

16 DANGER AND RISK

PAGES 142–143

agony /'ægəni/ Noun

agony is extreme physical pain

Collocates: in agony

I was screaming my head off in agony | you could see he was in agony when his wrist snapped | he must have suffered such agony | the feel of the knife against his knee was sheer agony

Adjective: *agonising* | Adverb: *agonisingly*

the pain was agonising | doctors told police his death was agonising | with no drugs available, the operation was agonisingly painful

come to /,kʌm 'tʊ/ Phrasal verb

if you *come to*, you wake up after being unconscious for a while

when I came to I realised I couldn't feel my hands | after he fainted it was 10 minutes before he came to | she was quite unsteady on her feet after she had come to

forehead /'fɔːrɪd / 'fɔː(r)hed/ Noun

your *forehead* is the part of the front of your head above your eyes

he had a nasty scar on his forehead | he wiped his forehead with a handkerchief | she pressed her forehead against the cold window | he landed face down, injuring his forehead and nose

gash /gæʃ/ Noun

a *gash* is a long deep cut in someone's skin

I ended up with a huge gash on my arm | it left an ugly gash on his cheek | the doctor said she would have to stitch up the gash | he got a terrible gash to the top of his head

Verb: *gash* | Adjective: *gashed*

his throat had been gashed from ear to ear | he gashed his arm on a nail | I wiped the blood from his gashed leg

haul /hɔːl/ Verb

if you *haul* something heavy, you pull it along using a lot of force

we were trying to haul ourselves over the wall | trucks hauled away several tons of cargo from the airport | horses were used to haul the logs to the paper factory | the coal is hauled by rail to the power station

Noun: *haulage*

he runs a road haulage business (a business transporting heavy goods by road)

head first /hed 'fɜː(r)st/ Adverb

if you fall or rush *head first* somewhere, you move there with your head in front of the rest of your body

he was blown head first into a door | she dived head first into the river | Clarke lost his balance and fell head first down the stairs | he was pushed head first out of the window

presence /'prez(ə)ns/ Noun uncount

the *presence* of something or someone somewhere is the fact that they are there. If you are in someone's *presence*, you are there with them

Collocates: in the presence of someone | in someone's presence

looks like he's comfortable in your presence now | there was a heavy police presence in the city centre | she was obviously unaware of my presence until she turned round | analysis revealed the presence of poison in the water

Adjective: *present*

among those present at the meeting were Anthea and her sister Sarah | her parents were present during the interview

profusely /prə'fjuːsli/ Adverb

if something happens *profusely*, it involves large quantities of something

I was bleeding quite profusely from the wound | he was sweating profusely in the heat of the desert | the weeds were growing profusely in our small back garden | he thanked me profusely for the book

Adjective: *profuse* | Noun: *profusion*

Collocates: a profusion of something | in profusion
the injury resulted in profuse bleeding that needed hospital treatment | with profuse apologies they explained what had happened | three weeks later, the garden was a profusion of blue and yellow flowers | on both sides of the valley was a profusion of dense trees

scald /skɔːld/ Verb

if you *scald* yourself, you hurt yourself with very hot liquid or steam

I scalded myself badly with a kettle of boiling water | he nearly scalded his tongue on the hot tea | they were both scalded in an accident in the kitchen

Noun: *scald* | Adjective: *scalding*

this is useful for treating burns and scalds | a cup of scalding tea (so hot it might scald you)

snap /snæp/ Verb

if something *snaps*, or if you *snap* it, it breaks, often with a sharp noise

I heard the bone snap from 20 metres away | he managed to snap his wrist when he fell | I could feel something in my knee snap | he stepped on a dry stick and heard it snap

Noun: *snap*

the pencil broke with a snap

sneak /sniːk/ Verb

if you *sneak* off somewhere, you go there quietly or secretly so that no one knows where you are

couldn't he have sneaked off somewhere instead of doing it right here? | I sneaked off into the kitchen

for something more to eat | he used to sneak off at weekends to visit his girlfriend in Plymouth | Dad saw me sneaking out of school at lunchtime | we sneaked into the back of the cinema without paying

stream /stri:m/ Verb

when liquid *streams* somewhere, it flows there quite quickly

blood was streaming down my leg | his father had tears streaming down his face | water streamed down the kitchen wall | sweat was streaming into his eyes

Noun: *stream*

Collocates: a stream of something

a steady stream of blood poured from his nose

stumble /'stʌmb(ə)/ Verb

if you *stumble*, you nearly lose your balance when your foot accidentally hits against something. If you *stumble* in a particular direction, you go there by walking in a very unsteady way, for example because you are not well or cannot see properly where you are going

I managed to stumble home and then whacked my head on the door going in | he stumbled backwards and fell across the sofa | she almost stumbled in front of a car | he stumbled blindly up the steps looking for the light switch

top off /,tɒp 'ɒf/ Phrasal verb

if you *top* something *off*, you end it in an especially noticeable or remarkable way

to top the whole thing off, he didn't even notice | no school all week, and to top it all off, a trip to London on Saturday | we topped off the holiday by eating at the most expensive restaurant in Paris

whack /wæk/ Verb

if you *whack* something, you hit it hard. If you *whack* a part of your body, you accidentally hit it against something

I whacked my head on the door | he whacked his knee on the edge of the table | just whack the tap with a hammer if it doesn't come on properly

Noun: *whack*

with a few whacks on the back, they drove the donkeys out of the yard | I got a whack on my head

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absurd /əb'sɜ:(r)d/ Adjective

something that is *absurd* is completely ridiculous or unreasonable

her claim was utterly absurd | that's an absurd idea! | his first explanation was rejected as absurd | we were in the absurd position of having a boat but no water for 40 miles

Adverb: *absurdly* | Noun: *absurdity*

Collocates: the absurdity of something

the answer was almost absurdly simple | the salary they offered was absurdly low | Morris laughed when he saw the absurdity of the situation | it would be a political absurdity if the two parties agreed to form a government together

compliance /kəm'plaiəns/ Noun uncount

compliance with a law or instruction is the fact of obeying it. If someone is guilty of *non-compliance*, they do not do what they are meant to do

Collocates: compliance with something

non-compliance is a failure to follow regulations or law | the authority monitors compliance with the regulations | we are hoping for voluntary compliance, and will take action if that does not happen | penalties for non-compliance are high

Verb: *comply* | Adjective: *compliant*

Collocates: comply with something | compliant with something

our products comply with all international safety standards | we shall comply with all reasonable requests for information | these products are not compliant with European safety regulations | the inspection found that over half the equipment was not compliant

confine /kən'faɪn/ Verb

if something is *confined* to a particular place or area of activity, it stays within those limits and does not spread beyond them

Collocates: be confined to something

the effects were not confined simply to some wasted court time | his influence was not confined to music | she had confined her attention to 20th century French literature for the past three years

confiscate /'kɒnfɪ'skeɪt/ Verb

to *confiscate* something from someone means to take it away from them as a punishment or because they are not allowed to have it

if you try to take more than 50 ml of liquid through airport security, it will be confiscated | teachers at her school confiscated over 20 mobile phones this week | police confiscated five guns and many bullets | his camera and memory cards were confiscated as he was trying to leave the country

Noun: *confiscation*

the sentence was ten years in jail and the confiscation of property | possession of drugs can be punished by confiscation and a fine

dismiss /dɪs'mɪs/ Verb

to *dismiss* something means to refuse to consider it *the case was dismissed on the grounds of insufficient evidence | she always dismissed my ideas without even discussing them | the appeal was dismissed and he went back to prison | he dismissed suggestions that climate change was responsible for the flooding*

Noun: *dismissal* | Adjective: *dismissive*

Collocates: the dismissal of something | dismissive of something

a long investigation led to the dismissal of all charges against her | you were very dismissive of the idea earlier

file /faɪl/ Verb

if you *file* a complaint, lawsuit, charges, etc., you submit documents to a court or other authority so that it can be considered and a decision made

she filed a lawsuit against her employer claiming unfair dismissal | complaints filed by the public are kept confidential for a number of years | you have ten days in which to file an appeal | it's still possible that they will file criminal charges against you

goggles /'gɒg(ə)lz/ Noun plural

goggles are glasses that fit closely against your face and protect your eyes from dust, wind, water, etc.

some pupils were required to wear goggles while using the tools | all staff and visitors must wear safety goggles in the laboratory | I always wear goggles when I go swimming | a photo of a pilot in the 1930s wearing goggles and a leather jacket

guard against /,gɑ:(r)d ə'genst/ Phrasal verb

if you guard against something, you do what you need to do to make sure it does not happen or does not have a bad effect on you

Collocates: guard against doing something

we face increased insurance costs to guard against such claims | it is important to guard against making the same mistake again | make sure you eat plenty of oranges to guard against winter colds

hold back /,həʊld 'bæk/ Phrasal verb

to hold someone or something back means to prevent their development or progress in some way

half of all teachers believe children are being held back by health and safety regulations | all this red tape is holding back the development of a new energy industry | the housing crisis is holding back the economy | he missed three weeks of school, which has held him back a bit this year

lawsuit /'lɔ:ˌsu:t/ Noun

a lawsuit is a case in a court involving a disagreement between two people or organisations

Collocates: file/bring a lawsuit (against someone)

he filed a lawsuit (officially started it) against his employers, claiming they had not paid him for a year | he left the country before they could bring a lawsuit against him | the lawsuit was dropped after the mistake was discovered | I just recently settled a lawsuit with my landlord

liability /,laɪə'bɪləti/ Noun

someone's liability is their legal responsibility for paying money for something or for damage or loss that they cause

Collocates: liability for something

you need public liability insurance if you're going to work as a builder | we accept no liability for damage caused to customers' cars in our car park | our liability is limited to the value of the unit supplied to you | your tax liability may be affected by your change of job

Adjective: liable

he is personally liable for the whole of the loan | I'm liable for tax in the US as well as in the UK

precedent /'presɪdənt/ Noun

a precedent is an official decision that was made earlier, and that cannot be contradicted by a decision in a similar case later

Collocates: set a precedent | follow precedent

many believed the decision set a dangerous precedent | trial courts are expected to follow precedent | no precedent existed for how to proceed with this case | he wasn't afraid to ignore precedent in his judgement

red tape /,red 'teɪp/ Noun uncount

red tape is all the official rules and procedures that seem unnecessary and that stop things happening quickly

we would welcome any reduction in red tape | they promised to cut unnecessary red tape | there's simply too much red tape | local government red tape has caused several delays in the project

repeal /rɪ'pi:l/ Verb

to repeal a law means to formally rule that it is no longer valid

a lot of people want to see the legislation repealed | the Act was repealed in 1996 | the state can't afford to repeal the law on property tax | the Ireland Act of 1949 has not been formally repealed yet

Noun: repeal

Collocates: repeal of something

I support repeal of the so-called 'gun laws' | they continued to fight for full repeal of the law

smother /'smʌðə(r)/ Verb

if you smother someone, you protect them so much that they cannot live or develop freely

he thought he was doing the right thing, but his children felt smothered by him | they grew up smothered in love but unable to think independently | I just wish you'd stop smothering the boy

sue /su:/ Verb

if you sue someone, you make a claim against them in court because of damage or injury they have caused you

Collocates: sue someone for something

the Senator sued the paper for libel | his widow sued the company for negligence | the workers sued, seeking compensation | the ambulance took over two hours to arrive so now the boy's family are suing

violation /,vaɪə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

a violation is an instance of a law being broken or a regulation deliberately not being followed

Collocates: in violation of something

the UK takes millions of pounds in fines for minor violations | a violation of the peace agreement | they were accused of regular violations of human rights | this was such a serious violation that many believed it was a war crime | if this goes ahead, we will be in violation of international law

Verb: violate | Noun: violator

several people were arrested for violating public order | both countries had violated the treaty within a year | violators face a long jail sentence | he demanded better law enforcement and punishment of violators

welcome /'welkəm/ Verb

if you welcome something, you say that you are pleased it has happened and approve of it

any research that can help develop new treatment has to be welcomed | the president welcomed the opportunity to meet a group of business leaders | he welcomed the announcement of a new enquiry into the disaster | the proposals were cautiously welcomed by campaigners

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appraisal /ə'preɪz(ə)/ Noun

an *appraisal* is an opinion about a situation based on what is known about it

Collocates: an appraisal of something

well, that was a fairly bleak appraisal | the article contained a comprehensive appraisal of the proposals | that's an honest appraisal of the situation | we need to make a calm and realistic appraisal of our needs

Verb: *appraise*

Collocates: appraise something as something

try to appraise the situation objectively | the headteacher appraised my chances of getting into university as not very good

bleak /bli:k/ Adjective

if a situation is *bleak*, it seems bad and does not have much chance of improving

well, that's a fairly bleak appraisal | the future is looking very bleak for the company | the economic outlook is bleak | prospects for a recovery remain bleak

Noun: *bleakness*

when the next day came, the bleakness of our situation became even more apparent

blessing /'blesɪŋ/ Noun

a *blessing* is something that is good and that you are pleased to have or experience

Collocates: a mixed blessing

we're asking whether the Internet is more of a curse than a blessing | working from home is a mixed blessing (it has disadvantages as well as advantages) | it's such a blessing to have all the family at home for Christmas

curse /kɜ:(r)s/ Noun

a *curse* is something that causes you a lot of trouble or harm

Collocates: the curse of something

we're asking whether the Internet is more of a curse than a blessing | that car was a curse from the day we bought it | only the poor really understand the curse of poverty

Verb: *curse*

we've been cursed with bad luck ever since we moved to this town

deteriorate /dɪ'tɪəriəreɪt/ Verb

if a bad situation *deteriorates*, it gets even worse

the situation is bound to deteriorate | his health has deteriorated significantly | relations have deteriorated between Russia and the EU | the weather is deteriorating rapidly

Noun: *deterioration* | Adjective: *deteriorating*

Collocates: deterioration of/in something

Jackson's death was clearly related to the deterioration of his health | the gradual deterioration of his eyesight | protestors were demonstrating against deteriorating living conditions

detox /'di:tɒks/ Noun uncount

detox is a process of getting rid of unwanted and harmful substances from your body. Digital *detox* is a period of time when someone deliberately does not use any phones, computers, or tablets

a detox clinic | try a detox diet and see if that helps | leave the phone behind and have a digital detox weekend by the sea

Verb: *detox*

there are many gentler ways to detox the body | some natural products will detox your system, but if you do it too fast you'll feel ill

disruption /dɪs'rʌpʃ(ə)n/ Noun

if there is *disruption*, a process or system is prevented from operating normally. *Digital disruption* is when existing companies have to change the way they work because of competition from other companies who do their business on the Internet

there's been disruption on the railways due to heavy snow | measures will be taken to reduce disruption during the building works | we suffered serious disruption to our Internet connection all afternoon | management have developed a plan to help them adapt to digital disruption

Verb: *disrupt* | Adjective: *disruptive*

phone and electrical services were disrupted by the storm | two weeks before we were due to start filming, a fire disrupted all our preparations | his arrival had a disruptive effect on the rest of the meeting | he'd been warned before about his disruptive behaviour

distinct /dɪ'stɪŋkt/ Adjective

a *distinct* possibility or chance of something is an obvious or definite possibility

there's a distinct chance you'll end up in a legal dispute | there's a distinct possibility our jobs will be at risk | he agreed, but with a distinct lack of enthusiasm

finalise /'faɪnəlaɪz/ Verb

if you *finalise* something, you complete the last parts of it so that it is finished

they're ready to finalise the deal | the agreement was finalised at a meeting in Paris | we'll send out more information as soon as we finalise the details | Marx never finalised the text of the third volume of Capital | we're on the verge of finalising the purchase of our new house

Noun: *finalisation*

the report was published just three days after its finalisation | the president pressed for an early finalisation of the agreement

footprint /'fʊt,prɪnt/ Noun

a *footprint* is the mark left by someone's foot when they have stepped on soft or wet ground. Someone's digital *footprint* is the information about them that can be found on the Internet, for example on social networking sites, blogs, personal web pages, etc.

we saw his footprints in the sand | police found fresh footprints below the window | the children left a trail of muddy footprints all through the house | we can follow the digital footprints of social media users

fraught /frɔ:t/ Adjective

if a situation is *fraught* with danger, problems, or other unpleasant features, there are a lot of them present

Collocates: *fraught with something*

Internet dating is fraught with danger | the project was fraught with difficulties | the whole situation is fraught with problems | the atmosphere at home was fraught with tension

haunt /hɔ:nt/ Verb

if something unpleasant *haunts* you, it continues to make you sad or causes problems for you

things can easily come back to haunt you later on | the memory of his election defeat still haunts him after seven years | what dark secret from his past is haunting him? | the shadow of global warming is haunting the planet

literacy /'lɪt(ə)rəsi/ Noun uncount

literacy is the basic ability to be able to read and write. You can also use *literacy* about other skills, for example financial *literacy* is knowing how to deal with your money sensibly, and digital *literacy* is the ability to effectively use computers and the Internet and social media

Collocates: *financial/computer/digital literacy | adult literacy | literacy rates | literacy skills*

we need to improve adult literacy rates (increase the number of adults who can read and write) | financial literacy should be taught in schools | they had basic literacy and numeracy (they could read and write and do basic arithmetic) | these courses are open to all students but a basic level of digital literacy is essential

Opposite – Noun: *illiteracy* | Adjective: *literate* ||

Opposite – Adjective: *illiterate*

Collocates: *computer literate*

targets for reducing poverty, disease, hunger, and illiteracy | if you're not computer literate, you won't get on the course | he was barely literate when he left school | most of the population was illiterate in the 12th century (most people could not read or write)

meltdown /'melt,daʊn/ Noun

meltdown is a sudden and serious failure of something that affects a large number of people, such as a country's economy or banking system

Collocates: *be in meltdown*

the Internet is at risk of complete meltdown because of the amount of traffic | the economy is still recovering from the last banking meltdown | the British steel industry is in meltdown after yet another plant has closed in the UK | desperate efforts were made to prevent the financial meltdown

menace /'menəs/ Noun

a *menace* is something that is likely to cause serious damage or harm

Collocates: *the menace of something*

they should do more to combat the menace of cyber-bullying | we must fight the menace of terrorism | burning plastic is a serious environmental menace | he's a menace to society

Verb: *menace* | Adjective: *menacing* |

Adverb: *menacingly*

the world continues to be menaced by terrorism | other dangers now menaced the king's position | in the distance we heard a loud, menacing roar | up above, dark clouds continued their menacing approach | he stepped forward menacingly with a knife in his left hand | storm clouds hung menacingly over the airport

peril /'perəl/ Noun

peril is great danger

Collocates: *at someone's peril | be in peril*

ignore the warning at your peril! | it was a moment of extreme peril | if we don't act on climate change soon, the world will be exposed to great peril | by 1940, the country was in great peril | they had escaped the peril of the sea crossing and arrived safely

Adjective: *perilous* | Adverb: *perilously* | Verb: *imperil*

they began a long and perilous journey across the mountains | despite their perilous situation, they refused to give up the fight | the bullet passed perilously close to his heart | her temperature was perilously high | he believes that nuclear weapons imperil our common future | he could not stay in the city without imperilling the safety of his children

plagiarism /'pleɪdʒə,rɪz(ə)m/ Noun uncount

if someone commits *plagiarism*, they copy someone else's work and present it as their own work

plagiarism became a much bigger problem once everyone had access to the Internet | you can get software now to help detect plagiarism | he was accused of plagiarism and had to leave college | plagiarism will not be tolerated in this school

Verb: *plagiarise* | Noun: *plagiarist*

the publishers denied that their author had plagiarised my work | parts of the first two chapters were clearly plagiarised from the work of Robins and Cutler | he was accused of being a plagiarist

put off /,pʊt 'ɒf/ Phrasal verb

if something *puts* you *off* something, it makes you dislike it or not want to do it

Collocates: *put someone off (doing) something*

if we punish these two it might put the others off | I felt so sick afterwards that it put me off smoking for life | the smell from the kitchen put me off eating there | don't let that one bad experience put you off golf

Adjective: *offputting*

the opening of the film was rather offputting, but it quickly got better | he had a very offputting attitude towards us

slim /slɪm/ Adjective

something that is *slim* is not very great

the chances of people avoiding all this are pretty slim | there's a slim hope that they are still alive | they won a slim majority at the last election

sound /saʊnd/ Adjective

something that is *sound* is reliable and effective

it was sound advice | his judgement is usually sound | the essence of your argument is sound enough | it was a financially sound proposal

spam /spæm/ Noun

spam is unwanted email messages that are sent out to large numbers of people. The people who organise the spam are *spammers*

my inbox is full of spam | a spam filter (software that identifies and deletes spam so you don't have to see it) | more than half the emails I get are spam | she nearly didn't open the email because she thought it was probably spam

Verb: *spam* | Noun: *spamming* | Noun: *spammer*

he thinks that if a website asks for his email address he'll get spammed | spamming on that scale was much easier back in the 90s | where do the spammers get all the email addresses from?

verge /vɜ:(r)dʒ/ Noun

if someone is on the *verge* of doing something, or if something is on the *verge* of happening, they are about to do it or it is about to happen

Collocates: be on the verge of (doing) something

I've been here 40 years and now I'm on the verge of retiring | we're on the verge of bankruptcy | I could see she was on the verge of tears | August 1939, and Europe was on the verge of war

Phrasal verb: *verge on*

his behaviour was verging on the criminal | this whole situation is verging on the ridiculous

EXERCISES

PREPOSITIONS

A Choose the correct preposition. Look up the words in bold if you need help.

- 1 Sarah was *on / in* the **verge** of tears as she said goodbye.
- 2 After the earthquake, we realised the whole village was *to / in* **peril**.
- 3 The company was *in / to* **meltdown** after the CEO died.
- 4 The **curse** *of / for* poverty was constantly threatening them.
- 5 We need an honest **appraisal** *of / with* the situation.
- 6 They are **suing** their employers *with / for* unfair dismissal.

B Complete the sentences with the correct preposition. Look up the word in bold if you need help.

- 1 She was screaming **agony** waiting for the ambulance to arrive.
- 2 You must **comply** all the health and safety regulations.
- 3 She's always so **dismissive** my suggestions for the new project.
- 4 We need to **guard** having the same problems next time.
- 5 They refused to accept **liability** the accident.
- 6 The project was **fraught** difficulties from the first day.

WORD FAMILIES

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

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 put off by the smell | a very |
| | smell |
| 2 disrupt a meeting | his behaviour was very |
| 3 accept liability | be |
| | for tax |
| 4 an absurd situation | the of the situation |
| 5 scalded by a cup of tea | a cup of tea |
| 6 in agony from the pain | painful |

D Tick the words in the unit that are both a verb and a noun.

- 1 spam
- 2 menace
- 3 finalise
- 4 detox
- 5 blessing
- 6 repeal
- 7 whack
- 8 confiscate

COLLOCATIONS

E Complete the missing adjectives from the unit.

- 1 There's a s _ _ m hope that they are still alive.
- 2 He gave me some very s _ _ _ d career advice.
- 3 The outlook for economic recovery remains b _ _ _ k.
- 4 The police were p _ _ _ _ t at the demonstration.
- 5 We were shocked and saddened to hear about his d _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ g health.
- 6 She began her p _ _ _ _ _ s journey across the mountains to safety.

F Match the halves of the collocations from the unit.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1 digital | a) clinic |
| 2 detox | b) a precedent |
| 3 repeal | c) literacy |
| 4 set | d) a lawsuit |
| 5 bring | e) head first |
| 6 rush | f) a law |

PHRASAL VERBS

G Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrasal verbs in the box.

hold back	top off	come to
guard against	put off	verge on

- 1 This whole situation is the ridiculous.
- 2 Don't let the accident you learning to drive.
- 3 All this red tape is progress on the new computer system.
- 4 Eating plenty of fruit and vegetables will help you colds and flu.
- 5 We a perfect day by watching my favourite film on TV.
- 6 She felt sick for a few hours after she had