

Obligation, need, possibility and probability

A Obligation



You will be **liable** /'laɪəbəl/ for any damage when you rent a car. [obliged to pay; *fml*/legalistic]
 The company is **obliged** to give a refund if the tour is cancelled.
 The bank robbers forced him at gunpoint to open the safe.
 We **had no choice/alternative but** to sell our house; we owed the bank £100,000.
 The death sentence is **mandatory** /'mændətɹi/ for drug-smuggling in some countries.
 [automatic; there is no alternative]
 Was sport **compulsory/obligatory** at your school? No, it was **optional**. [you can choose]
 I am **exempt** from paying income tax as I'm a student. [free from obligation]

B Need

This plant is **in need of** water. (more formal than 'needs/wants')
 There's a **need for** more discussion on the matter. [we feel a need; *fml*]
 There is a **shortage** of teachers. [there are not enough]
 She could not concentrate **through lack of** sleep. [she had none or not enough; *fml*]
 A car is **an absolute necessity** if you live in the countryside and have no public transport. [something you must have] You just can't do **without** one. [survive or live without]
 What are the **requirements** for a Master's course in English? [things you must do or need]



C Possibilities

I've been given **an opportunity** to work in Bonn. [a real chance]
 Is there any **chance/possibility** you'll be free next week? (*chance* is less formal than *possibility*)
 A rise in oil prices is **inevitable** as oil supplies run out across the world. [is certain to happen]
 It is **doubtful whether** the economy will improve next year. [it may not improve]
 It is **probable that** the next government will change the tax laws.
 Many scientists believe that climate change is no longer just a possibility but is now an **absolute certainty**. [will certainly happen]

Common mistake

The correct preposition after the noun **need** is *for*, not *of*. There is a **need for** more qualified teachers.
 (NOT There is a ~~need of~~ ...)

Exercises

53.1 Match the sentence beginnings on the left with the endings on the right.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 The club closed down | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a of repairs and redecoration. |
| 2 People could not heat their homes | <input type="checkbox"/> | b for university entry on the website. |
| 3 Most people cannot do | <input type="checkbox"/> | c because of the oil shortage. |
| 4 There is a real need | <input type="checkbox"/> | d for better day care for young children. |
| 5 There is a list of requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> | e through lack of interest. |
| 6 The whole house is in need | <input type="checkbox"/> | f without a mobile phone these days. |

53.2 Continue the sentences using obligation words and phrases from A opposite with the words in brackets.

- 1 They were losing £10 million a year, so the company **was forced/obliged to close down**.
(close down)
- 2 You don't have to buy the travel insurance; it's
(extra charge)
- 3 You can borrow the camcorder, but you will
(for any damage to it)
- 4 We'll have to sell the house. I'm afraid we have
(otherwise, bankrupt)
- 5 He didn't want to give them the money, but they had guns; they
(hand it over)
- 6 No, he couldn't choose to pay a fine; a prison sentence is
(for dangerous driving)
- 7 I didn't want to do maths, but I had to. It's
(in all secondary schools)
- 8 If you're unemployed, you're (paying tax)

53.3 Answer the questions.

- 1 If a fee or charge is mandatory, do you have to pay it or can you choose? **You have to pay it.**
- 2 If an event is inevitable, how certain is it that it will happen? 20%, 50% or 100%?
- 3 If a car is exempt from tax, how much tax do you have to pay for it?
- 4 If an exam is optional, are you obliged to take it?
- 5 If you are liable for something, is it yours or someone else's responsibility?

53.4 Rewrite the words in bold using expressions from the opposite page.

- 1 Most people consider that a mobile phone is not a luxury but **something you absolutely must have**. *an absolute necessity / something you can't do without*
- 2 I have been given a **chance** to work with a team of zoologists in East Africa.
- 3 Is there any **chance** that you will be free to join us at 4 pm tomorrow?
- 4 It's **not at all sure** whether there will be any change in the situation in the near future.
- 5 It's not just a possibility that food prices will go up, it's **absolutely certain to happen**.
- 6 **She will probably** arrive tomorrow.

53.5 Over to you

Name something which ...

- 1 you think is inevitable.
- 2 there is a need for in your country.
- 3 was compulsory when you were at school.
- 4 you personally are in need of right now.
- 5 you own that you couldn't do without.

54 Sound and light

A General words to describe sound

I could hear the **sound** of voices/music coming from the next room. (neutral)

The **noise** of the traffic here is pretty bad. [loud, unpleasant sounds]

The children are making a terrible **racket** upstairs. Could you go and tell them to be quiet? [very loud, unbearable noise, often of human activity; *informal*]

Sound and **noise** can both be countable or uncountable. When they are of short duration or refer to different sounds/noises, they are countable. When they mean a lot of continual or continuous sounds, they are uncountable.

I heard **some** strange **sounds/noises** in the night. (countable)

I wish the children wouldn't make **so much noise** when I'm working. (uncountable)

The **sound** of the sea is very relaxing. (uncountable)

B Sound words and things that typically make them

All the words in this section can be used as nouns or verbs.

I could hear the rain **pattering** on the roof. We heard the **patter** of a little child's feet.

verb/noun	example(s) of what makes the sound
bang	a door closing in the wind, a balloon bursting
chime	a big public clock on a building sounding the hour
clang	a big bell ringing, a hollow metal object being struck
clatter	a metal pan falling onto a concrete floor
crash	a big, solid, heavy object falling onto a hard floor
hiss	gas/steam escaping through a small hole
hum	an electrical appliance when switched on, e.g. computer, freezer
rattle	small stones in a tin being shaken
ring	a small bell, a telephone ringing
roar /rɔː/	noise of heavy traffic, noise of a huge waterfall
rumble	distant noise of thunder, noise of traffic far away
rustle /'rʌsəl/	opening a paper/plastic bag, dry leaves underfoot
screech	a car's tyres when the brakes are suddenly applied
thud	a heavy object falling onto a carpeted floor

C Darkness

Here are some adjectives for **dark** conditions. (For adjectives describing brightness, see Unit 57.)

These brown walls are a bit **gloomy**. We should paint them white.

This torch is getting a bit **dim**. I think it needs new batteries.

It was a **sombre** /'sɒmbə/ room with dark, heavy curtains. [serious, imposing]

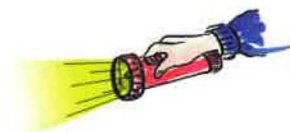
D Types of light

Note these collocations.

A torch gives out a **beam** of light. A diamond ring **sparkles**.

A camera gives a **flash** of light. Stars **twinkle**. A candle flame **flickers** in the breeze. White-hot coal on a fire **glows**.

The sun **shines** and gives out **rays** of light. A gold object **glitters**.



Language help

Many of the words relating to darkness and light can be used about people's expressions too. Light suggests happiness and darkness suggests unhappiness. *Kate's face was **glowing** with pleasure. Dan looks very **gloomy**. Has he had some bad news?*

Exercises

54.1 Choose *sound*, *noise(s)* or *racket* to fill the gaps. You may use the words more than once.

- 1 I could sit and listen to the sound..... of the river all day.
- 2 There was a terrible outside the pub last night; it was a fight involving about six people.
- 3 My car's making some strange I'll have to have it checked.
- 4 Gosh! What an awful ! I think you should take up a different instrument; the violin's just not for you!
- 5 I can't sleep if there's of any kind, so I use ear-plugs.

54.2 Using the table in B opposite, what sound do you think each of these might make?

- 1 A bottle of sparkling mineral water being opened. hiss
- 2 A box of saucepans being dropped down an iron staircase.
- 3 A mouse moving among dead grass and leaves.
- 4 A child falling over on a wooden floor.
- 5 A starting gun for a sporting event.
- 6 A train passing at high speed a few feet away from you.
- 7 A slow train passing, heard through the walls of a house.
- 8 A car coming to a halt very suddenly.

54.3 Choose the best word from the box to complete each sentence. Put it in the correct form.

chime clang hum patter rattle ring

- 1 I woke up when a small earth tremor rattled..... the cups on the table.
- 2 I can hear my mobile – I think it must be at the bottom of my bag.
- 3 It's cosy indoors with the rain on the windows.
- 4 We live in the country but can still always hear a of traffic from the road across the fields.
- 5 I couldn't sleep last night and heard the clock on the town hall every hour.
- 6 Joe the metal gate behind him as he left the garden.

54.4 Pair up the sentences on the left with the ones on the right so they make sense.

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 I saw a beam of light coming towards me. 2 The jewels sparkled in the sunlight. 3 The candle began to flicker uncertainly. 4 The first rays of the sun shone into the room. 5 She always wears rather sombre clothes. 6 We could see a dim shape in the fog. | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td>a Then it died, leaving us in complete darkness.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td>b It was a police officer holding a flashlamp.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td>c But blacks and greys do suit her.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td>d I'd never seen such a beautiful bracelet.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td>e As we got nearer we realised it was a bush.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td>f It was clearly time to get up.</td> </tr> </table> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | a Then it died, leaving us in complete darkness. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | b It was a police officer holding a flashlamp. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | c But blacks and greys do suit her. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | d I'd never seen such a beautiful bracelet. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | e As we got nearer we realised it was a bush. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | f It was clearly time to get up. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | a Then it died, leaving us in complete darkness. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | b It was a police officer holding a flashlamp. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | c But blacks and greys do suit her. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | d I'd never seen such a beautiful bracelet. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | e As we got nearer we realised it was a bush. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | f It was clearly time to get up. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

54.5 Which do you think is the correct meaning of the underlined words in these sentences?

- 1 Her eyes were shining as she told me her news. a
 a looked full of happiness b looked angry c looked afraid
- 2 Jessica glowed all through her pregnancy. a
 a looked rather worried b looked pale c looked very happy
- 3 She beamed at him. a
 a smiled b shouted c attacked
- 4 He has a twinkle in his eyes. a
 a a grain of sand b a sign of humour/enjoyment c a sign of anger

55 Possession and giving

A Possession

All his **possessions** were destroyed in the terrible fire. [everything he owned]
Don't leave any of your **belongings** here; we've had a few thefts recently. [smaller things, e.g. bag, camera, coat; always plural]

Estate in the singular can mean a big area of private land and the buildings on it, or all of someone's wealth upon death.

They live on a **housing estate** / an **estate**. [area containing a large number of houses or apartments built close together at the same time]

She owns a huge **estate** in Scotland. [land, etc.]

After his death, his **estate** was calculated at 10 million euros. [all his wealth]

Property (uncountable) is used in a general sense for houses, land, etc.

He's only 14; he's too young to own **property**.

A **property** (countable) is a building (e.g. house, office block) or land.

She owns some valuable **properties** in the town centre.

B Words for people connected with ownership

The **proprietor** /prə'prɪətə/ of this restaurant is a friend of mine. (used for shops, businesses, etc.; *fm*; **owner** is less formal)

The **landlord/landlady** has put the rent up. [owner of rented property]

Do you own this house? No, we're just **tenants**. [we rent it]

He **inherited** a big house in the country when his parents died. [became the owner after someone's death]

C Giving

The river **provides** the village **with** water / **provides** water for the village. (or **supplies**)

Jakes Ltd **supplies** our school **with** paper and other items. (often for 'selling' contexts)

It gives me pleasure to **present** you **with** this gift from us all.

His parents **supported** him while he was at college but now he's independent.

The school restaurant **caters** for 500 people every day. [looks after the needs of]

That uncle of mine that died **left** £3,000 to an animal shelter.

When she died she **donated** all her books to the library. (for large gifts to institutions)

I'm running a marathon next week for a cancer charity. Will you **sponsor** me? [give money if I complete the race]



Would you like to **contribute/donate** something to the children's hospital fund?



You've been **allocated** room 24. Here's your key.

D Phrasal verbs connected with giving

When I left the job I had to **hand over** the keys to my office to the new person.

I didn't really want to **let go** of my bike but I had no money so I had to sell it.

The people from the charity **handed out** / **gave out** stickers for everyone to wear. [distributed]

I had a banjo once, but I **gave it away**. [gave it free to someone]

This vase has been **handed down** from generation to generation in my family.

Exercises

55.1 Complete the missing words from A opposite.

- 1 He became a multi-millionaire and bought a huge ~~estate~~..... in the country.
- 2 Some of the p..... in this street have sold for more than five million euros this year.
- 3 I left some of my b..... in the changing room at the gym and they were stolen.
- 4 On his death, Mr Carson's e..... was valued at £400,000.
- 5 She sold all her p..... and travelled around the world for a year.
- 6 It's often difficult for young couples to buy p..... and they have to rent a place instead.

55.2 The verbs in the middle column have been jumbled. Put them in the right sentences.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 A millionaire | inherited | donated | his entire library to the school. |
| 2 The director was | supported | | the best parking place. |
| 3 My mother's cousin | donated | | me £5,000 in her will. |
| 4 A farmer nearby | catered | | us with logs for the fire. |
| 5 When I retired they | left | | me with a camcorder. |
| 6 The restaurant | allocated | | for vegetarians. |
| 7 My parents | presented | | me when I was out of work. |
| 8 The oldest son | supplied | | the old house when his father died. |

55.3 What questions using words from B and C opposite do you think were asked to get these answers?

- 1 Are you the owner/proprietor of this restaurant?
No, I'm not the owner. I just work here as a waiter.
- 2 ?
Yes, he became the owner when his aunt died. It's a massive house.
- 3 ?
OK, I'll give you one euro for every kilometre you run.
- 4 ?
Yes, that's right. I pay rent every month.
- 5 ?
Actually, I've already given something. Sorry.
- 6 ?
No, I'm sorry, we don't. You have to buy your own pens and exercise books.

55.4 The rise and fall of Mr Fatcatt – a sad story. Fill the gaps with suitable words from the opposite page.

Horace Fatcatt began his career by buying old ¹ properties in the city when prices were low. Soon he was one of the biggest private ² in the city, with around 1,000 ³ renting houses and flats from him. He was also the ⁴ of many shops and businesses. He became very rich and bought himself a huge ⁵ in Scotland, but then there was an economic crisis and he had to sell all his ⁶ and ⁷ – everything. He was left with just a few personal ⁸ and finally died penniless.

55.5 Over to you

Think of something that ...

- 1 you would hand over to a mugger if threatened.
- 2 has been handed down in your family.
- 3 you have given away at some time in your life.
- 4 is often given out in classrooms.
- 5 you value and would not want to let go of.

56 Movement and speed

A Particular types of movement

Move is the basic verb for all movement, but don't forget it also means 'to move to a new house/flat', e.g. We've **moved**. Do you want our new address?

Cars, lorries, etc. **travel/drive** along roads.

Trains **travel** along rails.

Boats/ships **sail** on rivers / across the sea.

Rivers/streams **flow/run** through towns/villages.

Things often have particular verbs associated with their types of movement. You should learn these as typical collocations when you meet them, and record them with a phrase or sentence, for example:

The car **swerved** /swɜːvd/ to avoid a dog which had run into the road.

[moved suddenly to the side]

White clouds **drifted** across the sky.

[moved slowly]

The flag **fluttered** in the wind.

[moved gently from side to side]

The leaves **stirred** /stɜːd/ in the light breeze.

[moved slightly]

The trees **swayed** back and forth as the wind grew stronger.

[moved slowly from side to side]



B Verbs to describe fast and slow movement

The traffic was **crawling along** because of the roadworks. [moving very slowly]

Stop **dawdling!** /'dɔːdlɪŋ/ We'll be late! [moving more slowly than is necessary]

Suddenly a car came round the bend and **tore along** the road at high speed.

Seconds later, a police car **shot past** after it.

Everyone was **hurrying/rushing** to get their shopping done before closing time.

The train was just **creeping along** at about 20 miles per hour. I knew we'd be late.

[moving very slowly]

The donkey was **plodding** along the road. [plodding suggests heavy, often tired, movement]

C Nouns to describe speed and their typical contexts

speed is a general word used for vehicles, developments, changes, etc., e.g. We were travelling at high **speed**.

rate is often used in statistical contexts; the rate of increase/decrease, e.g. The birth **rate** is going down.

pace shows how you experience something as happening fast or slow, e.g. The lesson was going at a very slow **pace**.

velocity /və'lobstɪ/ is used in technical/scientific contexts, e.g. The **velocity** of a moving object.

Common mistake

We say *at a speed/rate/pace*. (NOT *in or with a speed/rate/pace*)

The train was travelling at a speed of 120 kph. (NOT *The train was travelling with a speed of 120 kph.*)

Exercises

56.1 Pair up the sentences on the left with the ones on the right so they make sense.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 That tree was swaying back and forth in the wind. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a It sails at dawn. |
| 2 The cruise liner is leaving tomorrow. | <input type="checkbox"/> | b It flows through the capital city. |
| 3 A cat ran out in front of the car. | <input type="checkbox"/> | c It was moving so much I thought it would break altogether. |
| 4 The most famous river in France is the Seine. | <input type="checkbox"/> | d It was travelling at 160 kph at the time. |
| 5 A train came off the rails yesterday. | <input type="checkbox"/> | e I had to swerve hard and nearly ended up in the river. |

56.2 What other things do you think could be described by each verb apart from the contexts given opposite? Use a dictionary, if necessary.

- sway: a tree, someone dancing, someone walking on a ship in a rough sea, someone who's drunk
- crawl: traffic,
- shoot: a car,
- flutter: a flag,
- drift: a cloud,

56.3 Fill the gaps with *speed*, *rate*, *pace* or *velocity*. Use the guidelines opposite to help you.

- The rate of decline in this species is alarming.
- I just couldn't stand the of life in the city, so I moved to a small village.
- The teacher asked the students to calculate the of a series of objects dropped from a specific height.
- A: What were you doing at the time? B: Oh, about 60 kph, I'd say.
- The company is showing an impressive of growth.

56.4 Correct the error in each sentence.

- Pierre ~~creeped~~^{crept} down the stairs making as little noise as possible.
- We were making progress but only in a very slow pace.
- The baby stired but didn't wake up.
- The old man swerved a little but didn't fall over.
- Trains can travel with a much faster speed than buses.

56.5 Use a dictionary to make notes to help you learn the difference between these near synonyms. Make notes under the headings *usage* and *grammar*, as in the example.

	usage	grammar
fast	e.g. fast car / fast train - refers to speed	adjective and adverb - 'she drove fast'
quick		
rapid		
swift		

56.6

Over to you

In what situations might you ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 tear out of the house? | 4 not even dare to stir? |
| 2 deliberately dawdle? | 5 shoot past somebody's office/room? |
| 3 plod along at a steady pace? | 6 creep around the house? |

57 Texture, brightness, weight and density

A Texture – how something feels when you touch it

adjective	typical examples
smooth /smu:ð/	the paper in this book
polished	varnished wood; a shiny metal surface
silky	silk itself; fine, expensive tights or stockings
sleek	a highly polished new car
slippery	a fish just out of the water
furry /'fɜ:ri/	a thick sheepskin rug
rough /rʌf/	new, unwashed denim jeans; bark of a tree
coarse /kɔ:s/	sand
jagged /'dʒægɪd/	sharp, irregular edges of broken glass or metal
prickly	a thistle; a cactus; thorns on a rose

Your hair **has** a silky feel. This cotton is very smooth to the touch. The table had a beautiful polished surface. /'sɜ:fɪs/ The ground was rough underfoot.

B Brightness



a shady corner of the garden



carnival costumes full of vivid colours



shiny leather shoes



a dazzling light

You wear such **dull** colours – why don't you start wearing **bright** colours for a change?
The light's too **dim** to read in here. We need another lamp.
I wear sunglasses when I drive because of the **glare** of the sun.

C Density and weight

A **solid** ≠ **hollow** object. She has **thick** ≠ **thin/fine** hair.

An area with **dense** ≠ **sparse** vegetation.

Your bag's as **light** as a feather! Have you brought enough?

Your bag's as **heavy** as lead! What's in it? Bricks?

This suitcase is very **bulky/cumbersome**. /'kʌmbəsəm/ [difficult, big and heavy]

Exercises

57.1 Which adjectives from A opposite could describe the texture of these things?

- 1 The latest model of a smartphone. *sleek or smooth*.....
- 2 Heavy, stone-ground wholemeal flour.
- 3 A wet bar of soap.
- 4 The branches of a rose bush.
- 5 A gravel pathway.
- 6 The inside of a pair of sheepskin gloves.
- 7 The edge of a piece of broken, rusty metal.
- 8 The surface of a mirror.
- 9 A silk scarf.
- 10 An empty sack.

57.2 Rewrite the sentences. Look at the words in bold and follow the instructions in brackets.

- 1 The material felt **metallic**. (change to noun) *The material had a metallic feel.*.....
- 2 The cloth was rough when you **touched** it. (change to noun)
.....
- 3 We sat in a part of the garden where there was **shade**. (change to adjective)
.....
- 4 Suddenly there was a light which **dazzled** everyone. (change to adjective)
.....
- 5 The ground was very wet **under our feet**. (change to adverb)
.....
- 6 My suitcase **weighs very little**. (use *feather*)

57.3 Match the sentence beginnings on the left with the endings on the right.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 We walked through the jungle vegetation, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a which was hollow. |
| 2 We found it inside an old tree, | <input type="checkbox"/> | b which was absolutely solid. |
| 3 We loved the new colour, | <input type="checkbox"/> | c which was as heavy as lead. |
| 4 We examined the desert vegetation, | <input type="checkbox"/> | d which was very vivid. |
| 5 We tried to drill into the rock, | <input type="checkbox"/> | e which was very dense. |
| 6 We couldn't lift the box, | <input type="checkbox"/> | f which was very sparse. |

57.4 What could you do if ...

- 1 your reading lamp was rather dim? *get a brighter one*.....
- 2 you were fed up with the dull colour of the walls in your room?
.....
- 3 you found the glare of the sun uncomfortable?
- 4 you wanted your shoes to be shiny?
- 5 your rucksack was too bulky or cumbersome?

57.5 *Over to you*

Look round your own home and find ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 something sleek to the touch. | 4 something furry. |
| 2 something rough underfoot. | 5 something smooth. |
| 3 something with a polished surface. | |

58 Success, failure and difficulty

A Succeeding

We **succeeded in persuading** a lot of people to join our protest. (in + *-ing*)

I **managed** to contact him just before he left his office.

I don't think I can **manage** the whole walk. I think I'll turn back. (**manage**, but not **succeed**; may have a direct object in this meaning)

We've **achieved** /ə'tʃi:vɪd/ / **accomplished** /ə'kʌmplɪʃt/ a great deal in the last year.

(both are used with quantity phrases such as 'a lot' and 'a little'; **accomplish** is rather formal)

The company has **achieved** all its **goals/aims/targets** for this year. (**achieve** is more common than **accomplish** with nouns expressing goals and ambitions)

Do you think his plan will **come off**? [succeed; *informal*]

Here is a matrix for some typical collocations with 'succeeding' verbs:

	reach	attain	secure	realise	fulfil	achieve
an ambition		✓		✓	✓	✓
a dream				✓	✓	
an agreement	✓		✓			
an obligation					✓	✓
a target	✓	✓				✓
a compromise	✓					

B Failing and difficulty

Plans and projects sometimes **go wrong** / **backfire**. [don't go as intended]

Companies, clubs and societies often **fold** / **go under** through lack of success. [close down; **go under** is informal]

A plan or project may **falter** /'fɒltə/, even if it finally succeeds. [have ups and downs]

All your plans and hard work / efforts may **come to nothing**.

I have great **difficulty** (in) getting up in the morning.

I **find it difficult** to remember the names of everybody in the class. (**hard** can also be used here; it is more informal)

It's hard/difficult to hear what she's saying.

I often **have trouble** starting the car on cold mornings. (more informal)

We've had a lot of **bother with** the neighbours lately. (very informal)

Can you **cope with** three more students? They've just arrived. [deal successfully with a difficult situation]

I've got no money, my girlfriend's left me; I need help; I **can't cope** any more.

C Word formation

verb	noun	adjective	adverb
succeed	success	successful	successfully
accomplish	accomplishment	accomplished	–
achieve	achievement	achievable	–
attain	attainment	attainable	–
fulfil	fulfilment	fulfilling	–
harden	hardness	hard	hard

Common mistakes

Izzy had great difficulty finding somewhere to live in London. (NOT difficulties)

Paul had considerable success with his first novel. (NOT successes)

Exercises

58.1 Choose a suitable verb to fill the gaps. If the exact word in the sentence is not in the vertical column of the matrix on the opposite page, look for something that is close in meaning. More than one verb is often possible.

- The management have reached a no-strike agreement with the union.
- Now I've all my family responsibilities, I can retire and travel the world.
- The school building fund has failed to its target of £250,000.
- I never thought I would my ambition, but now I have.
- Very few people all their hopes and dreams in life.
- We hope the two sides a compromise and avoid war.
- I'm afraid that little plan of mine didn't off.

58.2 Fill in the missing word forms where they exist.

verb	noun	adjective
realise	realisation	
	difficulty	
	target	
fail		
	trouble	

58.3 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- I find ^{it} very difficult to understand English idioms.
- She succeeded to rise to the top of her profession.
- Do you ever have any trouble to use this photocopier? I always seem to.
- I've accomplished to work quite hard this last month.
- I'm amazed that you can cope all the work they give you.
- Did you have many difficulties finding the book in the library?
- Unfortunately, it seems as if all John's plans have come at nothing.
- I'm afraid I haven't had any successes in contacting Lara today.

58.4 In what sorts of situations would you hear the following remarks?

- We'll have to get an au pair. I just can't cope. *You would probably hear it from a parent who is finding it too difficult to combine work and family life.*
- I can't believe it, £5,000. The company folded and now I've got nothing to show for it!
- It went under, I'm afraid, and he's bankrupt now.
- You can't manage all that. Let me help you.
- Yes, her plan came off even though the odds were really against her.

58.5 *Over to you*

What would happen / What would you do if ...

- a plan backfired?
- a club had only two members left out of 50?
- a student faltered in one exam out of six, but did well in all the rest?

What would you do if ...

- you were having a lot of bother with your car?
- you started a small business but it came to nothing?
- you couldn't cope with your English studies?