

listen

459

- × Every morning I listen the news on the radio.
- × Some parents are too busy to listen their children.

- ✓ Every morning I listen to the news on the radio.
- ✓ Some parents are too busy to listen to their children.

We **listen to** someone or something. Compare: 'Have you **heard** the latest news?' 'Speak up! I can't **hear** you.'

litter

460

- × Many tourists comment on the fact that our streets are free of litters.

- ✓ Many tourists comment on the fact that our streets are free of litter.

When **litter** means 'rubbish that is dropped in a public place', it is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

little

461

1

- × Although the room was little, it was big enough for me.

- ✓ Although the room was small, it was big enough for me.

The adjective **little** is normally used before a noun: 'a pretty little village', 'a silly little man'.

⇒ 16.1

2

- × There are too many people for too little jobs.

- ✓ There are too many people for too few jobs.

⇒ 640.3

3

- × I was worried a little about what she would say.

- ✓ I was a little worried about what she would say.

When we use **a little** as an adverb of degree, we place it before an adjective ('worried'), not after it. Compare: 'I sometimes worry **a little** about what will happen to her.'

live

462

- × My parents are living at 64 Kalluaki Street, Athens.

- ✓ My parents live at 64 Kalluaki Street, Athens.

⇒ 619.3

long: verb

463

× I'm longing for seeing my family again.

✓ I'm longing to see my family again.

⇒ 841.5

look

464

× She always looks beautifully.

✓ She always looks beautiful.

⇒ 28.1

× This is how the British High Commissioner's new \$4 million residence will look like.

✓ This is what the British High Commissioner's new \$4 million residence will look like.

⇒ 371.2

look forward to

465

1

× I look forward for your next visit.

✓ I look forward to your next visit.

We **look forward to** something, NOT **for**.

2

× We look forward to see you again in August.

✓ We look forward to seeing you again in August.

We **look forward to doing** something. This verb has three parts (*look + forward + to*) and the last part (*to*) is a preposition.

⇒ 837

look like

466

× She was unable to describe how the thief looked like.

✓ She was unable to describe what the thief looked like.

⇒ 371.2

lot

467

1

× Some teenagers have lot of problems.

✓ Some teenagers have a lot of problems.

We can say **a lot of** or **lots of**, but NOT **lot of** or **a lots of**.

2

× The university has cost the government alot of money.

✓ The university has cost the government a lot of money.

A lot is written as two words.

⇒ 883.1

loud

468

× She spoke loud so that everyone could hear her.

✓ She spoke loudly so that everyone could hear her.

We do not normally use **loud** as an adverb. Note, however, that we do use **louder** and **loudest** as adverbs: 'I wish she would speak **louder**.' Also, we sometimes use **loud** as an adverb when it is part of a phrase ('he read the letter **out loud**') or when it is modified ('she doesn't speak **loud enough**').

love

469

1

× I would love spending a week in Rome.

✓ I would love to spend a week in Rome.

⇒ 839.6

2

× My brother loves music very much and wants to be a musician.

✓ My brother loves music and wants to be a musician.

⇒ 843.2

luck

470

1

× Everybody wished me a good luck.

✓ Everybody wished me good luck.

Luck is an uncountable noun and is not used with **a/an**.

⇒ 2.1

2

× It was good luck for you that the train arrived late.

✓ You were lucky that the train arrived late.

When we say why somebody is/was lucky, we use **lucky** (NOT **luck**):

She's **lucky** that nobody saw her.

In the circumstances he's **lucky** to be alive.

We're **lucky** not having to pay any rent.

When there is a change of subject ('You' ... 'the train'), we use **lucky + that**-clause: 'He was **lucky that** the driver managed to stop in time.'

luggage**471**

× The customs officer made me open all my luggages.

✓ The customs officer made me open all my luggage.

Luggage is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

lunch**472**

× Where shall we go to have a lunch?

✓ Where shall we go to have lunch?

⇒ 532.3

machinery**473**

× The new machineries will be installed over the next two years.

✓ The new machinery will be installed over the next two years.

Machinery is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

mad**474**

× My two brothers are mad for football.

✓ My two brothers are mad about football.

If we are very enthusiastic about something, we are **mad about** it, (NOT **for** it). This expression is not used in formal styles.

made**475**

× A lot of rubber is still made of latex.

✓ A lot of rubber is still made from latex.

When the original material is still recognizable, we use **made of**: 'The table is **made of** wood.' When the original material is no longer recognizable, we use **made from**: 'Paper is **made from** wood.'

mail**476**

× Please redirect my mails to the following address.

✓ Please redirect my mail to the following address.

Mail is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

make

477

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | × Bob Geldof made people to realize the seriousness of the situation in Africa.
✓ Bob Geldof made people realize the seriousness of the situation in Africa. |
|---|---|

We **make** someone **do** something, (NOT **to do**): 'The police **made** everyone **leave** the building immediately.'

Note, however, that someone **is made to do** something: 'Everyone **was made to leave** the building immediately.' ➡ 839.2,4

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | × The seating arrangement makes the pupils difficult to talk to each other.
✓ The seating arrangement makes it difficult for the pupils to talk to each other. |
|---|---|

➡ 838.4

manage

478

- | | |
|---|---|
| × Did you manage finding someone to repair the car? | ✓ Did you manage to find someone to repair the car? |
|---|---|

We **manage to do** something, (NOT **doing**): 'I'm afraid I didn't **manage to post** your letter after all.' Compare: 'Did you **succeed in finding** someone to repair the car?'

mankind

479

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | × Mankind have spent centuries trying to find a solution.
✓ Mankind has spent centuries trying to find a solution. |
|---|---|

Mankind ('the human race') is an uncountable noun and takes a singular verb.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 | × Without these forests, the mankind could not survive.
✓ Without these forests, mankind could not survive. |
|---|--|

➡ 782.5

many

480

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | × My family eats many vegetables.
✓ My family eats a lot of vegetables. |
|---|--|

Many is used mainly in questions and negative sentences: 'Did you see **many people** there?' 'She doesn't write **many letters**.' In affirmative sentences, we normally use **a lot of** or **plenty of**.

Note that the above rule does not apply when **many** is used in formal contexts: 'Many vegetables supply the body with essential nutrients.' Nor does it apply when **many** combines with **so**, **too**, **as** or **more**: 'I get **too many** interruptions.' ➡ 499.1

2

× I can't go out because I have too many work to do.

✓ I can't go out because I have too much work to do.

Many is used with plural count nouns, not uncountable nouns: 'not **many** cars' but 'not **much** traffic'. ➡ 640.3

married

481

× His daughter is married with a doctor.

✓ His daughter is married to a doctor.

A person is **married to** someone, NOT **with**.

marry

482

× Did he really ask you to marry with him?

✓ Did he really ask you to marry him?

We get **engaged to** someone but we **marry** someone, NOT **with** or **to** someone.

match

483

× I want to buy some dark brown shoes to match with my new handbag.

✓ I want to buy some dark brown shoes to match my new handbag.

Something **matches** something else, (WITHOUT **with**). Compare: 'I want to buy some dark brown shoes to **go with** my new handbag.'

mathematics

484

× I don't like mathematics at all. In fact, I hate them.

✓ I don't like mathematics at all. In fact, I hate it.

Not all nouns that end in s are plural. **Mathematics** is uncountable. ➡ 530

matured

485

× They are all matured students with relevant teaching experience.

✓ They are all mature students with relevant teaching experience.

⇒ 577.2

may

486

× Without the dog to guide her, she may have been killed.

✓ Without the dog to guide her, she might have been killed.

When we mention something in the past that was possible but did not happen, we use **might have** (NOT **may have**). Compare: 'He doesn't have a map and so he **may have** got lost.' (= it is still possible that he has got lost)

maybe

487

× May be they've decided not to come.

✓ Maybe they've decided not to come.

The adverb **maybe** (= perhaps) is written as one word. Compare: 'It **may be** that they've decided not to come.'

me

488

1

× I often ask me why I work so hard.

✓ I often ask myself why I work so hard.

⇒ 590.3

2

× Me and Karen spend a lot of time together at the weekend.

✓ Karen and I spend a lot of time together at the weekend.

'**Me** and X' is sometimes heard in everyday conversation. However, most people regard this structure as uneducated.

mean

489

1

× Being a good parent means to make a child feel loved.

✓ Being a good parent means making a child feel loved.

If we **mean to do** something, we intend to do it: 'I didn't **mean to be** rude.' When we want to say that something involves or entails something else, we use **mean** + **-ing**: 'Her new job will **mean selling** her house and moving to London.'

2

× Television provides a mean by which people discover what is happening in the world.

✓ Television provides a means by which people discover what is happening in the world.

⇒ 530.2

media

490

× The medias, especially television, have a very powerful influence.

✓ The media, especially television, have a very powerful influence.

Media is the plural form of **medium**. ⇒ 181.6. Many people use **media** as a singular form, but some careful users regard this as incorrect.

meet

491

× On my way home I met with one of my old school friends.

✓ On my way home I met one of my old school friends.

If we meet someone by chance, we **meet** them, (WITHOUT **with**). If the meeting has been arranged, either **meet** or **meet with** is possible: 'We are **meeting** (with) the contractors tomorrow.' **Meet with** is used mainly in American English.

mention

492

× The newspaper report did not mention about the number of casualties.

✓ The newspaper report did not mention the number of casualties.

We **mention** something, (NOT **about** something). Compare: 'Nobody wanted to **talk about** the accident.'

million

493

× To reach the planet would take million years.

✓ To reach the planet would take a million years.

× The total population is over a hundred millions.

✓ The total population is over a hundred million.

× More than two millions of trees have been destroyed.

✓ More than two million trees have been destroyed.

⇒ 538

mind

494

1

× I didn't mind to help her.

✓ I didn't mind helping her.

If someone is willing to do something, they **don't mind doing** it (NOT **to do** it).

2

× Do you mind to open the parcel, please?

✓ Would you mind opening the parcel, please?

When we want someone to do something, we say: '**Would you mind ...**' (NOT '**Do you mind ...**'). Compare: '**Do you mind** not having any sisters or brothers?' (= How do you feel about ...?)

3

× Would you mind if I sit down?

✓ Would you mind if I sat down?

When **Would you mind** is followed by an *if*-clause, the verb in the *if*-clause is normally in the past tense. Compare: '**Do you mind** if we **go** home now?' '**Would you mind** if we **went** home now?'

modal verbs

495

1

× An elephant can washes itself with its trunk.
 × She would not asked him for anything.

✓ An elephant can wash itself with its trunk.
 ✓ She would not ask him for anything.

Modal verbs are followed by a bare infinitive:

You **can** + **help** me if you like.

It **must** + **be** getting late.

You **should** + **ask** Peter what he thinks.

Note that **dare** and **need** are used sometimes as modal verbs and sometimes as main verbs. As modal verbs, they take a bare infinitive in the normal way.

Compare: 'You **needn't** + **go**.' (modal verb + bare infinitive) 'You don't **need** + **to go**.' (main verb + *to*-infinitive)

⇒ 198.2, 510.1

2

× She said that she could not to go straight home after school.
 × You must never to tell anyone about this.

✓ She said that she could not go straight home after school.
 ✓ You must never tell anyone about this.

A modal verb is followed by a bare infinitive ('go', 'tell'), NOT a *to*-infinitive ('to go', 'to tell'). The one exception is **ought**, which is followed by a *to*-infinitive: 'You **ought to see** a doctor straight away.'

- 3
- | | |
|---|--|
| × A small country like ours must alert to such dangers. | ✓ A small country like ours must be alert to such dangers. |
|---|--|

A modal verb is normally followed by a main verb.

⇒ 96.2

money

496

- | | |
|---|--|
| × He just didn't have the money which were needed for his wife's operation. | ✓ He just didn't have the money which was needed for his wife's operation. |
|---|--|

Money is an uncountable noun and takes a singular verb.

more

497

- 1
- | | |
|---|--|
| × Gas is usually more cheap than electricity. | ✓ Gas is usually cheaper than electricity. |
| × She arrived more late than we had expected. | ✓ She arrived later than we had expected. |

One-syllable adjectives and adverbs usually form their comparatives with **-er** (NOT **more**).

- 2
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|---|--|
| × The water in the canal was much more higher than usual. | ✓ The water in the canal was much higher than usual. |
| × I usually play more better when nobody is watching me. | ✓ I usually play better when nobody is watching me. |

We do not use **more** with the **-er** form of an adjective or adverb. ⇒ 15.2, 27.2

- 3
- | | |
|---|--|
| × The course should provide more of practical sessions. | ✓ The course should provide more practical sessions. |
|---|--|

⇒ 640.1

most

498

- 1
- | | |
|---|--|
| × Most of the Japanese girls prefer tall men. | ✓ Most Japanese girls prefer tall men. |
|---|--|

⇒ 640.2

2

× The most of us eat meat about once a week.

✓ Most of us eat meat about once a week.

When **most** is followed by an *of*-phrase, it is not used with **the**. Compare: '*The majority of* us eat meat about once a week.'

much

499

1

× He knows much about cars.

✓ He knows a lot about cars.

× She earns much money in her new job.

✓ She earns a lot of money in her new job.

Much is used mainly in questions and negative sentences: 'Did you get **much** help?' 'I don't know **much** about computers.' In affirmative sentences, we normally use **a lot (of)** or **a great deal (of)**.

Note that the above rule does not apply when **much** is used in formal contexts: 'The proposal to increase income tax has met **much** resistance.' Nor does it apply when **much** combines with **so**, **too**, **as** or **more**: '**Too much** money is spent on weapons.'

⇒ 480.1

2

× She couldn't answer much questions.

✓ She couldn't answer many questions.

⇒ 640.3

3

× They do not have very much of money.

✓ They do not have very much money.

⇒ 640.1

4

× The first question was not much difficult.

✓ The first question was not very difficult.

Much is used before the comparative form of an adjective: 'He's **much taller** than me.' 'The second question was **much more difficult** than the first one.' Before the base form of an adjective, we normally use **very**.

music

500

1

× I spend most of my free time listening to musics.

✓ I spend most of my free time listening to music.

Music is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

- 2
- | | |
|--|--|
| × He loves the music and playing the guitar. | ✓ He loves music and playing the guitar. |
|--|--|

When we mean 'music in general', we use **music** without a determiner.

⇒ 782.3

must

501

- 1
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| × My coat must to be still in the hotel. | ✓ My coat must be still in the hotel. |
|--|---------------------------------------|

Must (a modal verb) is followed by a bare infinitive.

⇒ 495.2

- 2
- | | |
|--|--|
| × In my last job I must wear a tie. | ✓ In my last job I had to wear a tie. |
| × I was sure that she had recognized me and so I must talk to her. | ✓ I was sure that she had recognized me and so I had to talk to her. |

We use **must** to refer to the present or future. To refer to the past, we use the past tense of **have to**.

- 3
- | | |
|---|---|
| × I think you must wait here until she returns. | ✓ I think you should wait here until she returns. |
|---|---|

When giving advice or making a suggestion, we use **should**. We use **must** when the subject is not free to choose or decide: 'You **must always stop** when the lights are red.'

- 4
- | | |
|--|--|
| × You mustn't come if you don't want to. | ✓ You needn't come if you don't want to. |
| | ✓ You don't have to come if you don't want to. |

When we want to say that an action is not obligatory, we use **needn't** or **don't have to**, (NOT **mustn't**).

- 5
- | | |
|--|--|
| × The plane leaves Athens at 12 o'clock and must reach London about two hours later. | ✓ The plane leaves Athens at 12 o'clock and should reach London about two hours later. |
|--|--|

To make a prediction, we use **should**. We use **must** for a deduction: 'If she drives a Porsche, she **must have** a lot of money.'