

2

× Five minutes after the kick-off he injured.

✓ Five minutes after the kick-off he was injured.

⇒ 575.1

**inside**

400

× Inside of the room I could hear someone laughing.

✓ Inside the room I could hear someone laughing.

In British English, the preposition is nearly always **inside** (WITHOUT **of**): 'She was sitting **inside** the car.' Compare: 'He never cleans **the inside of** the car.' (*the* + noun + *of*)

In American English, both **inside** and **inside of** are common.

⇒ 561

**insist**

401

1

× He insisted to drive me all the way to the airport.

✓ He insisted on driving me all the way to the airport.

We **insist on/upon doing** something, NOT **to do** something.

2

× She insists you to stay until her husband comes home.

✓ She insists that you stay until her husband comes home.

When the verb after **insist** has its own subject ('you'), we normally use a **that**-clause.

⇒ 839.9

Note the more formal alternative: 'She **insists on your staying** until her husband comes home.'

**in spite of**

402

1

× In spite of the driver didn't stop, we managed to get the number of the car.

✓ Although the driver didn't stop, we managed to get the number of the car.

**In spite of** and **despite** are prepositions, NOT conjunctions.

⇒ 882.7

2

× **Inspite of** her doctor's advice, she refuses to stop work.

✓ In spite of her doctor's advice, she refuses to stop work.

**In spite of** is written as three words.

⇒ 883.1

## instead

403

× Instead of to buy books, I borrow them from the library.

✓ Instead of buying books, I borrow them from the library.

**Instead of** is a preposition and is followed by an *-ing* form.

⇒ 837

## intend

404

× What are you intending to do about it?

✓ What do you intend to do about it?

**Intend** is not normally used in progressive tenses.

⇒ 627.3

## intensifiers

405

1

× I was very delighted to see my name on the list.

✓ I was (absolutely) delighted to see my name on the list.

We do not use **very** or **extremely** before adjectives which contain 'very' as part of their meaning, e.g. *delighted* (very pleased), *enormous* (very big), *exhausted* (very tired), *fascinating* (very interesting), *filthy* (very dirty), *soaked* (very wet).

If we wish to intensify these adjectives, we use **absolutely** or **completely**.

Compare: 'They weren't just **very pleased** that you came – they were **absolutely delighted**.'

2

× A car can be absolutely useful when you are in a hurry.

✓ A car can be extremely useful when you are in a hurry.

× I am completely disappointed with the sound quality.

✓ I am very disappointed with the sound quality.

We use **absolutely** and **completely** before adjectives that have 'very' as part of their meaning. For example, *delighted* means 'very pleased' and so we say 'absolutely delighted' (NOT 'very delighted').

Before adjectives which do not have 'very' as part of their meaning (e.g. *useful*, *disappointed*), we use **very** or **extremely**.

3

× Your cooperation is very appreciated.

✓ Your cooperation is much appreciated.

**Very** and **extremely** are intensifiers. We can use them before adjectives, including past participles used as adjectives: 'She was **very happy**.' 'She was **very pleased** that we went to see her.'

We cannot intensify a past participle that is used as a verb. Compare: 'People **admire** his work.' (ACTIVE) 'His work **is admired**.' (PASSIVE)

Instead of **very** or **extremely**, we use a suitable adverb, e.g. **much**, **greatly**, **widely**, **universally**. 'His work is **much admired** in the medical world.' 'She is **widely recognized** to be an expert in her field.'

4

× His hair was very in need of a good wash.

✓ His hair was very much in need of a good wash.

Before a prepositional phrase, we use **very much**, NOT **very** on its own: 'Everyone is **very much** against the idea.' 'They are still **very much** in love with each other.'

**intention**

406

× I have no intention to change my mind.

✓ I have no intention of changing my mind.

When **intention** has a negative modifier (e.g. *no/little/not the slightest*), it is followed by **of + -ing**. Compare: 'It is their **intention + to appeal** against the decision.' 'They have **no intention + of appealing** against the decision.'

**interest**

407

1

× My children have never shown any interest for sport.

✓ My children have never shown any interest in sport.

A person has/shows/takes/expresses (**an**) **interest in** something, (NOT **for**): 'He has absolutely no **interest in** making money.' 'You should take more **interest in** your appearance.'

2

× All interest are paid without deduction of tax.

✓ All interest is paid without deduction of tax.

When **interest** is used in its financial meaning, it is an uncountable noun and takes a singular verb.

**interested**

408

1

× The course is for anyone who is interested to learn about computers.

✓ The course is for anyone who is interested in learning about computers.

× I was interested in hearing that Simon has found a job at last.

✓ I was interested to hear that Simon has found a job at last.

If we want to do something, we are **interested in doing** it: 'Douglas is **interested in taking** driving lessons.'



## invest

412

- × Businessmen invest vast amounts on these industries.
- × They have invested over \$1m into the company.

- ✓ Businessmen invest vast amounts in these industries.
- ✓ They have invested over \$1m in the company.

We **invest** money **in** something.

## investigate

413

- × Each company should investigate into ways of increasing productivity.

- ✓ Each company should investigate ways of increasing productivity.

We **look into** something but we **investigate** something (WITHOUT **into**).  
Compare: 'The police are currently conducting **investigations into** the cause of the accident.' We use **into** after the noun but not after the verb.

## investigation

414

- × Investigations on the cause of the fire are still continuing.

- ✓ Investigations into the cause of the fire are still continuing.

⇒ 413

## invitation

415

- × Thank you for your invitation for the party.

- ✓ Thank you for your invitation to the party.

We receive or send someone an **invitation to** a party, wedding, etc., (NOT **for**).

## invite

416

1

- × It was kind of you to invite me for your party.

- ✓ It was kind of you to invite me to your party.

We **invite** someone **to** a place, party, wedding, etc: 'She **invited** us back **to** her apartment.'

We **invite** someone **to** or **for** a meal: 'They've **invited** us **to/for** dinner.'

We **invite** someone **to** a place **for** something. 'They've **invited** us over **to** their house **for** dinner.' 'He's **invited** us **to** his club **for** a game of tennis.'

2	<div> <div>× She has invited us for attending her daughter's wedding.</div> <div>✓ She has invited us to attend her daughter's wedding.</div> </div>
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We **invite** someone **to do** something: 'He's **invited** us **to play** tennis.'

3	<div> <div>× The advertisement invites for married couples to apply.</div> <div>✓ The advertisement invites married couples to apply.</div> </div>
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We **invite** someone **to do** something, NOT **for** someone.

## involve

417

<div> <div>× Nowadays, many women involve in politics.</div> <div>✓ Nowadays, many women are involved in politics.</div> </div>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

If we take part in something, we **are involved in** it: 'He is suspected of being **involved in** criminal activities.'

**Involve** is a transitive verb and must have an object: 'The protection of the environment **involves everybody**.' ➡ 838.1

## involved

418

<div> <div>× Fortunately, all the involved people agreed to co-operate.</div> <div>✓ Fortunately, all the people involved agreed to co-operate.</div> </div>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

When **involved** means 'taking part' or 'connected', it goes immediately after the noun it describes: 'Remember that there is **a lot of money involved**.' Compare: 'He proceeded to give us a rather **involved** explanation as to why he could not attend.' (= hard to understand; complicated) ➡ 16.3

## irregular verbs

419

1	<div> <div>× He <b>hitted</b> her unintentionally.</div> <div>✓ He <b>hit</b> her unintentionally.</div> </div>
---	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

We can say 'The shoes **fitted** her' but we cannot say 'He **hitted** her'. Unlike **fit**, **hit** is an irregular verb. It belongs to a small group of verbs whose infinitive, past simple and past participle forms are all the same.

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
bet	bet	bet
broadcast <sup>1</sup>	broadcast	broadcast
burst	burst	burst
cast	cast	cast
cost	cost	cost
forecast <sup>1</sup>	forecast	forecast
hit	hit	hit

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
hurt	hurt	hurt
let	let	let
put	put	put
quit	quit	quit
read <sup>2</sup>	read	read
rid	rid	rid
set	set	set
shed	shed	shed
shut	shut	shut
split	split	split
spread	spread	spread
thrust	thrust	thrust
upset	upset	upset
wet <sup>1</sup>	wet	wet

<sup>1</sup> These verbs also have regular **-ed** forms: 'The match will be **broadcast**/**broadcasted** live from Wembley Stadium.'

<sup>2</sup> Note, however, the spoken forms: /ri:d/ /red/ /red/

2

- × I was very lucky and **catched** a lot of fish.
- × She **asked me to sent** her my address.

- ✓ I was very lucky and **caught** a lot of fish.
- ✓ She **asked me to send** her my address.

**Catch** and **send** belong to a group of irregular verbs whose past simple and past participle forms are the same.

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
bend	bent	bent
bind	bound	bound
bleed	bled	bled
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
burn <sup>1</sup>	burnt	burnt
buy	bought	bought
catch	caught	caught
cling	clung	clung
creep	crept	crept
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
dream <sup>1</sup>	dreamt	dreamt
dwelt <sup>1</sup>	dwelt	dwelt
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
get	got	got

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
grind	ground	ground
hang <sup>2</sup>	hung	hung
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hold	held	held
keep	kept	kept
kneel <sup>1</sup>	knelt	knelt
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
lean <sup>1</sup>	leant	leant
leap <sup>1</sup>	leapt	leapt
learn <sup>1</sup>	learnt	learnt
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
light <sup>3</sup>	lit	lit
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
mislead	misled	misled
misunderstand	misunderstood	misunderstood
pay	paid	paid
say	said	said
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
shine <sup>2</sup>	shone	shone
shoot	shot	shot
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
sling	slung	slung
slink	slunk	slunk
smell <sup>1</sup>	smelt	smelt
speed	sped	sped
spell <sup>1</sup>	spelt	spelt
spend	spent	spent
spill <sup>1</sup>	spilt	spilt
spin	spun	spun
spit	spat	spat
spoil <sup>1</sup>	spoilt	spoilt
stand	stood	stood
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
strike	struck	struck
sweep	swept	swept
swing	swung	swung
teach	taught	taught
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought



INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
understand	understood	understood
weep	wept	wept
win	won	won
wind /waɪnd/	wound	wound
wring	wrung	wrung

<sup>1</sup> These verbs also have regular **-ed** forms, e.g. 'You've *spelt/spelled* her surname incorrectly again.' In British English, the irregular **-t** forms are more common. American English uses the regular forms.

<sup>2</sup> In one of their meanings, **hang** and **shine** are regular verbs: 'The prisoner *hanged* himself in his cell.' 'She'd put polish on the shoes but she hadn't *shined* them.'

<sup>3</sup> See 454

<sup>4</sup> In American English, the past participle of **get** is usually **gotten**.

## 3

✗ They choosed to stay at home.

✗ He stood in the centre of the room and begun to cry.

✓ They chose to stay at home.

✓ He stood in the centre of the room and began to cry.

**Choose** and **begin** belong to a group of irregular verbs whose past simple and past participle forms are different from each other. In most cases, all three forms are different.

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awoke	awoken
be	was/were	been
bear	bore	borne
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bite	bit	bitten
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbade	forbidden
foresee	foresaw	foreseen
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
freeze	froze	frozen
give	gave	given
go	went	gone

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
grow	grew	grown
hide	hid	hidden
know	knew	known
lie <sup>2</sup>	lay	lain
mistake	mistook	mistaken
mow <sup>1</sup>	mowed	mown
prove <sup>1</sup>	proved	proven
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
saw <sup>1</sup>	sawed	sawn
see	saw	seen
sew <sup>1</sup>	sewed	sewn
shake	shook	shaken
shear <sup>1</sup>	sheared	shorn
show	showed	shown
shrink	shrank	shrunk
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sow <sup>1</sup>	sowed	sown
speak	spoke	spoken
spring	sprang	sprung
steal	stole	stolen
stink	stank	stunk
stride	strode	stridden
swear	swore	sworn
swell <sup>1</sup>	swelled	swollen
swim	swam	swum
take	took	taken
tear	tore	torn
throw	threw	thrown
tread	trod	trodden
undertake	undertook	undertaken
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
weave	wove	woven
withdraw	withdrew	withdrawn
write	wrote	written

<sup>1</sup> These verbs also have regular **-ed** past participles.

<sup>2</sup> When *lie* means 'to deliberately say something which is not true', it is regular: 'He *lied* to me once and I will never trust him again.'

## island

420

1

✗ We spent two weeks in a small island called Tioman.

✓ We spent two weeks on a small island called Tioman.

We use **on** before **island**, NOT **in**. Note, however, that we use **in** before the name of an island that we regard as a country or city: 'She lives **in** Singapore.'

2

× We stayed on the island Rhodes.

✓ We stayed on the island of Rhodes.

The name of an island is placed in an *of*-phrase. Compare: '*the city of* Dublin', '*the county of* Kent'.

it

421

1

× This report looks at teaching aids and how it helps teachers.

✓ This report looks at teaching aids and how they help teachers.

× Another advantage of contact lenses is that it can boost your confidence.

✓ Another advantage of contact lenses is that they can boost your confidence.

A personal pronoun agrees in number with the the word or phrase that it replaces.

⇒ 42.1

2

× The men ordered us to get out of the car. We did it immediately.

✓ The men ordered us to get out of the car. We did so immediately.

⇒ 235.1

3

× It was a small hole in the bucket.

✓ There was a small hole in the bucket.

× It had happened a serious road accident.

✓ There had been a serious road accident.

When we draw attention to the presence or existence of someone or something, we normally use **there** as an empty subject (NOT **it**) and put the real subject after **be**:

There are some more biscuits in the tin.

There were two men in the car.

There must be something wrong with the plug.

We use the same construction when we say that something has happened, may happen, is going to happen, etc. 'There have been a lot of complaints recently.' 'There must have been a fire.'

We use **it** as an empty subject when the real subject is a clause:

It was good **to see you all again**.

It's a pity **that you cannot stay a few more days**.

It's wonderful **having my own computer**.

It's amazing **how quickly the child has grown**.

⇒ 423

Note also the use of **it** as an empty subject in expressions of time, distance, temperature, etc:

It's nearly eight o'clock.

It's Hilary's birthday tomorrow.

It's about two miles to the motorway.  
 It's terribly cold in here.  
 It's raining.

## it: wrongly included

422

- |   |                                                                        |                                                              |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | × The research <b>it</b> will investigate some major traffic problems. | ✓ The research will investigate some major traffic problems. |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|

⇒ 591.1

- |   |                                                |                                     |
|---|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | × The computer is very easy to use <b>it</b> . | ✓ The computer is very easy to use. |
|---|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

⇒ 591.3

- |   |                                                                     |                                                           |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | × I wonder if Richard would like <b>it</b> to go to Zurich with me. | ✓ I wonder if Richard would like to go to Zurich with me. |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

When a verb ('like') already has an object ('to go to Zurich with me'), we do not use **it** as an empty object: 'He would like + **to see the film again**.' (NOT *like it*).

'I enjoyed + **seeing all my old friends again**.' (NOT *enjoyed it*).

Compare: 'He doesn't like **it** if you arrive late.' In this sentence, 'if you arrive late' is an adverbial, not an object.

⇒ 838.3

## it: wrongly omitted

423

- |   |                                                        |                                                           |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | × Nowadays is very expensive to run a car.             | ✓ Nowadays it is very expensive to run a car.             |
|   | × Always important is to know if there is a guarantee. | ✓ It is always important to know if there is a guarantee. |

Compare the following patterns:

Pattern A      **To get there by six o'clock** will be impossible.

Pattern B      **It** will be impossible **to get there by six o'clock**.

In Pattern A, the subject is a clause ('To get there by six o'clock'). In Pattern B, this clause has been moved to the end of the sentence, and in its place is the 'empty' subject **it**. Here are some more examples of Pattern B:

IT	+	LINKING VERB	+	COMPLEMENT	+	CLAUSE
<i>It</i>		is		very expensive		to run a car.
<i>It</i>		was		a pity		that they could not come.
<i>It</i>		seems		strange		having nobody to talk to.

Note that in this construction **it** has no meaning. It merely fills the subject position and makes the sentence complete.