

# LESSON 188

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## Word pool 4 (adjectives)

**edible**

**flexible**

**elegant**

**bland**

**parallel**

**ample**

**fertile**

**sensational**

**diplomatic**

**sinister**

**extinct**

**biased**

**grim**

**solitary**

**naked**

not nearly

nowhere near

nothing like

When we're comparing things, we can put "not nearly", "nowhere near" or "nothing like" in front of the structure "as ... as ..." to communicate that the difference between the two things is very big. For example, if I say "My town is not nearly as big as London", I mean that my town is very small compared to London. If I say "The problem is nowhere near as serious as I'd imagined it would be", I mean that the problem is far less serious than I had imagined it would be.

When we're comparing things, what does it communicate if we put "not nearly", "nowhere near" or "nothing like" in front of the structure "as ... as ..."?

When ..., if we put ..., it means that the difference between the two things is very big

Give me some examples, please.

She's not nearly as friendly as she used to be. The weather's nowhere near as bad as yesterday. I'm nothing like as good at tennis as you.

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**twin**

**resemble**

What do we call two children who are born at the same time from the same mother?

We call ... twins

And what do we call twins who resemble each other very closely?

We call ... identical twins

**sue**

Have you ever threatened to sue anyone?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

What for?

**civilian**

**civil**

**force**

What do we call a person who's not a member of the police force or any of the armed forces; that is, the army, the air force or the navy?

We call ... a civilian

What's a civil war?

A civil war is a war between groups of people within the same country

**devote**

**accomplish**

When learning a language, is it always logical to assume that you'll accomplish twice as much by devoting twice as much time each day to studying?

No, when learning a language, it isn't always ...

Why not?

Because after a certain amount of time studying, the brain gets tired and learning becomes less efficient

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What do we mean by a devoted son or daughter?

By ..., we mean ... who cares deeply about their parents

**dock**

**cargo**

What do we call an area in a port where cargo is loaded onto ships?

We call ... a dock

**gesture**

**shrug**

**convey**

**give away**

What does the gesture of shrugging your shoulders usually convey?

The gesture ... either that you don't know or that you don't care about something

Do you believe certain gestures, such as touching one's nose, can give away when someone is lying?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

**ward**

What do we call a large room full of beds where patients stay in a hospital? We call ... a ward

**chairman**

**chairwoman**

**chairperson**

**chair**

**see to**

**stick to**

**agenda**

In a business meeting, what do we call the person who coordinates the meeting and sees to it that everyone sticks to the agenda? In a business meeting, ... the chairman, chairwoman, chairperson or just chair

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**but = except**

What do we mean when we say that everybody but Alison managed to turn up on time for the meeting? When we ..., we mean that only Alison arrived late

**twitter**

When small birds seem to be talking to each other, what can we say they're doing? When ..., we can say they're twittering

**dizzy**

What happens when we spin round and round in a circle and then suddenly stop? When ..., we feel dizzy

**clutter**

Does it bother you if the desk you're working at is cluttered? Yes, it bothers me ... ~  
No, it doesn't bother me ...

### **do away with**

If the police in this (or your) country did away with carrying guns, do you believe crime would increase or decrease? If ..., I believe ...

Why?

1170 **stuff**

**allergic**

Why might someone buy a pillow stuffed with man-made material rather than one stuffed with feathers? Someone might ... they're allergic to feathers, the pillow is cheaper etc.

What does someone mean when they say they're feeling stuffed?

When ..., they mean they have eaten a lot and they're feeling very full

**PIN (personal identification number)**

**verify**

When using a cash machine, how do you verify that you're the owner of the card? When ..., you enter your PIN to verify ...

**skim**

What's my hand doing?

Your hand's skimming over the surface of the table

What's skimmed milk?

Skimmed milk is milk that's had the cream removed and is therefore low in fat

**rule of thumb**

**guideline**

What's a rule of thumb?

A rule of thumb is an approximate guideline that helps in a practical way

Give me an example, please.

As a rule of thumb, doctors recommend drinking two litres of water a day

1171 **tumble**

What does the verb "to tumble" mean? The verb "to tumble" means "to fall, usually while bouncing and rolling"

Why shouldn't we put delicate fabrics in a tumble dryer? We ... because they may get damaged, shrink etc.

**diversion**

**obstacle**

**intellectual**

What do we mean if we say that a bus is on a diversion? If ..., we mean the bus is travelling along a different route because there is an obstacle blocking its normal route

Which do you prefer to read: intellectual novels that explore ideas deeply or easy-to-read novels that simply offer diversion? I prefer ...

**turn down**

**shabby**

Is a job application very likely to be turned down if the applicant arrives for interview wearing shabby clothes? Yes, ...

**fraction**

What is 0.75 (nought point seven five) expressed as a fraction? 0.75 expressed as a fraction is  $\frac{3}{4}$  (three quarters)

What do I mean if I say "Only a fraction of the population support the president"? If ..., you mean a very small percentage of ...

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**catch on**

**soccer**

What do people in the USA call the sport of football? People in the USA ... soccer

Why do you think football (soccer) has taken so long to catch on in the USA? I think ...

**bewilder**

Give me an example of the word "bewildered", please. I knew the groom had hired a suit, so I was totally bewildered when he turned up to the wedding wearing jeans and a T-shirt

**dazzle**

If you shone a torch in my eyes, would you dazzle me? Yes, ...

And what would I mean if I said I was dazzled by a musician's performance? If ..., you'd mean you were very impressed ...

### **complexion**

Do people from the north of Europe tend to have a fairer complexion than those from the south? Yes, ...

Is a poor complexion sometimes the result of inadequate nutrition? Yes, ...

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### **Phrase exercise 4**

*From the four options given with each sentence, choose the one word that fits correctly in the gap.*

- 1 Don't disturb her; she's absorbed ... her work.  
( for / among / in / about )
- 2 Communication technology is changing fast and there are some very exciting developments ... the horizon. ( on / at / in / for )
- 3 Are you tall or short ... comparison with the rest of your family?  
( in / by / on / from )
- 4 This information is ... confidential.  
( precisely / rightly / privately / strictly )
- 5 I called Emma to wish her a happy birthday but couldn't get ... to her.  
( on / back / over / through )
- 6 I phoned the bank and was kept ... hold for fifteen minutes before anyone spoke to me!  
( to / on / in / for )
- 7 Good teachers will always manage to ... a balance between fun and learning.  
( strike / run / win / drive )
- 8 He's quite a private person; he tends to keep a ... profile.  
( short / low / small / minor )
- 9 Jack was an academic child but he was lacking ... common sense.  
( in / for / with / at )
- 10 In a lottery, the winning numbers must, of course, be chosen ... random.  
( among / as / around / at )

- 11 She lost her first two games but bounced ... and won the match.  
( over / through / up / back )
- 12 Sometimes I like to buy things ... impulse. ( with / from / in / on )
- 13 William's new sports car isn't at all practical; he only bought it as a status ...!  
( point / signal / mark / symbol )
- 14 I try to save money by buying things ... bulk if I can.  
( for / in / on / with )
- 15 All the problems he says he has appear to ... from a lack of confidence.  
( branch / seed / root / stem )



The rumour was/ that George had become rather chubby./ My team's assignment/ had been to capture/ the heir to the throne/ and then withdraw to friendly territory./ It would have been quite a feat,/ but we failed./ The referee awarded/ a penalty kick for my foul,/ and they scored./ I was furious with myself./ Sales have been dismal recently,/ and revenue has plunged./ We might have to/ make people redundant./ The ship's anchor was stuck,/ so the cruise was held up/ while the crew worked out/ how to free it./ We're moving/ to a spacious three-storey house/ in the suburbs./ There's no guarantee/ that the next version of the programme/ won't contain errors./ Persuasive, umpire, literature, outskirts, antique.