shame 714

✗ We should not be shamed to discuss these things with our children.	✓ We should not be ashamed to discuss these things with our children.

Shame is a noun or a verb. The adjective is **ashamed**: 'I felt terribly *ashamed* of myself.' 'There's nothing to be *ashamed* of.'

she 715

1

✗ He eats a lot more than she.	✓ He eats a lot more than her/than she does.

▷ 590.7

2

✗ The girl who had found the purse she was given a reward.	✓ The girl who had found the purse was given a reward.

▷ 591.1

sheep 716

✗ The fields were full of cows and sheeps.	✓ The fields were full of cows and sheep.

The plural form of **sheep** is **sheep**.   ▷ 181.5

shopping 717

1

✗ She said she was going out to do some shoppings.	✓ She said she was going out to do some shopping.

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

2

✗ On Saturday morning I usually go for shopping.	✓ On Saturday morning I usually go shopping.

▷ 331.3

shorts 718

✗ Everybody except me was wearing a short.	✓ Everybody except me was wearing shorts.

Shorts is a plural noun.   ▷ 603

should   719

1

| × If I hadn't been there, the child should have drowned. | ✓ If I hadn't been there, the child would have drowned. |

In conditional sentences, we normally use **would** (NOT **should**). We can use **should** instead of **would** only after a first-person subject: 'If he had been there, I would/should have seen him.'

When **should** comes after a second-person or third-person subject, it means 'ought to': '**You should** get more sleep.' '**The child should** have stayed out of the water.'

2

| × The train should arrive at 8.25, but it was almost an hour late. | ✓ The train should have arrived at 8.25, but it was almost an hour late. |

When we are talking about the past, we use **should** + perfect infinitive.

⟹ 393.2

3

| × Some young people think that anyone with grey or white hair should be senile. | ✓ Some young people think that anyone with grey or white hair must be senile. |

To express our logical interpretation of a situation or action, we use **must** (NOT **should**): 'If she owns a Mercedes, she **must** be very rich.' 'If she has accepted your invitation, she **must** like you.'

similar   720

| × The house is quite similar with the one I lived in before. | ✓ The house is quite similar to the one I lived in before. |

A person or thing is **similar to** another person or thing.

simple tenses   721

1

| × I write to ask you if you can meet me at the airport. | ✓ I am writing to ask you if you can meet me at the airport. |
| × I have learned English for almost two years. | ✓ I have been learning English for almost two years. |

When we mention an action that is still happening at the moment of speaking (or at some time in the past or future), we normally use a progressive tense (the **be** + **-ing** form).

2

✗ She didn't hear me because she played the guitar.	✓ She didn't hear me because she was playing the guitar.
✗ At the back of the office, someone typed a letter.	✓ At the back of the office, someone was typing a letter.

When we wish to say that something happens over an extended period of time (i.e. it does not happen instantly), we normally use a progressive tense. The progressive tense draws attention to the duration or repetition of an action. Compare: 'Someone *sneezed*.' (= they sneezed just once) 'Someone *was sneezing*.' (= they sneezed several times)

since 722

1

✗ The company was in India since 1951.	✓ The company has been in India since 1951.

When a time expression begins with **since**, we normally use the present perfect tense (NOT the past simple). ⟱ 583.2

2

✗ I hadn't heard from him since at least two years.	✓ I hadn't heard from him for at least two years.

When we mention the length of a period, we use *for*: 'She was in hospital *for six weeks*.' 'Can you wait *for twenty minutes*?'

Since marks the beginning of a period which continues up to *now* (the moment of speaking): 'I haven't seen him *since October*.'

3

✗ Many things have changed since the last ten years.	✓ Many things have changed over/during the last ten years.

When we mention the period of time within which something happens, we use *over* or *during*. Compare: 'Many things have changed *since* I was a boy.'

4

✗ I bought the calculator since three months.	✓ I bought the calculator three months ago.

When we mention the time when something happened in relation to *now* (the moment of speaking), we use *ago*: 'I came to England *three months ago*.'

5

× Since we were late, so we decided to go by taxi.	√ Since we were late, we decided to go by taxi.
	√ We were late, so we decided to go by taxi.

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

slacks   723

× He had bought himself a new slacks.	√ He had bought himself some new slacks.
	√ He had bought himself a new pair of slacks.

Slacks is a plural noun.   ⇨ 603

slang   724

× We were told not to use slangs in our essays.	√ We were told not to use slang in our essays.

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

sleep   725

1

× I told him to turn on the light as I was not sleeping.	√ I told him to turn on the light as I was not asleep.

To refer to a state, we use the adjective **asleep** (OPPOSITE **awake**).

2

× Before I sleep, I always read a book.	√ Before I go to sleep, I always read a book.

When we pass from one state into another, we **go to sleep** or **fall asleep** (OPPOSITE **wake up**).

smell   726

1

× The dustbin had not been emptied and smelled awfully.	! The dustbin had not been emptied and smelled awful.
	√ The dustbin had not been emptied and there was an awful smell.

The verb **smell** is followed by an adjective (NOT an adverb), ⇨ 28.1. Note, however, that the verb + adjective construction is used mainly in informal styles. In formal styles, we normally use **smell** as a noun, e.g. 'The cheese had a most unusual **smell**.'

2

✗ She asked me if I was smelling gas.	✓ She asked me if I could smell gas.

Smell is not normally used in progressive tenses, ⇨ 627.3. When we want to say that we are able to smell something, we use **can/could**: 'I can smell something burning.'

smile 727

✗ When he arrived home, his mother opened the door and smiled to him.	✓ When he arrived home, his mother opened the door and smiled at him.

We **smile at** someone.

smoke 728

✗ I could hardly see anything because of all the smokes.	✓ I could hardly see anything because of all the smoke.

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

snow 729

✗ The streets and the houses were covered in snows.	✓ The streets and the houses were covered in snow.

When **snow** means 'soft white flakes which fall from the sky in cold weather', it is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

so 730

1

✗ If a country has no natural resources, so it has to rely on imports.	✓ If a country has no natural resources, it has to rely on imports.
✗ Since I couldn't sleep, so I got up and went downstairs.	✓ Since I couldn't sleep, I got up and went downstairs.
	✓ I couldn't sleep, so I got up and went downstairs.

If the first clause begins with a conjunction (eg *if, since, as, because*), the next clause cannot begin with **so**. ⇨ 169.2

2

✗ I was not used to driving in so heavy traffic.	✓ I was not used to driving in such heavy traffic.
✗ I had never received so expensive presents.	✓ I had never received such expensive presents.

At the beginning of a noun phrase, we normally use **such**: 'I didn't know that Sweden could have **such warm weather**.' 'It was **such a good film** that I watched it again.'

So is normally used at the beginning of an adjective/adverbial phrase: 'Why do I always feel **so tired**?' 'The traffic was **so heavy** that nobody could move.' It is used at the beginning of a noun phrase only when the next word is a quantifier (e.g. *few, many, much*): 'How do you manage to save **so much money**?'

3

✗ Some people are so proud and refuse to accept charity.	✓ Some people are very proud and refuse to accept charity.

When we use **so** before an adjective or adverb, the sentence normally continues with a *that*-clause: 'Some people are **so proud that** they refuse to accept charity.' 'He snores **so loudly that** he keeps me awake.'

Sometimes, especially in informal styles, the *that*-clause is 'understood' or expressed indirectly: 'You are **so** untidy (that you keep losing things)!' 'If you weren't **so** untidy, you wouldn't keep losing things.'

When there is no *that*-clause, **so** + adjective normally expresses strong personal emotion: 'Have you seen their little girl? She's **so pretty**!'

4

✗ The train was so crowded so we had to stand up all the way.	✓ The train was so crowded that we had to stand up all the way.

After **so** + adjective/adverb, we use a *that*-clause. Compare: 'The train was very crowded and **so** we had to stand up all the way.'

5

✗ I'm sure that your next party will be so good as your last one.	✓ I'm sure that your next party will be as good as your last one.

In comparisons, we normally use **as** ... **as**: 'Your handwriting is **as bad as** mine.' After **not**, we can use either **as** ... **as** or **so** ... **as**, but **as** ... **as** is more common. Compare:

Your feet are **as** big **as** mine.	POSITIVE
Are your feet **as** big **as** mine?	QUESTION
Your feet are not **as/so** big **as** mine.	NEGATIVE

so far 731

1

| ✗ There was very little progress so far. | ✓ There has been very little progress so far. |

With **so far**, we normally use the present perfect tense. ⟹ 583.2

some 732

1

| ✗ The shop on the corner sells some milk. | ✓ The shop on the corner sells milk. |
| ✗ My brother has a large collection of some stamps. | ✓ My brother has a large collection of stamps. |

When we refer to things in general, we do not use **some**. We use **some** to refer to an indefinite quantity. Compare:

Butter is made from **milk**.
Don't forget to buy **some milk**.

Most people like **bananas**.
I bought six oranges and **some bananas**.

When an uncountable noun ('milk') or a plural count noun ('bananas') has general reference, it does not have a determiner. ⟹ 782.3

2

| ✗ I stopped the car to rest for some minutes. | ✓ I stopped the car to rest for a few minutes. |

When we mean 'not many', we use **a few** + plural count noun. Compare:

Speaker A: I need **some** envelopes.
Speaker B: How many?
Speaker A: Oh, just **a few**.

3

| ✗ For some reasons, it was always the brightest students who were invited to answer the questions. | ✓ For some reason, it was always the brightest students who were invited to answer the questions. |

When we use a countable noun after **some**, it is normally plural: 'I've got to write **some letters** this evening.'

Sometimes, however, especially in spoken English, we use the strong form of **some** (/sʌm/) with a singular count noun: 'I've just had a phone call from **some woman** in Luton.' 'I suppose I'll have to fill in **some form** or other.'

In these sentences **some** is similar to **a/an**, the difference being that **some** has the extra meaning 'I don't know who/which'. Unlike **a/an**, **some** + singular count noun is also used to express scorn, impatience, anger, etc.:

She's getting married to **some man** that she met on holiday.
Knowing Clive, he's bound to have **some excuse** or other.
Some idiot has parked right in front of our drive.

4

| ✗ Do they have some children? | ✓ Do they have any children? |
| ✗ The driver wouldn't let some more people get on the bus. | ✓ The driver wouldn't let any more people get on the bus. |

In questions and negative contexts we normally use **any**. ⇨ 733.1–2

5

| ✗ Some of houses had already been pulled down. | ✓ Some of the houses had already been pulled down. |

⇨ 640.1

6

| ✗ Some of the people never eat meat. | ✓ Some people never eat meat. |

⇨ 640.2

some/some- 733

1

| ✗ Do they have some children? | ✓ Do they have any children? |
| ✗ Have you told someone about the letter? | ✓ Have you told anyone about the letter? |

In questions, we normally use **any** or an **any**-word (i.e. *anybody*, *anyone*, *anything*, *anywhere*, *anyhow*):

Are there *any* matches in the drawer?
Did *anyone* tell you what to do?
We're not going *anywhere* tonight.

However, when we expect (or hope to receive) a 'yes' answer, we use **some** or a **some**-word: 'They did give you *something* to eat, didn't they?'
For this reason, we often use **some**, **someone**, etc, in offers and requests:
'Would you like *some* milk?' 'Could you give me *some* milk, please?'

2

| ✗ The driver wouldn't let some more people get on the bus. | ✓ The driver wouldn't let any more people get on the bus. |
| ✗ As I didn't have something special to do, I went with him. | ✓ As I didn't have anything special to do, I went with him. |

We normally use **some** or a **some**-word in positive contexts. In negative contexts we normally use **any** or an **any**-word. Compare:

They gave me *something* to read.
They did**n't** give me *anything* to read.

Everybody wanted *some* cake.
Nobody wanted *any* cake.

3

| × They refused to give me some more time. | ✓ They refused to give me any more time. |
| × He denied telling someone about what he had seen. | ✓ He denied telling anyone about what he had seen. |

With words that have a negative meaning we normally use **any** or an **any**-word, ⇨ .2 above. In addition to *not*, *never*, *nobody*, etc, whose negative meaning is obvious, there are words like **refuse** ('*not* agree') and **deny** ('*not* admit') whose negative meaning is less obvious.

Words and phrases with a 'hidden' negative meaning include:

> *barely*, *deny*, *fail*, *forbid*, *forget*, *hardly*, *impossible*, *improbable*, *incapable*, *on no account*, *no sooner*, *prohibit*, *rarely*, *reluctant*, *scarcely*, *seldom*, *unable*, *under no circumstances*, *unless*, *unlikely*, *unnecessary*, *unwilling*, *without*

These are normally used with **any** or an **any**-word.

4

| × My parents were too poor in those days to give me some money. | ✓ My parents were too poor in those days to give me any money. |
| × I felt too full to eat something else. | ✓ I felt too full to eat anything else. |

The structure **too** + adjective/adverb + **to**-infinitive has a negative meaning.
Compare: 'She was **too** frightened to say **anything**.' 'She did**n't** say **anything** because she was too frightened.'
In a negative context, we use **any**, **anything**, etc.

5

| × Tell me if you see something unusual. | ✓ Tell me if you see anything unusual. |

In contexts which contain **if** or the meaning 'if', we normally use **any** or an **any**-word: '**If anyone** has seen this man, they should contact the police.' '**Anyone** arriving late was sent to the headmaster's office.'

somebody/someone 734

1

| × She thinks that someone have been watching her. | ✓ She thinks that someone has been watching her. |

Somebody and **someone** take a singular verb. ⇨ 44.11

2

| × Have you told someone about the letter? | ✓ Have you told anyone about the letter? |
| × I would never borrow money from somebody. | ✓ I would never borrow money from anybody. |

In questions and negative contexts we normally use **anybody**/**anyone**.

⇨ 733.1–2

3

! Someone had left his or her suitcase on the train.	✓ Someone had left their suitcase on the train.

⇨ 42.4

something   735

1

✗ He is afraid that something have gone wrong.	✓ He is afraid that something has gone wrong.

Something takes a singular verb.   ⇨ 44.11

2

✗ The boy said that he hadn't done something wrong. ✗ I felt too full to eat something else. ✗ Tell me if you see something unusual.	✓ The boy said that he hadn't done anything wrong. ✓ I felt too full to eat anything else. ✓ Tell me if you see anything unusual.

⇨ 733.2,4,5

sometime   736

✗ Sometime all the buses are full and I have to walk.	✓ Sometimes all the buses are full and I have to walk.

When we mean 'occasionally', we use **sometimes** (with an **-s**). **Sometime** (without **-s**) means 'at an unknown or unspecified time': 'If you keep trying, you're bound to pass your driving test *sometime*.' 'She'll be arriving *sometime* in August.'

sometimes   737

✗ At Chinese New Year, children sometimes are given money in a small red envelope.	✓ At Chinese New Year, children are sometimes given money in a small red envelope.

⇨ 29.1

somewhere   738

✗ He asked me if I had seen his wife somewhere.	✓ He asked me if I had seen his wife anywhere.

⇨ 733.5

soon   739

✗ The baby soon will be one year old.	✓ The baby will soon be one year old.
✗ My clothes soon were dry again and I went home.	✓ My clothes were soon dry again and I went home.
✗ People soon will be living on the moon.	✓ People will soon be living on the moon.

sooner   740

1

✗ I would sooner to have my own business than work for somebody else.	✓ I would sooner have my own business than work for somebody else.

We say that a person *would sooner do* something (NOT *to do* something): 'I'd *sooner stay* at home than come to this hotel again.' Compare: 'I'd *prefer to stay* at home than come to this hotel again.'

2

✗ I'd sooner you don't tell anyone about this.	✓ I'd sooner you didn't tell anyone about this.

sorry   741

1

✗ He wants everyone to feel sorry about him.	✓ He wants everyone to feel sorry for him.

If we feel pity for someone, we feel *sorry for* them: 'I feel *sorry for* children who have nowhere to play.'

2

✗ I'm sorry for all the mistakes in this letter.	✓ I'm sorry about all the mistakes in this letter.

When we apologize, we normally say that we are *sorry about* something: 'I'm *sorry about* the delay in answering your fax.'

3

✗ I'm sorry to not answer your letter before.	✓ I'm sorry for not answering your letter before.

We use *sorry* + present infinitive to apologize for something that we are doing *now* (at the moment of speaking) or for something that we are just about to do:

'I'm *sorry to disturb* you, but you are wanted on the telephone.' 'I'm *sorry to trouble* you, but I wonder if you could help me.'

To apologize for something that we did *before now*, we can use one of several patterns:

I'm *sorry about/for waking* you up last night.
I'm *sorry that/if I woke* you up last night.
I'm *sorry to have woken* you up last night.

A perfect infinitive ('to have woken') is used mainly in formal styles.

sort of   742

✗ These sort of people should not be given a licence.	✓ These sorts of people should not be given a licence.

                              ⇨ 436

so that   743

! I have my own car now so that it's easier to get around.	✓ I have my own car now, so it's easier to get around.

When we mention the result of an action or situation, we normally use *so* or *and so*: 'The petrol gauge showed empty *and so* we stopped at the next service station.' Also, when it is obvious that the second clause expresses result, we can just use *and*: 'The car is very old *and* nobody wants to buy it.'

So that is normally used to express the purpose of an action: 'We hired a car *so that* it would be easier to get around.'

It is possible to use *so that* to express result: 'At that moment all the lights went out, *so that* the whole house was plunged into darkness.' However, this usage is not common and occurs mainly in formal styles.

Note that there is a comma before *so that* when it expresses result, but no comma when it expresses purpose.

sound   744

✗ His voice sounded very strangely.	✓ His voice sounded very strange.

                             ⇨ 28.1

spaghetti   745

✗ I hope you like spaghettis.	✓ I hope you like spaghetti.

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