


Words which are often confused

 These words are often confused by candidates at Cambridge English: First.

Unit 4, Vocabulary, Exercise 1 (page 44)

food *noun* [U] something that people and animals eat, or plants absorb, to keep them alive: *baby food*.
There was lots of food and drink at the party.

dish *FOOD noun* [C] food prepared in a particular way as part of a meal: *a chicken/vegetarian dish*

meal *FOOD noun* [C] an occasion when food is eaten, or the food which is eaten on such an occasion: *I have my main meal at midday. You must come round for a meal sometime.*

Unit 6, Vocabulary, Exercise 1 (page 67)

fun or funny?

If something is **fun**, you enjoy doing it.
I really liked the skating – it was such fun.

1 If something is **funny**, it makes you laugh.
It's a very funny film.

2 If something is **funny**, it is strange, surprising, unexpected or difficult to explain or understand.
The washing machine is making a funny noise again.

possibility, occasion or opportunity?

A **possibility** is a chance that something may happen or be true. **Possibility** cannot be followed by an infinitive.
Is there a possibility of getting a job in your organisation?

An **occasion** is an event, or a time when something happens. Occasion does not mean 'chance' or 'opportunity'.
Birthdays are always special occasions.

An **opportunity** is a possibility of doing something, or a situation which gives you the possibility of doing something.
The trip to Paris gave me an opportunity to speak French. I have more opportunity to travel than my parents did.

work or job?

Work is something you do to earn money. This noun is uncountable.
She enjoys her work in the hospital.

Job is used to talk about the particular type of work activity which you do. This noun is countable.
He's looking for a job in computer programming.

Unit 5, Vocabulary, Exercise 3 (page 58)

assist *verb* [I or T] *formal*: to help: *You will be expected to assist the editor with the selection of illustrations for the book.*

attend *BE PRESENT verb* [I or T] *slightly formal*: to go to an event, place, etc.: *The meeting is on the fifth and we're hoping everyone will attend.*

get to know sb/sth: to spend time with somebody or something so that you gradually learn more about them:
The first couple of meetings are for the doctor and patient to get to know each other.

join *BECOME A MEMBER verb* [I or T]: to become a member of an organisation: *I felt so unfit after Christmas that I decided to join a gym.*

take part: to be involved in an activity with other people:
She doesn't usually take part in any of the class activities.

know or find out?

If you **know** something, you already have the information.
Andy knows what time the train leaves.

If you **find** something **out**, you learn new information for the first time.
I'll ring the station to find out what time the train leaves.

learn, teach or study?

To **learn** is to get new knowledge or skills.
I want to learn how to drive.

When you **teach** someone, you give them new knowledge or skills.
My dad taught me how to drive.

When you **study**, you go to classes, read books, etc. to try to understand new ideas and facts.
He is studying biology at university.

Unit 7, Vocabulary, Exercise 2 (page 86)

look, see or watch?

See means to notice people and things with your eyes.
She saw a big spider and screamed.

Look (at) is used when you are trying to see something or someone. If **look** is followed by an object, you must use a preposition. The usual preposition is **at**.
I've looked everywhere, but can't find my keys.
I looked at the map to find the road.

Watch means to look at something for a period of time, usually something which moves or changes.
He watched television all evening.

listen, listen to or hear?

Use **hear** when you want to say that sounds, music, etc. come to your ears. You can hear something without wanting to.
I could hear his music through the wall.

Use **listen** to say that you pay attention to sounds or try to hear something.
The audience listened carefully.

Use **listen to** when you want to say what it is that you are trying to hear.
The audience listened to the speaker.

Unit 9, Vocabulary, Exercise 1 (page 106)

stay verb to continue doing something, or to continue to be in a particular state:

He's decided not to stay in teaching.
The shops stay open until nine o'clock.

spend verb to use time doing something or being somewhere:

My sister always spends ages in the bathroom.

pass verb If you **pass** time, you do something to stop yourself being bored during that period:

The visitors pass their days swimming, windsurfing and playing volleyball.

make verb (+ noun/adjective) to cause to be, to become or to appear as:

It's the good weather that makes Spain such a popular tourist destination.
Don't stand over me all the time – it makes me nervous.

cause verb to make something happen, especially something bad:

The difficult driving conditions caused several accidents.

Some common collocations with **cause**: *cause trouble, cause problems, cause damage, cause traffic jams, cause stress, cause pollution.*

Note, however, these collocations:

have an effect (on): *The good weather has had a beneficial effect on his health and happiness.*

have/make an impact (on): *The anti-smoking campaign had/made quite an impact on young people.*

Unit 8, Vocabulary, Exercise 6 (page 93)

acting noun [U] the job of performing in films or plays:
He wants to get into acting.

audience group noun [C] the group of people gathered in one place to watch or listen to a play, film, someone speaking, etc., or the (number of) people watching or listening to a particular television or radio programme, or reading a particular book

performance noun [C] the action of entertaining other people by dancing, singing, acting or playing music

play noun [C] a piece of writing that is intended to be acted in a theatre or on radio or television

(the) public noun [U + singular or plural verb] all ordinary people

scene noun [C] a part of a play or film in which the action stays in one place for a continuous period of time

spectator noun [C] a person who watches an activity, especially a sports event, without taking part

stage noun [C] the area in a theatre which is often raised above ground level and on which actors or entertainers perform

Unit 10, Vocabulary, Exercise 1 (page 118)

arrive (+ **at**) *verb* to reach a place, especially at the end of a journey:

It was dark by the time we arrived at the station.

You **arrive at** a building or part of a building:

We arrived at the theatre just as the play was starting.

You **arrive in** a town, city or country:

When did you arrive in London?

You **arrive home/here/there**: *We arrived home yesterday.*

get (+ **to**) *verb* to reach or arrive at a place:

If you get to the hotel before us, just wait at reception.

You **get home/here/there**:

What time does he normally get home?

reach *verb* to arrive at a place, especially after spending a long time or a lot of effort travelling:

We finally reached the hotel just after midnight.

It is not normally followed by a preposition. It is not normally used with *here* or *there*.

Unit 12, Vocabulary, Exercise 2 (page 139)

prevent *verb* to stop something from happening or someone from doing something:

Label your suitcases to prevent confusion.

avoid *verb* to stay away from someone or something:

We left early to avoid the traffic.

protect *verb* to keep someone or something safe from injury, damage or loss:

It's important to protect your skin from the harmful effects of the sun.

check *verb* to make certain that something or someone is correct, safe or suitable by examining it or them quickly:

You should always check your oil, water and tyres before taking your car on a long trip. After I'd finished the exam, I checked my answers for mistakes.

supervise *verb* to watch a person or activity to make certain that everything is done correctly, safely, etc.:

The UN is supervising the distribution of aid by local agencies in the disaster area.

control *verb* to order, limit, instruct or rule something, or someone's actions or behaviour:

If you can't control your dog, put it on a lead!

The temperature is controlled by a thermostat.

keep an eye on to watch or look after something or someone:

Will you keep your eye on my suitcase while I go to get the tickets?

Unit 13, Vocabulary, Exercise 2 (page 154)

space **EMPTY PLACE** *noun* [C or U] an empty area which is available to be used:

Is there any space for my clothes in that cupboard?

place **AREA** *noun* [C] an area, town, building, etc.:

Her garden was a cool, pleasant place to sit.

[U] a suitable area, building, situation or occasion:

University is a great place for making new friends.

room **SPACE** *noun* [C or U] the amount of space that someone or something needs:

That sofa would take up too much room in the flat.

area **PLACE** *noun* [C or U] a particular part of a place, piece of land or country:

All areas of the country will have some rain tonight.

location **POSITION** *noun* [C or U] **SLIGHTLY FORMAL** a place or position:

The hotel is in a lovely location overlooking the lake.

A map showing the location of the property will be sent to you.

square **SHAPE** *noun* [C] an area of approximately square-shaped land in a city or a town, often including the buildings that surround it:

A band were playing in the town square.