

# 35 The press and the media

## A Radio and television

Read these extracts from TV listings.

4.00 pm	Diana: <b>talk show</b> <sup>1</sup> with Diana Cosby; today's guest, Rona Fredale	7.00 pm	<b>Documentary</b> : Are we killing our kids? <b>Investigating</b> <sup>2</sup> the junk food industry
5.00 pm	<b>Cartoons</b> <sup>2</sup> : crazy fun for kids of all ages	8.00 pm	<i>The Happy Couple</i> : <b>sitcom</b> <sup>6</sup> about a pair of newly-weds
5.30 pm	<i>Golden Chance</i> : <b>game show</b> <sup>3</sup> with Bob Langley	9.00 pm	<b>Roundup</b> : <b>sports programme</b> with all the day's top action – tonight: rugby final
6.00 pm	<b>News and weather forecast</b>	10.00 pm	<i>The Day in Politics</i> : <b>current affairs</b> <sup>7</sup> programme. <b>Presenter</b> <sup>8</sup> : James Hill
6.30 pm	<i>Didbury Street</i> : the nation's favourite <b>soap</b> <sup>4</sup>	10.30 pm	<i>Wikdal</i> : <b>detective drama</b> set in Norway. <b>Episode</b> <sup>9</sup> 3: A second body is found

<sup>1</sup> usually has a host and famous people who answer questions about themselves    <sup>2</sup> film where the characters are drawn rather than real    <sup>3</sup> show where people compete to win prizes    <sup>4</sup> short for soap opera – a series of TV/radio programmes about the lives of a particular group of characters, continuing over a long period and broadcast (several times) every week    <sup>5</sup> trying to find out the facts/truth about something    <sup>6</sup> funny TV/radio show where the same characters appear in a different story each week    <sup>7</sup> news about political events happening now    <sup>8</sup> person who introduces the show    <sup>9</sup> one of the parts into which a story is divided

## B Other expressions connected with TV and radio

The (mass) **media** refers to TV, radio, newspapers and the Internet, i.e. **means** of communication which reach very large numbers of people.

**Subtitles** enable people to read what the characters are saying (maybe in translation). If a film is **dubbed**, you hear the speech in your own language.

To receive a lot of TV channels, you may need a **satellite dish** on the roof or wall of your house. Many channels depend on (TV) **commercials** to make money. You may be able to **stream** radio and TV **broadcasts** from the Internet. A lot of radio and TV stations offer free **podcasts** which you can download.

### Language help

The noun **means** (a way of doing something), always ends in *s*, even in the singular. *The Internet is an important means of communication.*

## C Newspapers

A **popular** or **tabloid** newspaper usually **focuses on**<sup>1</sup> **sensation**<sup>2</sup> rather than real news, whereas a **quality newspaper** is usually more interested in serious news. A tabloid often has stories about celebrities, sport, **scandals**<sup>3</sup> and crime, while a quality paper focuses more on serious **journalism**<sup>4</sup> with **in-depth**<sup>5</sup> articles. To read newspapers on the Internet, you may have to **subscribe** / **pay a subscription**<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> emphasises / pays attention to    <sup>2</sup> very exciting or interesting events    <sup>3</sup> events which shock people in a moral way    <sup>4</sup> the work of collecting, writing and publishing or broadcasting news and articles    <sup>5</sup> done carefully and in great detail, explaining the reasons for events    <sup>6</sup> pay a sum of money regularly (e.g. once a year)

## D Verbs connected with the media

The BBC World Service **broadcasts** throughout the world. [transmits TV/radio programmes]  
They're **televising** the opening of Parliament tomorrow. (or, less formal: **showing**)  
The film was **shot** / **made on location** in Australia. [filmed in a real place, not in a studio]  
The series is **set** in London in the 1980s. [place/time where the drama happens]  
Within minutes of the event, people were **tweeting** about it. [posting very short messages on the Internet]

### Common mistake

Remember that the noun **news** is uncountable and takes a singular verb. *I have some news for you.* (NOT *I have a news.*) *The news is on TV at 7 pm.* (NOT *The news are on TV.*)

# Exercises

## 35.1 What sort of TV programmes from A opposite are these people talking about?

- 1 'It investigated how the banks had wasted billions of euros in bad loans.' *documentary*
- 2 'Walt Disney made a lot of them. *Mickey Mouse* was probably his most famous.'
- 3 'The Minister of Education was on it, discussing the new schools policy.'
- 4 'It's so funny, especially when the old uncle appears. We can't stop laughing.'
- 5 'My mum watches it every day. She knows all the characters as if they were real.'
- 6 'We wanted to find out if it was going to rain tomorrow.'
- 7 'They always solve the murder in the end, but it's very exciting.'
- 8 'He interviewed that young star who just won an Oscar, oh, what's her name?'
- 9 'The prize is £500,000 this week. That's a lot of money!'
- 10 'They showed a repeat of the Manchester United versus Valencia match.'

## 35.2 Fill the gaps with words from B opposite.

- 1 Which do you prefer if a film is in a foreign language, to read *subtitles*..... or to have the film d..... ?
- 2 I downloaded a great p..... about bees. I listened to it on my MP3 player in bed last night.
- 3 I hate it when c..... interrupt a good film. I usually go and make a cup of tea while they're on.
- 4 We've got a new s..... d..... on our roof. We can r..... hundreds of channels now.
- 5 I'd like a job in the m....., perhaps in TV or radio.
- 6 A lot of people use social networking sites as their main m..... of communication with their friends.
- 7 It's often possible to download b..... from the Internet or to watch them again, so you don't need to watch them on the day they were transmitted.
- 8 With a fast broadband connection, you can s..... TV shows directly from the Internet.

## 35.3 Sort these words into two categories: 'tabloid' and 'quality' newspaper.

~~celebrity news~~ complex political debate scandals in-depth reviews of books  
competitions and prizes sensational crimes long articles huge headlines

tabloid	quality
celebrity news	

## 35.4 Rewrite the words in bold using verbs from the opposite page.

- 1 The documentary looked into *investigated*..... the food industry and **emphasised** ..... school meals.
- 2 The programme was **filmed** ..... / ..... in Northern Finland. (*two answers*)
- 3 CNN **sends** ..... news programmes around the world.
- 4 They're **showing** ..... the cup final next week. (*give a more formal verb*)
- 5 The drama **takes place** ..... in Paris in the 1880s.
- 6 Do you ever **send those short messages over the Internet** ..... about news events?

## 35.5 Over to you

Which types of media do you use most? Give your reasons. If possible, compare your answers with someone else's.

# 6 Politics and public institutions

## A Types of government

**republic:** a state governed by representatives and, usually, a president (e.g. USA, France)

**monarchy:** a state ruled by a king or queen (e.g. UK, Sweden)

**federation:** a union of political units (e.g. provinces) under a central government (e.g. USA)

**democracy:** government of, by and for the people

**dictatorship:** system of government run by a dictator

**independence:** freedom from outside control; self-governing

## B Presidential and parliamentary government (US and UK)



**United States Presidential government:** The powers of the **President** and the **legislature (Congress)** are separate. These **branches** of government are **elected**<sup>1</sup> separately. The **President** is elected for a four-year **term** and can **appoint**<sup>2</sup> or **nominate** high officials in government, including **cabinet** members (who advise) and federal **judges**. The President leads a major **party**, usually, but not always, the **majority party**<sup>3</sup> in Congress. **Congress** consists of two **houses**, the **House of Representatives** and the **Senate**.



**United Kingdom Parliamentary government:** The government consists of a **legislature**<sup>4</sup> (**Parliament**) and a **Cabinet of Ministers**<sup>5</sup> from the majority party/parties in Parliament. The **Prime Minister** is the head of the government and the leader of the majority party in the **House of Commons**. The Prime Minister **selects** high officials and **heads**<sup>6</sup> the Cabinet. Parliament consists of two **chambers**, the **House of Commons** and the **House of Lords**. **MPs** are **members of parliament** elected from each **constituency**<sup>7</sup> to the House of Commons.

<sup>1</sup> chosen by vote    <sup>2</sup> decide who to give positions of authority to    <sup>3</sup> political party which won the most votes    <sup>4</sup> group of people who make new laws    <sup>5</sup> group of most important ministers    <sup>6</sup> is the leader of    <sup>7</sup> geographical voting area

## C Parliamentary elections

During a **general election** each **constituency** has to choose which **politician** it wants as its **representative**. Usually there are several **candidates** to choose from. These candidates are all **standing** (or **running**) for Parliament. They present the **policies**, i.e. their party's plans. On **polling day** every adult goes to the **polling station** and **casts a vote** by marking a cross on their **ballot paper**. The candidate who gets the **majority** of votes wins the seat. If the vote is very close, the constituency may be referred to as a **marginal seat**.

### Language help

Here are some word families relating to words on this page.

verb	person noun	abstract noun
rule	ruler	rule
govern	governor	government
preside (often followed by <i>over</i> )	president	presidency
represent	representative	representation
elect	elector; electorate (group of people)	election

# Exercises

## 36.1 Circle the correct word from the choices offered.

- 1 A member of parliament *governs / rules / represents* his or her constituency.
- 2 India gained *republic / independence / democracy* from the UK in 1948.
- 3 On *electing / voting / polling* day electors cast their votes.
- 4 She's *running / sitting / walking* for Parliament in the next election.
- 5 His father was *voted / stood / elected* MP for Cambridge City.
- 6 What is your country's economic *politics / policy / politician*?
- 7 The USA is a *legislature / federation / congress* of 50 states.
- 8 Although modern monarchs are said to *rule / govern / preside* over their countries they have little real power.

## 36.2 Look at this text about politics in the UK. Fill in the missing words.

Parliament in the UK consists of two <sup>1</sup> chambers : the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The country is divided into <sup>2</sup> ..... , each of which elects a(n) <sup>3</sup> ..... to represent it in the House of Commons. The ruling party in the Commons is the one which gains a <sup>4</sup> ..... of seats. The main figure in that party is called the <sup>5</sup> ..... . The Commons is elected for a maximum period of five years although the Prime Minister may call a general <sup>6</sup> ..... at any time within that period.

## 36.3 Match the sentence beginnings on the left with the endings on the right.

- |   |                          |                                  |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 The President appointed his uncle     | <input type="checkbox"/> | a over a Cabinet of Ministers.   |
| 2 The Prime Minister presides           | <input type="checkbox"/> | b on the ballot paper.           |
| 3 In last year's election I voted       | <input type="checkbox"/> | c as a judge.                    |
| 4 Lee says he would never want to stand | <input type="checkbox"/> | d from in our constituency.      |
| 5 Put a cross beside the name you want  | <input type="checkbox"/> | e the seat in our constituency.  |
| 6 I haven't decided yet how to cast     | <input type="checkbox"/> | f for the Green Party candidate. |
| 7 I'm not keen on the candidate who won | <input type="checkbox"/> | g for political office.          |
| 8 We had five candidates to choose      | <input type="checkbox"/> | h my vote.                       |

## 36.4 Find a word from the Language help section to match each definition.

- 1 the person with the highest political position in a republic *the President*
- 2 someone who speaks or does something officially, on behalf of a group of people
- 3 the leader of a country, e.g. a monarch or dictator
- 4 the period of office of the person with the highest political position in a republic
- 5 system used for controlling a country
- 6 the group of people who are entitled to vote
- 7 to act officially for a group of people

## 36.5

### Over to you

Write a paragraph about the political system in your country. Make sure your paragraph deals with all the following aspects of the topic appropriate to your country:

kind of government, e.g. a republic or a monarchy   chambers or houses   elections   terms of office   government leader

# 7 Crime

## A Crimes and criminals

crime	definition	criminal	verb
murder	killing someone	murderer	murder
shoplifting	stealing something from a shop	shoplifter	shoplift
burglary	stealing something from someone's home	burglar	burgle
smuggling	taking something illegally into another country	smuggler	smuggle
kidnapping	taking a person hostage in exchange for money or other favours, etc.	kidnapper	kidnap
terrorism	violent action for political purposes	terrorist	(terrorise)

All the verbs in the table above are regular. Note that the verb *terrorise* is mainly used in a general way, meaning to make others very frightened, rather than just relating to the crime.

### Language help

*I've been **robbed**. Someone's **stolen** my bike!*

Note the difference between the verbs **steal** and **rob**. The object of the verb **steal** is the thing which is taken away, e.g. *They stole my wallet*, whereas the object of the verb **rob** is the person or place from which things are stolen, e.g. *I was robbed last night. A masked man robbed the bank*. The crime is **robbery**.

**Steal** is irregular: *steal, stole, stolen*. The crime is **theft** – there is no equivalent noun formed from *steal*. **Rob** (and *steal* to a lesser extent) are often used in contexts not related to the law, e.g. *Two last-minute goals robbed our team of victory*.

## B Verbs connected with crime

Note that some of these verbs are followed by specific prepositions.

Bill **committed a crime** when he robbed a bank. Someone **witnessed** the crime and told the police. The police **arrested** him and **charged him with** bank robbery. They also **accused** his twin brother, Ben, **of** being his **accomplice**<sup>1</sup>.

The case came to **court**<sup>2</sup> and they were **tried**<sup>3</sup>. The trial did not last very long. Bill and Ben both **pleaded not guilty**<sup>4</sup> in court. Their lawyer did her best to **defend** them but the **prosecuting** lawyer produced a very strong case against them. After brief **deliberations**<sup>5</sup>, the jury **passed verdict on** them. They decided that Bill was **guilty** and he was **convicted of**<sup>6</sup> robbery but Ben was **innocent**<sup>7</sup>. The judge **acquitted** Ben of any involvement in the robbery but **sentenced** Bill to three years in **prison/jail**. He also had to **pay** a large **fine**. Bill **served** two years in prison but **was released from** prison a year early. He **got time off** for good behaviour.

<sup>1</sup> someone who helps someone commit a crime    <sup>2</sup> place where a judge makes legal decisions

<sup>3</sup> put through a legal process to decide whether they did the crime or not    <sup>4</sup> said they did not commit the crime    <sup>5</sup> discussions    <sup>6</sup> decide officially in a court of law that someone is guilty of a crime

<sup>7</sup> did not commit a crime

## C Nouns connected with crime

**offence**: an illegal act; it is committed by an **offender**    **trial**: the legal process in court whereby an accused person is investigated, or tried    **case**: a crime that is being **investigated** i.e. is **under investigation**    **evidence**: information used in a court of law to decide whether the accused is guilty or not    **proof**: evidence that shows conclusively whether something is a fact or not    **judge**: the person who leads a trial and decides on the **sentence**, i.e. the **punishment**    **jury**: group of citizens (12 in the UK, and, usually, the US) who decide on the **verdict**: i.e. whether the accused is guilty or not    **victim**: a person who suffers as the result of a crime    **suspect**: a person who is suspected of committing an offence

# Exercises

## 37.1 Put the correct form of either *rob* or *steal* in the sentences below.

- 1 Last night an armed gang *robbed*..... the post office. They ..... £2,000.
- 2 My handbag ..... at the theatre yesterday.
- 3 Every year large numbers of banks .....
- 4 Jane ..... of the opportunity to stand for president.

## 37.2 Which crime is each person accused of?

- 1 Zoe stole a chocolate bar from a shop. *Zoe is accused of shoplifting*.....
- 2 Harry took a film star's son and said she could only have him back if she paid a large sum of money. ....
- 3 Ophelia shot her husband in the heart. ....
- 4 Pete tried to take a large amount of cigarettes into his country without paying the due tax. ....
- 5 Tom broke into someone's house and stole a TV and a computer. ....

## 37.3 Fill the gaps in the paragraph below with one of the verbs from B opposite.

One of the two accused men <sup>1</sup> *was convicted* at yesterday's trial. Although his lawyer <sup>2</sup> ..... him very well, he was still found guilty by the jury. The judge <sup>3</sup> ..... him to two years in prison. He'll probably <sup>4</sup> ..... after 18 months. The other accused man was luckier. He <sup>5</sup> ..... and left the courtroom smiling broadly.

## 37.4 A preposition is missing in each of these sentences. Add it.

- 1 The judge sentenced the accused <sup>to</sup> ten years in prison.
- 2 Many prisoners end up getting time for good behaviour.
- 3 The police have charged the driver of the red sports car speeding.
- 4 The two girls are suspected taking sweets from the shop without paying.
- 5 Sam was found guilty today but the judge will decide his sentence tomorrow.
- 6 The jury passed a verdict of guilty the accused.

## 37.5 Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets.

- 1 The judge gave the accused six months in prison as punishment. (sentenced)  
*The judge sentenced the accused to six months in prison.*
- 2 The police think Bert is guilty but they cannot show this to be true. (proof)
- 3 In court the accused said he did not commit the crime. (pleaded)
- 4 The murder case is still being looked into by the police. (investigation)
- 5 Anyone suffering because of a crime can join this support group. (victim)
- 6 The detective thought the jealous lover killed the woman. (suspected)
- 7 The bank robbers are currently being tried at a court in London. (trial)
- 8 Nathan is hoping to be let out of prison soon. (released)

## 37.6

### Over to you

Answer these questions.

- 1 Which do you think are the two most important crimes in A?
- 2 Which, in your opinion, are the two least important crimes in A?
- 3 Would you like to serve on a jury? Why (not)?
- 4 What do you think should be the punishment for shoplifting?
- 5 How effective do you think fines are as punishment?
- 6 How effective do you think prison is as punishment?

## A Personal finance

These advertisements about personal finance appeared on a student noticeboard.

 <p><b>Newbank – Your Bank</b> Need a good <b>current account</b><sup>1</sup> with the best <b>interest rates</b><sup>2</sup> and a guaranteed <b>overdraft facility</b><sup>3</sup>? Pop into our campus branch today.</p>	 <p><b>Short of cash? Need a loan?</b> Need to <b>raise money</b> for that round-the-world trip? For a loan with <b>competitive</b><sup>8</sup> interest rates for students, ring 081456379.</p>
 <p><b>Too many credit cards?</b> <b>Combine</b><sup>4</sup> all your cards and <b>debts</b><sup>5</sup> into one convenient <b>payment</b><sup>6</sup>. Discuss your <b>credit limit</b><sup>7</sup> with us today. Call 67742319.</p>	 <p><b>Too soon to think about a mortgage?</b> No. Act now! For mortgages with low <b>deposits</b><sup>10</sup> and special student plans for <b>repayments</b><sup>11</sup>. Call 056987623.</p>

<sup>1</sup> account you use for most everyday business    <sup>2</sup> percentage which the bank pays you based on how much you have in your account    <sup>3</sup> permission to have a negative amount of money in your account  
<sup>4</sup> join together to make one    <sup>5</sup> money you owe someone    <sup>6</sup> the act of paying something  
<sup>7</sup> the maximum amount of money you may spend on your card    <sup>8</sup> as good or better than other banks  
<sup>9</sup> a loan used usually to buy a house    <sup>10</sup> money you pay before buying something to show you really want to buy it    <sup>11</sup> payments to reduce the amount you owe

## B Bank accounts and services

Read the conversation between Ricky and a bank adviser at Ricky's local branch.

ADVISER: So, your salary is paid into your current account and you have a **steady income**<sup>1</sup>. What about **outgoings**<sup>2</sup>? Do you foresee any major **expenses**<sup>3</sup>?

RICKY: I have some monthly outgoings, not many, and they're mostly **direct debits**<sup>4</sup>, so they're paid automatically. I do need to change my car soon. So I'll have to **finance**<sup>5</sup> that somehow.

ADVISER: OK. We can have a look at that later. You don't have a **savings account**<sup>6</sup> with us?

RICKY: No.

ADVISER: We could **open** one for you and **transfer**<sup>7</sup> money regularly from your current account. We can look at that later, too. You've never **been overdrawn**<sup>8</sup>, which is very good. Your account is **in credit**<sup>9</sup>.

RICKY: I try not to **be in the red**<sup>10</sup> and I know you **charge interest**<sup>11</sup> on overdrafts.

ADVISER: Good. And you use **online banking**, do you?

RICKY: Yes. I only ever come here nowadays to get cash from the **cash machine**.

<sup>1</sup> money coming in regularly, in a way that does not change much    <sup>2</sup> money you pay each month, e.g. rent, cost of running a car, etc.    <sup>3</sup> money you spend on things    <sup>4</sup> money taken automatically from your account, e.g. to pay bills, a mortgage, etc.; the bank *debits* (verb) your account for the necessary sums of money    <sup>5</sup> find the money needed to pay for it    <sup>6</sup> account where you put money you do not immediately need    <sup>7</sup> move from one account to another    <sup>8</sup> had a negative amount of money in your account    <sup>9</sup> has a positive amount of money in it    <sup>10</sup> *in the red* have a negative amount of money in your account    <sup>11</sup> make you pay a percentage of the amount

## C Public finance

The government collects money through taxes. **Income tax** is the tax collected on wages and salaries. **Inheritance tax** is collected on money people get from people who have died. **Customs** (or **excise**) **duty** is paid on goods imported from other countries; airports usually have **duty-free** shops. **VAT** (**value added tax**) is a tax paid on most goods and services. Companies pay **corporation tax** on their profits.

# Exercises

## 38.1 Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

- |                   |                                     |   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 interest        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a an account for money you don't need immediately |
| 2 mortgage        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | b payment taken automatically from an account     |
| 3 overdraft       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | c an account for day-to-day use                   |
| 4 savings account | <input type="checkbox"/>            | d a loan to buy a house or flat                   |
| 5 current account | <input type="checkbox"/>            | e money that is charged on a loan                 |
| 6 direct debit    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | f an account with a negative sum of money in it   |

## 38.2 Use words from A opposite to complete the sentences.

- Nigel owes his brother 5,000 euros and he borrowed 10,000 euros to buy a car. Nigel has debts totalling 15,000 euros.
- Misha spent 6,000 euros on her credit card; the bank said she'd spent 1,000 euros too much. Her credit limit was 5,000 euros.
- Newbank offers interest rates on loans that are similar to the rates other banks offer and are sometimes better. Newbank's rates are competitive.
- Before she bought her new car, Alice paid £500 to the dealer. She paid a deposit of £500.
- If a customer needs more money than is in their account, they can get permission to go on using the account. The bank offers an overdraft.
- Harry sold his car, got a part-time job and offered to clean people's windows. He was trying to raise money to finance his trip to Africa.
- You only need one credit card. You can consolidate all the sums you owe into one payment.
- If you want to buy a house, the bank offers loans where you can pay the money back over 30 years. The bank offers mortgages with repayments over 30 years.

## 38.3 What do we call ...

- the tax you pay on imported goods? *customs / excise duty*
- a shop at an airport where you don't pay tax?
- a tax which is added to most goods and services?
- a tax on money paid if someone dies?
- the tax that companies pay on their profits?
- the tax that the government takes out of your salary?

## 38.4 Answer the questions. Give reasons for your answers.

- If you were overdrawn, would you be in a good situation or a bad one?  
*A bad situation - you would have a negative amount of money in your bank account.*
- Why might a person open a savings account as well as a current account?
- Joel's account is in the red. Why is his bank manager unhappy?
- Why might someone transfer money from a savings account to a current account?
- Why is online banking easier than visiting your branch?
- Why are cash machines so convenient? Are there any risks in using them?
- Zara's account is in credit. Is she probably happy or unhappy?
- Bob doesn't have a steady income and his outgoings are very high. Do you think he feels secure or insecure?
- If your bank debited your account for 500 euros, would you feel you had more or less money as a result?

# 9 Describing objects

## A Some pairs of opposite adjectives

Cotton is a **natural** material and nylon is **artificial**.  
Red and yellow are **vivid** colours while grey is a **sombre** colour.

You can see through a **transparent** material but you can't see through an **opaque** material.

A machine that has no problems at all is **perfect** while one that doesn't work properly is **faulty**.

Something that is hard and doesn't move or bend easily is **stiff** while something that bends easily is **flexible**.

A material that can be easily spoilt by, for example, washing, can be called **delicate** while something that is hard to spoil can be called **tough**.

A material like glass that can be easily broken can be called **fragile** while something that does not break easily can be called **strong** or **sturdy**.

I prefer **strong** coffee to **weak** coffee – I can't stand coffee that has too much water or milk in it. I like to be able to really taste my coffee!

The painting is not a **genuine** Picasso – it's a **fake**.



a **conventional** chair



a **bizarre** chair



a **plain** frame



a **decorative** frame

## B Adjectives and nouns

adjective	noun	example	meaning
decent	decency	I'd like to get a table that's a decent size so we can have ten people to a meal.	good
entire	entirety	Between them they ate the entire cake!	whole
characteristic	character, characteristic	Big windows are characteristic of houses built in the early 1900s.	typical
precise	precision	We need to take precise measurements before we decide which fridge to get.	exact
severe	severity	It's a severe building – all concrete and straight lines.	very serious
solid	solidity	The table is made of solid oak.	hard all through
trivial	trivia, triviality	He doesn't write serious novels, just trivial romances.	insignificant

The only verbs that can be formed from adjectives in the above table are **characterise**, **solidify** and **trivialise**.

## C Phrases typical of speech

Did you see that **great big** cat run across the grass? [very big]

This photo **isn't half as** interesting as that one. [is much less]

Jessie's car is **nowhere near as** powerful as mine. [much less]

Tamara makes an **unusually strong** cup of coffee.

It's a **reasonably good** piece of sculpture. [fairly good]

It's a **pretty thick** book. [fairly thick]

# Exercises

## 39.1 Answer these questions relating to the adjectives in A opposite.

- Which is artificial – silk or lycra? ..*lycra*.....
- Which is more delicate when it comes to washing – silk or cotton? .....
- Would you say a watch that looks like a snake has a conventional or a bizarre design? .....
- How could you describe car brakes that are not working properly? .....
- Which would cost more – a genuine Monet or a fake? .....
- Which of these materials is more fragile – china or wood? .....
- Which is more flexible – metal or rubber? .....

## 39.2 Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

- Jana's clothes are never frivolous – they're always rather *B* .....  
 A delicate                      B severe                      C precise                      D bizarre
- This painting is ..... of the works of Rembrandt.  
 A characteristic              B solid                      C entire                      D plain
- I'd like to buy the ..... salami, please, not just a small piece of it.  
 A precise                      B trivial                      C entire                      D solid
- Do have the ..... to put on a new shirt, not that one with the hole.  
 A decency                      B severity                      C vividness                      D characteristic
- Writing a good job application is not a ..... matter.  
 A solid                      B conventional                      C trivial                      D transparent
- Making beautiful jewellery requires a high degree of .....  
 A entirety                      B precision                      C character                      D triviality

## 39.3 Choose words from the box to complete the dialogue.

reasonably    nowhere    half    ~~great~~    unusually    pretty

NINA: I love this room, Mark. Those <sup>1</sup> *great* ..... big windows are wonderful, and the views from them are <sup>2</sup> ..... amazing too.  
 MARK: Thanks. And I'm sure it isn't <sup>3</sup> ..... as expensive as you might imagine. I only pay 1,000 euros a month.  
 NINA: Wow! That's <sup>4</sup> ..... near as much as I pay. And my flat's very noisy too. It seems <sup>5</sup> ..... quiet here – you don't seem to hear too much noise from the street.  
 MARK: No, it's not too bad. And I've certainly got <sup>6</sup> ..... quiet neighbours. I never hear a sound from their flat.  
 NINA: Lucky you! I wish I could say the same about mine.

## 39.4 Some words in this unit can be used to talk about abstract ideas as well as objects. Use your knowledge of these words to answer the questions.

- If someone gives you a genuine smile, do they feel friendly or not particularly friendly towards you? *They feel friendly.*
- Do you think a transparent argument is one that is easy or difficult to follow?
- If a writer describes something vividly, is their writing effective?
- If a person behaves in a stiff way, are they more likely to be relaxed or tense?
- If the teacher says your work is 'solid', are you likely to be pleased or not?

## 39.5 Over to you

Answer these questions about yourself.

- Do you prefer decorative or plain picture frames?
- What would your perfect car be like?
- What do you think about artificial flowers?
- Do you enjoy talking about trivial things?

# 0 Belief and opinion

## A Verbs connected with beliefs and opinions

You probably already know **think** and **believe**; here are some more verbs.

I'm **convinced** we've met before. [very strong feeling that you're right]

I've always **held** that compulsory education is a waste of time. [used for very firm beliefs; *fml*; **maintain** could be used here]

She **maintains** that we're related, but I'm not convinced. [insist on believing, often against the evidence; *fml*; **hold** could not be used here]

I **feel** she shouldn't be forced to do the job. [strong personal opinion]

I **reckon** they'll get married soon. [usually an opinion about what is likely to happen / to be true; *infml*]

I **doubt** /*daut*/ we'll ever see total world peace. [don't believe]

I **suspect** a lot of people never even think about pollution when they're driving their own car. [have a strong feeling about something negative; fairly formal]

## B Phrases for expressing opinion

We haven't made any progress, **in my view** / **in my opinion**. (fairly formal)

She's made a big mistake, **to my mind**. (fairly informal)

**If you ask me**, he ought to change his job. (*infml*)

Note how **point of view** is used in English:

From a teacher's **point of view**, the new examinations are a disaster. [how teachers see things, or are affected]

### Common mistakes

Notice the prepositions in these phrases: **In my opinion/view** but **to my mind** and **from my point of view**. (NOT *in my mind* or *in my point of view*)

## C Prepositions used with belief and opinion words

Do you **believe in** life after death? What are your **views on** divorce? What do you **think of** the new boss?

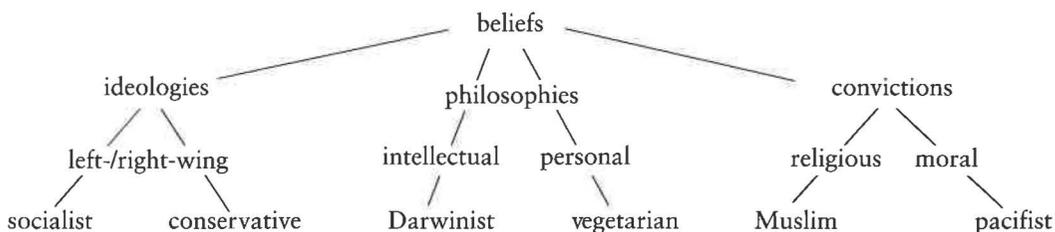
Are you **for** or **against** long prison sentences? (*neutral/infml*)

I'm **in favour of** (*opp* opposed to; *fml*) long prison sentences.

I **have my doubts about** this plan.

## D Beliefs, ideologies, philosophies, convictions

If you would rather organise this word tree differently or can add more examples, do so; it will probably help you to remember the words better.



## E Adjectives for describing beliefs and opinions

These are in sets which have similar, but not exactly the same, meaning:

**fanatical** / **obsessive**    **eccentric** / **odd** / **weird**    **conservative** / **traditional**    **middle-of-the-road** / **moderate**    **dedicated** / **committed**    **firm** / **strong**    **radical** / **extreme**

Peter is a **fanatical** supporter of the Green Party. Grandpa has rather **eccentric** views. Maria is a **moderate** liberal. Rosie is a **committed** Christian. Emma is a **firm** believer in free speech. Tom is a **radical** Marxist.

# Exercises

**40.1** Match the sentence beginnings on the left with the endings on the right and add an appropriate preposition. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- |                                       |                                     |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 I have strong views <i>on</i> ..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a my opinion.                    |
| 2 Many people believe .....           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | b the proposed changes.          |
| 3 I was in favour .....               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | c marriage.                      |
| 4 What does she think .....           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | d the plans for the new airport? |
| 5 This is absurd, .....               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | e life after death.              |
| 6 He's quite wrong, .....             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | f how honest he is.              |
| 7 Well, that's just silly, .....      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | g our point of view.             |
| 8 I have my doubts .....              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | h the new teacher?               |
| 9 Is Alex likely to be opposed .....  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | i my mind.                       |

**40.2** Use adjectives from E which fit the phrases describing the beliefs and views of these people.

- A person who insists that the earth is flat. (an *eccentric*..... belief)
- A person who believes absolutely in the power of love to solve world problems. (a ..... believer in the power of love)
- A socialist neither on the left or the right of the party. (a ..... socialist)
- A vegetarian who refuses even to be in the same room as people who love meat. (an ..... vegetarian)
- Someone who is always suspicious of change. (a rather ..... view of the world)
- Someone who is in favour of making everyone wear blue clothes on Tuesdays. (a rather ..... point of view)

**40.3** Rewrite these sentences using a form of the verb in brackets.

- My mum's sure Nina's expecting a baby. (reckon) *My mum reckons Nina's expecting a baby.*
- I've always suspected that ghosts don't really exist. (doubt) .....
- My view has always been that people should rely on themselves more. (hold) .....
- Claudia is convinced that the teacher has been unfair to her. (maintain) .....
- I had a very strong feeling that I had been in that room before. (convince) .....
- In his view, we should have tried again. (feel) .....

**40.4**

## Over to you

Are you ... ? Consider how many of these words apply to you, and explain why. Some ideas for situations are given in the box to help you decide. Write sentences about yourself.

EXAMPLE I don't think I'm a moralist because I wouldn't try to impose my views about religious or other morality on other people.

a moralist left-wing an intellectual a traditionalist a philosopher middle-of-the-road  
a radical thinker dedicated

food preferences politics learning English sport life and existence work religion