

When we mean 'in addition to', we use **besides**. **Beside** (WITHOUT -s) means 'next to': 'I sat **beside** the driver.'

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 2 | × The boy's mother went <b>beside</b> the lifeguard and thanked him. | ✓ The boy's mother went up to the lifeguard and thanked him. |
|---|--|--|

When we go towards someone and stop in front of them, we go **up to** them. **Beside** means 'next to'. Compare: 'She went **up to** her father and stood **beside** him.' 'He walked along **beside** her.'

## besides

107

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | × I recognized the woman sitting <b>besides</b> him. | ✓ I recognized the woman sitting <b>beside</b> him. |
|---|--|---|

When we mean 'next to', we use **beside**. **Besides** (WITH -s) means 'in addition to'.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 2 | × <b>Besides to like</b> children, a teacher has to have a lot of patience. | ✓ <b>Besides liking</b> children, a teacher has to have a lot of patience. |
|---|---|--|

When **besides** means 'in addition to', it is a preposition and is followed by an **-ing** form.

⇒ 837

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 3 | × He is a good-looking boy <b>besides</b> he is very polite. | ✓ He is a good-looking boy, <b>besides</b> being very polite.<br>✓ <b>Besides</b> being very polite, he is a good-looking boy. |
|---|--|--|

**Besides** (= 'in addition to') is a preposition (NOT a conjunction) and cannot be followed by a finite clause (i.e. a clause with a subject and a finite verb).

⇒ 882.7

Compare the use of **besides** as an adverb: 'He is a good-looking boy. **And besides**, he is very polite.' (= 'furthermore') 'I don't feel like going out tonight. **Besides**, I want to finish my essay.' (= 'in any case')

## best

108

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| × I answered the questions as <b>best</b> as I could. | ✓ I answered the questions as <b>best</b> I could. |
|---|--|

We say '**as well/fast/soon as** I could', but we do not use **as** after **as best**: 'She makes a living **as best** she can.'

## better

109

1

× It is more better if one of the parents stays at home to look after the children.

✓ It is better if one of the parents stays at home to look after the children.

**Better** is the comparative form of **good/well** and is not used with **more**.

2

× I think you would better count the money again.

✓ I think you had better count the money again.

× You better report the matter to the police.

✓ You'd better report the matter to the police.

**Had better** (*not*) is a fixed expression:

We'd **better** hurry up or we'll miss the train.

You'd **better** not let me see you do that again!

Hadn't you **better** see a doctor?

3

× You had better not to tell her she can't go.

✓ You had better not tell her she can't go.

**Had better** (*not*) is followed by a bare infinitive (NOT a **to**-infinitive): 'You'd **better wait** here until I get back.' Compare: 'It **would be better to wait** here ...'

## between

110

1

× Between all the photographs Minghui showed me, there was only one of his wife.

✓ Among all the photographs Minghui showed me, there was only one of his wife.

× The little boy stood between all the people feeling very lost.

✓ The little boy stood among all the people feeling very lost.

When three or more people or things are seen as a group or mass, we use **among/amongst**. When there is someone/something on one side and someone/something on the other side, we use **between**: 'The teacher walked up and down **between** the rows of desks.'

2

× There must have been between 40 to 50 people in the queue.

✓ There must have been between 40 and 50 people in the queue.

✓ There must have been from 40 to 50 people in the queue.

After **between** we use **and** (NOT **to**): '**Between** 1983 **and** 1987 she worked for a newspaper.' 'What were you doing **between** eight **and** nine last night?'

3

× Is it necessary to show advertisements **between** a television programme?

✓ Is it necessary to show advertisements **during** a television programme?

Something happens **between** two periods but **during** a single period. Compare: 'Advertisements should be shown **between** programmes, not **during** a programme.'

## beware

111

× The sign on the gate said: 'Beware the dog.'

✓ The sign on the gate said: 'Beware of the dog.'

**Beware** is normally intransitive: 'I told her to beware of pickpockets.' 'Beware, pickpockets!' As a transitive verb, it normally takes a **wh**-clause: 'Beware how you answer her questions.'

## a bit

112

1

× He has brown eyes and a bit crooked nose.

✓ He has brown eyes and his nose is a bit crooked.

We cannot use **a bit** (or **a little bit**) before an attributive adjective (i.e. an adjective which is followed by a noun). Note the alternative: 'He has brown eyes and a slightly crooked nose.'

2

× I like to do a bit housework while the children are at school.

✓ I like to do a bit of housework while the children are at school.

Before a noun, we use **a bit of**: 'Going out has been **a bit of** a problem since we sold the car.'

## blame

113

× Please do not blame young people about these problems.

✓ Please do not blame young people for these problems.

We **blame** someone **for** (doing) something.

## bored/boring

114

× It was such a bored film that I fell asleep.

✓ It was such a boring film that I fell asleep.

× With nothing to do, you soon get very boring.

✓ With nothing to do, you soon get very bored.



- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | × She looked very tired and her hands both were red and sore. | ✓ She looked very tired and her hands were both red and sore. |
|---|---|---|

⇒ 640.7

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 6 | × We both have come to England to improve our English. | ✓ We have both come to England to improve our English. |
|---|--|--|

⇒ 640.8

- |   |                                       |                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7 | × Both two stories are based on fact. | ✓ Both stories are based on fact. |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

**Both** is not used with **two**.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 8 | × Bettina plays both the piano as well as the guitar. | ✓ Bettina plays both the piano and the guitar. |
|---|---|--|

**Both** is followed by **and** (NOT **as well as**).

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | × She didn't buy both of the dresses because they were too expensive. | ✓ She didn't buy either of the dresses because they were too expensive. |
|---|---|---|

'She didn't buy **both** of the dresses' means that she bought just one of them. When we mean 'not the first one and not the second one', we use **either**.

## both ... and ...

118

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | × As far as I know, both Bettina and Mitsuko is having lessons in karate. | ✓ As far as I know, both Bettina and Mitsuko are having lessons in karate. |
|---|---|--|

When the subject is a **both ... and** structure, the verb is plural.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | × She both lost her money and her passport.<br>× Some people are afraid both of bees and wasps. | ✓ She lost both her money and her passport.<br>✓ Some people are afraid of both bees and wasps. |
|---|---|---|

⇒ 178.9



## busy

124

× James is very busy in preparing for his trip to Moscow.

✓ James is very busy preparing for his trip to Moscow.

Someone is **busy doing** something. There is no preposition before the **-ing** form.

## but

125

1

× Although I was tired, but I couldn't sleep.

✓ Although I was tired, I couldn't sleep.

✓- I was tired but I couldn't sleep.

We do not use **but** and **although** together in the same sentence. To link two clauses, we use just one conjunction (NOT two). ➡ 169.2

2

× The next morning I was having breakfast in the hotel but was astonished to see the man from the train sitting at the next table.

✓ The next morning I was having breakfast in the hotel and was astonished to see the man from the train sitting at the next table.

**But** is normally used to link two details or statements that are in contrast. It means 'in view of the last point, the next point will come as a surprise'. Compare: 'The car is very **old but** it's still reliable.' 'The car is very **old and** keeps breaking down.'

When the next point does not come as a surprise, we use **and**.

For more information about linking parts of a sentence with **but**, ➡ 178

## by

126

1

× She cut the apple into two by a large knife.

✓ She cut the apple into two with a large knife.

We do something **with** a tool or object: 'She attacked me **with** her umbrella.' 'He managed to open the lock **with** a knife.'

2

× There were six of us and so we had to go by two cars.

✓ There were six of us and so we had to go in two cars.

When we mention a form of transport, we use **by car, by bus, by train**, etc.: 'Are they coming **by car** or **by train**?'

However, we do not use **by** when we mention a particular vehicle. Compare:

He usually comes to work **by car**.

This morning he came to work **in his wife's car**.

We decided it would be quicker **by train**.

We travelled **on the 8.45 Leeds to London express**.

She doesn't like travelling **by plane**.

I flew back to Singapore **on a British Airways 737**.

Their children go to school **by bus**.

You can get to Crystal Palace **on a 137 bus**.

Note that instead of saying 'We walked', we sometimes say 'We went **on foot**' (NOT **by foot**). **By foot** is used in American English.

3

× I will be at your house **by an hour**.

✓ I will be at your house within an hour.

We say that we will arrive somewhere **by** a particular time ('I'll be at your house **by** seven o'clock.') or **within** a length of time. Compare: 'He said he'd be here **within** half an hour, **by** eight at the latest.'

4

× As you know **by my postcard**, I am now in New York.

✓ As you know from my postcard, I am now in New York.

When we mention the basis of a judgement or conclusion, we use **from**:

**From** this report, it seems that the company is in serious trouble. (= the report makes me conclude that the company is in serious trouble)

You could see **from** his face that he was not at all well.

**From** what I have heard about her, I'd say that Mrs Jones is bound to get the job.

5

× The policeman thought I had stolen the wallet **by someone**.

✓ The policeman thought I had stolen the wallet from someone.

We take something **from** a person or place:

I would never borrow money **from** Denise.

She got her new car **from** the Volvo dealer.

These books are **from** the library.

She slowly removed the letter **from** the envelope.

call

127

1

× I told him that if he didn't go away, I would call to the police.

✓ I told him that if he didn't go away, I would call the police.

When we telephone someone (or shout to someone because we want them to come), we **call** them (NOT **to** them).



2

× Spitzer calls these people as “social junk”.

✓ Spitzer calls these people “social junk”.

We do not use **as** after **call**. ‘My friends **call** me Joe.’ ‘Her new novel has been **called** a literary masterpiece.’ Compare: ‘Spitzer **thinks of/regards** these people as “social junk”.’

## can/could

128

1

× Some students can not afford the tuition fees.

✓ Some students cannot afford the tuition fees.

**Cannot** is written as one word in British English. It is often written as two words in American English.

2

× She said that she could not to go straight home after school because she had to wait for her father to collect her.

✓ She said that she could not go straight home after school because she had to wait for her father to collect her.

**Can** and **could** (modal verbs) are followed by a bare infinitive (NOT a **to**-infinitive).

⇒ 495.2

3

× The squealing of brakes is quite deafening and could be heard whenever the buses stop.

✓ The squealing of brakes is quite deafening and can be heard whenever the buses stop.

In statements, **could** refers to the past: ‘The squealing of brakes **was** quite deafening and **could** be heard whenever the buses **stopped**. To refer to the present or future, we use **can**.

4

× I set off at midnight and, by driving non-stop, I could reach Kuala Lumpur by 6 o'clock the following morning.

✓ I set off at midnight and, by driving non-stop, I **was able to** reach Kuala Lumpur by 6 o'clock the following morning.

× The visit was worthwhile since we could gain first-hand knowledge of how a school operates.

✓ The visit was worthwhile since we **were able to** gain first-hand knowledge of how a school operates.

We use **could** when we talk about someone's general ability: ‘By the age of five, Martha **could** swim three lengths of the pool.’ When we talk about someone managing to do something on a particular occasion, we use **be able** or **manage**: ‘By checking her essay carefully, she **was able/managed to** correct several mistakes.’

5

× If the beaches are covered in oil, we could say goodbye to our tourists.

✓ If the beaches are covered in oil, we can say goodbye to our tourists.

We use **could** to suggest a possible outcome: 'If you aren't careful, you **could** have an accident.' To predict a certain or likely outcome, we use **can**.

6

× As you can know, we have only two weeks to write the report.

✓ As you may know, we have only two weeks to write the report.

× According to the latest information available, the detainees can be released at the end of the month.

✓ According to the latest information available, the detainees may be released at the end of the month.

To express possibility, we use **may** (possible), **might** (possible but slightly doubtful) or **could** (possible but doubtful). **Can** is not used for this purpose.

7

× With a fresh coat of paint, the school can look much nicer.

✓ With a fresh coat of paint, the school could look much nicer.

When we are talking about an imaginary situation, we use **could** (NOT **can**): 'If it stopped raining, we **could** go for a walk.' ➡ 163.5

## capable/incapable

129

× There are machines capable to produce more noise than people can tolerate.

✓ There are machines capable of producing more noise than people can tolerate.

A person or machine is **capable/incapable of doing** something. Compare: 'She was **unable to** talk to anyone.' 'She was **incapable of** talking to anyone.'

## care

130

1

× These irresponsible people do not care for dropping litter.

✓ These irresponsible people do not care about dropping litter.

If we feel that something is important, we **care about** it: 'All he **cares about** is having a good time.' Compare: 'Her mother is being **cared for** in hospital.' (= is being looked after) 'Would you **care for** a chocolate?' (= Would you like ... ?)

2

× The child had never received a proper care.

✓ The child had never received proper care.

When **care** means 'provision of everything a person needs to keep them healthy and happy', it is an uncountable noun and cannot be used with **a/an**. ➡ 2.1

## in case

131

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p>× Let's go to the airport now just in case her plane will arrive early.</p> <p>✓ Let's go to the airport now just in case her plane arrives early.</p> |
|---|---|

To refer to something which may happen in the future, we normally use the present simple tense after **in case** (NOT **will**).

Note the alternative: 'Let's go to the airport now **in case** her plane **should arrive** early.' **In case** + **should** is slightly more formal.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 | <p>! In case I fail the examination, I shall have to repeat the course.</p> <p>✓ If I fail the examination, I shall have to repeat the course.</p> |
|---|--|

**If** and (**just**) **in case** are often interchangeable in American English but NOT in British English. In British English, we use (**just**) **in case** when we are talking about something that we do as a precaution: 'Let's take the umbrella with us **in case** it rains.' 'I always take a book to bed with me **just in case** I can't sleep.'

When we are talking about something that will happen as a result of something else, we use **if**: 'If it rains on Saturday, I shall bring an umbrella.' (NOT **in case** ...) 'If you come by train, I'll meet you at the station.' (NOT **in case** ...)

## catch

132

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>× I was very lucky that day and caught a lot of fish.</p> | <p>✓ I was very lucky that day and caught a lot of fish.</p> |
|--|--|

**Catch** (infinitive), **caught** (past simple), **caught** (past participle).

## cater

133

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>× I suggest that an extra lane is built to cater to cyclists.</p> | <p>✓ I suggest that an extra lane is built to cater for cyclists.</p> |
|--|---|

In British English, **cater to** means 'try to satisfy needs or desires which are generally considered to be undesirable or depraved': 'Some film makers **cater to** man's animal instincts.' 'I refuse to **cater to** his childish whims.' When the needs or desires are normal, **cater for** is used: 'The hotel does not **cater for** children.'

Note that in American English, **cater to** is used with both of the above meanings. **Cater for** is used in connection with the provision of food and drink: 'Our chefs are not used to **catering for** such large numbers.'

## cause

134

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>× The cause for the accident is still being investigated.</p> | <p>✓ The cause of the accident is still being investigated.</p> |
|--|---|

We talk about the **reason for** something but the **cause of** something.

⇒ 655.1

## certain

135

× He seems quite certain to be offered the job.

✓ He seems quite certain of being offered the job.

When we say that something is **certain/sure to happen**, we mean that it will definitely happen: 'The new property tax is **certain to meet** public opposition.'

If someone feels certain that they will do something, we say that they feel **certain/sure of doing** it: 'The team feel **certain of getting** through to the final.'

## chance

136

1

× There is little chance to see her again before she leaves.

✓ There is little chance of seeing her again before she leaves.

× The chances of a newborn baby to survive are much better now.

✓ The chances of a newborn baby surviving are much better now.

When **chance** means 'the degree to which something is possible or likely', it is normally followed by **of + -ing**: 'What are the team's **chances of winning** the cup?' 'How much **chance** is there **of finding** them alive?'

2

× In San Antonio I didn't have the chance of speaking much English because everyone speaks Spanish.

✓ In San Antonio I didn't have the chance to speak much English because everyone speaks Spanish.

When **chance** means 'opportunity', it is normally followed by a **to**-infinitive: 'I hope that we'll have a **chance to visit** the water village.' 'My parents didn't have the **chance to go** to university.'

## change

137

× I asked the salesman if I could change the faulty camera with another one.

✓ I asked the salesman if I could change the faulty camera for another one.

We **change** something that we don't want **for** something that we do want (NOT **with**): 'I'd like to **change** this shirt **for** a larger size.'

## charge

138

× An inexperienced nurse should not be left incharge of a busy ward.

✓ An inexperienced nurse should not be left in charge of a busy ward.

**In charge** is written as two words.

⇒ 883.1