a little persuasion, he agreed to lend me his car | *it didn't need much persuasion to get her to come to the theatre* | *he was so persuasive I finally agreed to buy the car* | *she spoke persuasively about the need to fight to keep the hospital open*

voyage /ˈvɔɪɪdʒ/ Noun
a *voyage* is a long journey, usually across the ocean on a ship

Columbus did not have enough money to pay for his voyage himself | *the voyage took over two weeks* | *the sea was very rough on the first day of the voyage* | *he hardly slept during the whole voyage* | *a transatlantic voyage (across the Atlantic Ocean)*

Noun: *voyager*

the island was discovered by Dutch voyagers in the 18th century

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EXERCISES

PREPOSITIONS

A Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

1 The dance music continued ..... the background.
2 The house has been converted ..... flats.
3 She spent the journey chatting ..... her aunt on the phone.
4 There's a shortage ..... teachers in London.
5 Scotland is a major producer ..... wood.
6 I don't think scientists should experiment ..... animals.

B Choose the correct preposition.

1 We trade *with* / *to* companies in 17 countries.
2 The question she asked took me *by* / *on* surprise.
3 The area was *over* / *under* British rule for 200 years.
4 I'm a bit short *from* / *of* cash at the moment. Can you lend me £10?
5 She developed a strong friendship *with* / *for* Picasso.
6 People say the new law discriminates *against* / *to* women.

WORD FAMILIES

C Complete the expressions with the correct form of the word in bold.

1 Germany **invaded** Poland in 1939.	a military .....
2 Vikings **occupied** half the country	the Viking ..... of Britain
3 My grandfather **established** the company.	an important business .....
4 The USA became **independent** in 1776.	they gained ..... in 1776
5 The **economic** situation is improving.	improvements in the .....
6 He was a **controversial** figure.	he caused a .....

D Tick the words which are both a verb and a noun.

1 regret .....
2 trade .....
3 occupy .....
4 invade .....
5 chat .....
6 convert .....

COLLOCATIONS

E Complete the sentences with the adjectives in the box. Look up the adjectives if you need help.

rapid drop-dead	religious background	political	key

1 I can't hear you. There's a lot of ..... noise.
2 His girlfriend is ..... gorgeous!
3 They were deeply ..... and went to church often.
4 We had to write down the three ..... points from chapter 1.
5 His ..... career ended when he lost the election.
6 The country went through a period of ..... economic growth.

F Complete the collocations from the unit. Look up the nouns if you need help.

1 a f_ _ _ _ _l ceremony
2 a w_ _ _ _ _g reception
3 a s_ _ _ _ _l occasion
4 r_ _ _ _l discrimination
5 the R_ _ _ n Empire
6 the n_ _ _ _ _ r age

G Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box. Look up the words in bold if you need help.

give	launch	have	conduct	make	hold

1 My brother's ..... his wedding **reception** on a boat.
2 They ..... the **invasion** three weeks ago.
3 They didn't ..... serious **consideration** to the idea.
4 We never ..... **experiments** on animals.
5 I ..... no **regrets** about leaving school before the exams.
6 The staff ..... us **welcome** after our long journey.

PHRASAL VERBS

H Choose the correct word to complete the phrasal verb.

1 She wants to set *up* / *out* her own business after university.
2 I didn't eat the chicken and just picked *up* / *at* the salad.
3 I watched the sun come *down* / *up* then went inside for breakfast.
4 In the evening, we sat in the garden until the sun went *out* / *down*.

PATTERNS

I Put the verb in brackets in the correct form (*to* + infinitive or *-ing*).

1 You're supposed ..... a ticket before you get on the train. (buy)
2 My parents never tried to force me ..... to university. (go)
3 He regretted ..... the email while he was still angry. (send)
4 I considered ..... the job, but I decided against it. (take)
5 Columbus persuaded the king ..... him some money. (give)

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