

# LESSON 181

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1102

**in prison**

**to church**

**at university**

**primary**

We do not use the definite article "the" in front of certain nouns when we are referring to their primary purpose. Some examples are "prison", "church", "hospital", "school", "college", "university", and "bed".

For example, the primary purpose of a prison is to contain criminals, so if we say "John is in prison", we are communicating that John is a criminal. On the other hand, if we say "John is in the prison", we are simply stating his physical location; perhaps he is visiting someone.

Similarly, if we say "Peter is at university", we are communicating that Peter is a student. If, on the other hand, we say "Peter is at the university", again we are just saying where he is.

What does it mean if we do not use the definite article "the" in front of nouns such as "prison", "church", "hospital" and so on? If we do not ..., it means we are referring to their primary purpose

Have you ever spent time in hospital?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

Why?

On which day of the week do Christians normally go to church?

Christians ... on Sunday

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**proportion**

**terms**

**back out**

**look through**

**be on good (or bad) terms with**

In percentage terms, what proportion of your time do you estimate you spend sleeping?

In percentage terms, I estimate ...

In terms of population, which is the largest country in the world? In terms of population, China is ...

Have you ever been about to sign a contract but then backed out after looking through the terms and conditions more carefully? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

Is there anyone you're on bad terms with at the moment? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

Who?

### **colloquial**

### **cosmetics**

In colloquial English, what do people often use instead of the word "child"? In colloquial English, people ... "kid" ...

Change this sentence into colloquial English, please: "My mother frequently purchases cosmetics." My mum often buys make-up

### **drastic**

### **revenue**

If attendances at matches fell severely at a football club, would that have a drastic impact on revenue? Yes, if ...

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### **break off**

### **engagement**

What do we mean if we say that a couple have broken off their engagement? If we say ..., we mean that the couple were planning to marry each other but have now changed their minds

### **drawback**

### **erase**

### **cross out**

What's the main drawback of writing in ink instead of in pencil? The main ... an error made in ink cannot easily be erased; it has to be crossed out, unless one uses a liquid eraser

### **gum**

### **chew**

### **chewing gum**

### **come across**

In addition to the teeth themselves, what part of the mouth does a dentist always inspect? In addition to ..., ... gums

If someone started to chew a piece of chewing gum in the middle of a job interview, how would they come across? If ..., they'd come across very badly, as they would appear too casual

### **treat**

What do we mean by a treat? By a treat, we mean something that gives pleasure, especially something unexpected or not enjoyed often

Give me an example, please. As a treat on my birthday, my mum took me to the seaside with my best friend

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### **distribute**

### **door-to-door**

Why might a business choose to distribute leaflets door-to-door rather than through the post? A business might ... cheaper, easier etc.

### **foul**

### **on purpose**

Name a sport in which it's common for fouls to be committed on purpose. ... is a sport in which ...

What do we mean by foul language (or a foul smell)? By foul language (or a foul smell), ... very unpleasant ...

### **fulfil**

### **unfulfilled**

Have you got any unfulfilled ambitions? Yes, ... ~ No, ...  
What?

### **take over**

In business, what does it mean when we say that one company takes over another company? In business, when we say ..., it means that one company buys the other company and gains control of it

### **internal**

### **external**

Do you think it's ever acceptable for one country to attempt to influence the internal political affairs of another country? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

1106 What's the opposite of "internal"?

The opposite ... "external"

**in a way**

Give me an example of the phrase "in a way", please. In a way, I was sorry to see him go home, but, in another way, I was glad because I was so tired

**file**

Do you prefer to file your nails or cut them?

I prefer ...

**highway**

What do we mean by a highway?

By a highway, we mean a main road that connects two towns or cities

**outcry**

**abolish**

Would there be a massive outcry if the government in this country tried to abolish the welfare state?

Yes, there'd be ...

**pass out**

Would you know what to do if the person next to you on a very hot and crowded train suddenly passed out? Yes, I'd know ... ~ No, I wouldn't know ...  
What?

1107 **version**

When a road accident is witnessed by a number of people, are the police often given several different versions of events?

Yes, when ...

**bounce**

Which bounces higher: a tennis ball or a cricket ball?

A tennis ball ...

**cosmopolitan**

**diverse**

When we describe a city as cosmopolitan, what do we mean?

When ..., we mean it is home to a diverse range of inhabitants and cultures

**guarantee**

**proceed**

If you were about to buy a fantastic bargain in a second-hand shop but then discovered the product didn't come with a guarantee, would you still proceed with the purchase?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

**get out of**

**compelled**

If a colleague you didn't like much invited you to their wedding, would you try to get out of it or would you feel compelled to go?

If ... / No, ...

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**update**

**upgrade**

**app (application)**

Do most of the apps (or applications) on your phone update automatically?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

What does someone mean if they say they want to upgrade their room in a hotel?

If someone says ..., it means they want to move to a better room with better facilities

**privilege**

**burden**

**reception**

If a friend selected you to make a speech at their wedding reception, would you see it as a privilege or a burden?

If ..., I'd see it as ...

**most = very**

Give me an example of "most" with the meaning of "very".

The way he refused to carry out your instructions was most shocking

**bulk**

**day-to-day**

**move house**

Is buying food in bulk more economical than buying food on a day-to-day basis?

Yes, ...

When people move house, do they normally hire a company to move the bulk of their possessions to the new property? Yes, ...

**obedient**

**misbehave**

Is it normal for even the most obedient child to misbehave every now and again? Yes, ...

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**intense**

**intensive**

**enrol**

Does the South Pole experience intense cold all year round? Yes, ...

For what kind of reason might a student enrol on an intensive English language course that involved spending the whole day at school?  
A student might ... because ...

**swift**

Do the police in this area respond swiftly to emergency calls? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

**confidential**

Is the information that doctors hold on their patients strictly confidential? Yes, ...

**cater**

Do the shops in this area cater for all your day-to-day needs? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

Why do couples usually employ others to deal with the catering on their wedding day?  
Couples ... because they lack the time to deal with it themselves

**in the long run**

Give me an example of "in the long run", please. He had to study hard for several years to become a doctor, but it was worth it in the long run

1110 **flap**

Do birds flap their wings more rapidly than flying insects?

No, ...

**jot down**

**text**

When you're reading some complicated text in English, should you jot down words that are unknown to you so that you can learn them later on?

Yes, if ..., I should ...

**starve**

What does the verb "starve" mean?

The verb "starve" means to die as a result of not eating enough food

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