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ENGLISH VOCABULARY IN USE

**Vocabulary
reference and
practice**

Third Edition

Advanced

**Michael McCarthy
Felicity O'Dell**



**Includes ebook
with audio**

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**with answers
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Thanks

Joy Godwin wrote two units for the Third Edition: Unit 3, *Applying for a job*, and Unit 4, *Job interviews*. The publishers would like to thank Joy for her contribution to this edition.

Exercises

8.1 Read the comments and then answer the questions.



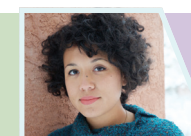
I wish Tatyana would calm down and not get so over-excited about things.



Tom thinks his country is better than any other country and doesn't listen to reason.



Alice can always be relied upon to make the right decision.



Sophie is always so calm.



Harry is such a practical and sensible person.



Andrey has a tendency to say things that upset people.

- 1 Who is placid?
- 2 Who is down-to-earth?
- 3 Who tends to get carried away?
- 4 Who is often tactless?
- 5 Who is shrewd?
- 6 Who is chauvinistic?

8.2 Which colleagues does the speaker have a positive opinion of and which a negative one?

'Ellie, my boss, is very astute and she can be very witty, but I find her assistant, David, a bit sullen and obstinate. Julia, who I sit next to, is a bit stingy and extremely work-obsessed. I do a lot of work with Marco, who's very obliging, supportive and tolerant.'

8.3 Fill the gaps with words from the opposite page. You are given the first letter(s) and clues to the meaning in brackets.

- 1 He's rather o..... He always tries to use situations to his own advantage. (devious)
- 2 She has an i..... approach to life rather than a rational one. (instinctive)
- 3 My father was a somewhat quick-tempered and m..... sort of person. (gloomy)
- 4 He was a very altruistic person, almost to the point of being n..... (too trusting)
- 5 Aisha has a m..... personality. Everyone is drawn to her. (attractive)
- 6 Rob is a very conscientious and m..... worker. (careful, systematic)
- 7 I find Eva a bit b..... and rude. (speaks in a quick and rude way)
- 8 She's fun-loving but she can be a bit s..... at times. (doesn't care about serious things)
- 9 I think Max is i..... (doesn't have much confidence, not really sure of himself)
- 10 I'm always happy to go out for a meal with Kerstin. She's such g..... C..... (pleasant and entertaining to spend time with)
- 11 She was very c..... in speaking out against corruption. (brave, unafraid to speak or act)
- 12 Owen's a p..... He's never happy if he doesn't get an A-grade in every test.

8.4 Find adjectives on the opposite page related to these abstract nouns.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 altruism | 4 placidity | 7 distrust | 10 unscrupulousness |
| 2 parsimony | 5 industriousness | 8 terseness | |
| 3 diligence | 6 rebellion | 9 naivety | |

8.5 The adjectives you found in the exercise above are more common in formal contexts. Give a synonym for each word that would be more likely to be used in informal situations (e.g. a friendly, informal conversation). Use a dictionary if necessary.

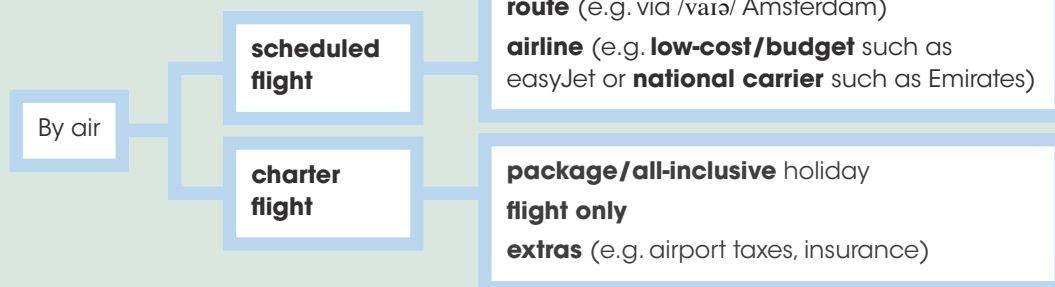
8.6 Over to you

Which adjectives from this unit could you use to describe you, your friends and your family members?

A

Booking travel and holidays

Here are some choices you may make when booking travel or holidays.



A **scheduled flight** is a normal, regular flight; a **charter flight** is a special flight taking a group of people, usually to the same holiday destination. Some airline tickets may have **restrictions** (e.g. you can only travel on certain days). Such tickets can offer good **value for money** but, if you cancel, they are **non-refundable**¹ or you may have to pay a **cancellation fee**. Some tickets allow a **stopover**². A **package** holiday normally includes accommodation and **transfers**, e.g. a coach or a **shuttle bus** to and from your hotel. An **all-inclusive** holiday includes your flight, accommodation and all meals, drinks and snacks in the hotel.



¹ you can't get your money back ² you may stay somewhere overnight before continuing to your destination



Sea travel is normally on a **ferry**, and the journey is called a **crossing**, but you can have a holiday on the sea if you **go on a cruise**. For some people, a luxury cruise is the **holiday of a lifetime**¹. You may decide to book a **berth** in a **shared cabin**², or to have a single or double cabin. For more money, you can often get a **deluxe** cabin, perhaps on the **upper deck**³. Cruises often go to **exotic**⁴ islands where you can **get away from it all**⁵.

¹ one you will always remember ² a bed in a cabin with other people ³ the higher part of the ship, which is often bigger and more comfortable ⁴ unusual or exciting ⁵ escape your daily life and routines

Train travel allows you to relax as you travel and look at the countryside through the windows of your **carriage**. Railways link major towns but you may have to **change trains**¹ if you are not able to get a **through train**².



¹ get off one train and on to another ² or **direct train**, one which takes you directly to your destination



Car hire is another way of **getting around**¹. When you book it, you may have to choose whether you want **unlimited mileage**². There may also be **extras** to pay, such as accident insurance. If you hire a car, it gives you the freedom to **come and go as you please**³.

¹ travelling to different places; *informal* ² /'maɪlɪdʒ/ you can travel as many miles as you like for the same price ³ go where you want when you want

B

Accommodation when travelling

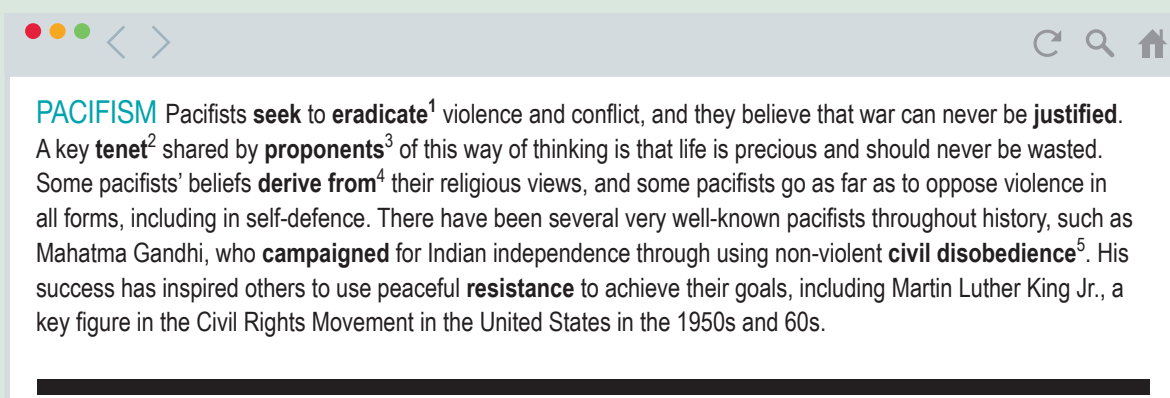
Some people like **camping**¹ while others prefer hotels. Or you can have a **self-catering**² holiday, such as staying in an apartment or **chalet**³. You can also choose to stay in a **guest house**⁴ or an **inn**⁵. Some types of accommodation offer **half board**⁶ or **full board**⁷.

¹ sleeping in a tent or a caravan ² where you do your own cooking ³ /'ʃæleɪ/ small cottage or cabin specially built for holiday-makers ⁴ small, relatively cheap hotel ⁵ similar to a pub, but also offering accommodation; sometimes in an attractive old building ⁶ usually breakfast and one other meal ⁷ all meals

A People and their beliefs

person	definition	related words
adherent (of)	a person who supports a particular idea or party	adherence, to adhere to
convert (to)	someone who has taken on a new set of beliefs	conversion, to convert
fanatic	(disapproving) someone with a very strong belief that something is great	fanaticism, fanatical
radical	someone who believes there should be extreme change, often political	radicalism, to radicalise
reactionary	(disapproving) someone opposed to change or new ideas	reaction, to react

B A definition of one belief



PACIFISM Pacifists **seek to eradicate**¹ violence and conflict, and they believe that war can never be **justified**. A key **tenet**² shared by **proponents**³ of this way of thinking is that life is precious and should never be wasted. Some pacifists' beliefs **derive from**⁴ their religious views, and some pacifists go as far as to oppose violence in all forms, including in self-defence. There have been several very well-known pacifists throughout history, such as Mahatma Gandhi, who **campaign**⁵ed for Indian independence through using non-violent **civil disobedience**⁵. His success has inspired others to use peaceful **resistance** to achieve their goals, including Martin Luther King Jr., a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States in the 1950s and 60s.

- ¹ abolish or get rid of ² a principle on which a belief is based ³ person who publicly supports an opinion
⁴ have their origins in ⁵ when a group of people express disapproval of laws by refusing to obey them

C Other words and expressions relating to believing

Emma's **viewpoint** / **point of view** is that we should just wait and see what happens next. [way of thinking about a situation]

The boy produced a barely **credible** excuse for arriving late. [believable; *opp.* = **incredible**]

I was **incredulous** when she told me she was quitting her job to go to New Zealand. [not wanting or able to believe something]

He's very **gullible** – he believes anything you tell him. [easily tricked into believing things that may not be true]

You should try to be less **subjective** about the situation. [influenced by beliefs or feelings rather than facts; *opp.* = **objective**]

Can't you find a more **plausible** excuse than that? [convincing; *opp.* = **implausible**]

Many scholars **attribute** this anonymous poem **to** Dante. [consider something to be caused or created by]
 I **presume** that Meena told you what happened. [believe something to be true although you are not totally certain]

We should **give her the benefit of the doubt**. [accept that someone is telling the truth even though it is not certain]

You should **take** what he says **with a pinch of salt** – he's inclined to exaggerate. [do not totally believe what you are told]

A

Changes in numbers and quantities

During the five years 2010–2015, internet use across the world was estimated to have increased **twofold**¹, while in China, it **quadrupled**². In the developing world, internet use grew **by a factor of**³ three.

The **drastic**⁴ changes in interest rates resulted in a **threefold**⁵ increase in the number of people unable to keep up their mortgage repayments.

The estimated number of stars in the Milky Way has been **revised upwards**⁶ in light of recent discoveries.

The weather patterns have **deviated from the norm**⁷ in recent years.

Sales **fluctuate**⁸ from month to month.

Interest rates have **seesawed**⁹ all year.

Share prices have been **erratic**¹⁰ this last month.

¹ the suffix *-fold* means ‘multiplied by that number’

² increased by four times

³ multiplied by

⁴ severe and sudden

⁵ twofold, threefold, etc. can be used as an adverb or adjective

⁶ changed to a higher number (you can revise something downwards to a lower number)

⁷ moved away from the standard or accepted pattern

⁸ keep going up and down

⁹ gone up and down at regular intervals

¹⁰ not regular and often changing suddenly

B

More expressions for describing statistics and numbers

When the different amounts were added up, the **aggregate** was £600,000. [total]

I’ve **aggregated** all the figures. [added up all the different amounts]

The Finance Minister said the July rise in inflation was only a **blip**. [temporary change]

There seems to be a **correlation between** mathematical and musical ability. [connection between facts or things which cause or affect each other]

The percentage of **GDP expenditure** which goes on education varies considerably from country to country. [Gross Domestic Product: the total amount that a country produces] [the amount of money spent on something]

There’s a **discrepancy between** our figures and yours. [difference between two things that should be the same]

The **ratio** of men to women in the Engineering Faculty was 3 to 1. [the relationship between two amounts, which expresses how much bigger one is than the other]

The company’s figures were found to be **flawed** and the accountant was fired. [inaccurate]

She suffered **multiple** injuries in the accident. [very many of the same type, or of different types]

Our data are **inconsistent with** yours. [not in agreement with]

C

Assessing quantity



Let me give you a **ballpark figure**¹ of how much money we expect to make this year. If I **tot everything up**², we begin to **run into six figures**³. There are a lot of **variables**⁴ and our **projected figures**⁵ may not be all that accurate. So I’ve **erred on the side of caution**⁶ and I’ve **rounded things down**⁷ rather than up, in order to give you a **conservative**⁸ estimate.

¹ guess believed to be accurate

² add everything up (less formal)

³ get a figure over 100,000

⁴ different factors that may change

⁵ planned figures

⁶ been cautious

⁷ make, say, 2.5 into 2 rather than 3

⁸ cautious

A

Polysemy

A great many words in English have more than one meaning. Linguists call this aspect of vocabulary polysemy.

Look at these sentences and think about how you would translate the words in *italics* into your own language.

- fair** It's only *fair* that we should share the housework.
 The Frankfurt Book *Fair* is a very important event for most publishers.
 The forecast is for the weather to stay *fair* for the next week.
 I've got *fair* skin and burn easily in the sun.
 His marks in his final exams ranged from excellent to *fair*.
- flat** The firefighters managed to save the children from the burning third-floor *flat*.
 The countryside round here is terribly *flat* and boring.
 To join the Fitness Club, you pay a *flat* fee of £500.
 The sonata is in B *flat* minor.
 She finished the exercise in five minutes *flat*.
- capital** Fill in the form in *capital* letters.
 Wellington is the *capital* of New Zealand.
 You need plenty of *capital* to open a restaurant.
Capital punishment has been abolished in many countries.
- mean** What does 'coagulate' *mean*?
 I didn't *mean* to hurt you.
 He's far too *mean* to buy her flowers.
 The *mean* temperature for July is 25°C.
 You shouldn't be so *mean* to your little sister.

You probably need a different word to translate *fair*, *flat*, *capital* and *mean* in each sentence. Sometimes the meanings are clearly related – *flat* as in *countryside* has a connection with *flat* as in *apartment* in that they both include an idea of being on one level. Sometimes, however, there is no connection at all. For example, the meaning of *fair* as in *Book Fair* has no obvious connection with any of the other meanings of *fair*. Words like this can be called **homographs** (words with the same spellings but different meanings).

B

Being aware of polysemy

It is useful to be aware of polysemy in English for several reasons.

- You need to remember that the meaning you first learnt for a word may not be the one that it has in a new context.
- You need to be aware that in English, words can sometimes be used as different parts of speech. *Flat* with its *apartment* meaning, for instance, can become an adjective, e.g. a set of *flat keys*.
- Learning about the range of meanings that a word can have can help you to learn several meanings for the price of one.
- It will also help you to understand jokes in English, as these are often based on polysemous words.

Language help

The context of a word with multiple meanings will usually make it absolutely clear which of the word's possible meanings is intended. So you can understand what, for example, the noun *drill* probably means in (a) a dental context, (b) an army context, (c) a road-building context, or (d) a language-learning context.