

English Conversation

4

Most common words in English

(cont'd)

criteria	custom	daughter	deer	demonstrate	desire
critic	customer	day	defeat	demonstration	desk
critical	cut	dead	defend	deny	desperate
criticism	cycle	deal	defendant	department	despite
criticize	D	dealer	defense	depend	destroy
crop		dear	defensive	dependent	destruction
cross		death	deficit	depending	detail
crowd		debate	define	depict	detailed
crucial		debt	definitely	depression	detect
cry	damage	decade	definition	depth	determine
cultural	dance	decide	degree	deputy	develop
culture	danger	decision	delay	derive	developing
cup	dangerous	deck	deliver	describe	development
curious	dare	declare	delivery	description	device
current	dark	decline	demand	desert	devote
currently	darkness	decrease	democracy	deserve	dialogue
curriculum	data	deep	Democrat	design	die
	date	deeply	democratic	designer	diet

differ	disagree	distinct	dominate	driver	ease
difference	disappear	distinction	door	drop	easily
different	disaster	distinguish	double	drug	east
differently	discipline	distribute	doubt	dry	eastern
difficult	discourse	distribution	down	due	easy
difficulty	discover	district	downtown	during	eat
dig	discovery	diverse	dozen	dust	economic
digital	discrimination	diversity	draft	duty	economics
dimension	discuss	divide	drag	E	economist
dining	discussion	division	drama		economy
dinner	disease	divorce	dramatic		edge
direct	dish	DNA	dramatically	each	edition
direction	dismiss	do	draw	eager	editor
directly	disorder	doctor	drawing	ear	educate
director	display	document	dream	early	education
dirt	dispute	dog	dress	earn	educational
dirty	distance	domestic	drink	earnings	educator
disability	distant	dominant	drive	earth	effect

Basic English parts of speech

Part I.

Nouns

Pronouns

Verbs

Part II.

Adjectives

Adverbs

Prepositions

Articles

Conjunctions

Adjectives

Adjectives are used to describe a **noun**.

There are **two** categories of adjectives:

- attributive and
- predicative.

➤ **Attributive adjectives** are located directly next to a noun in a sentence, e.g.,

*“I like that **blue** car”*

(with the adjective “blue” describing the noun “car”) or

*“Those **blueberry** pancakes were delicious”*

(with the adjective “blueberry” describing the noun “pancakes”).

➤ **Predicative adjectives** are separated from the noun they describe by a verb.

For example, in the sentence

*“I thought the girl was **pretty**,”*

the adjective “pretty” describes the noun “girl.”

Types of adjectives with examples

There are 8 types of adjectives:

1. **Proper adjectives** are words that modify nouns and pronouns and proper adjective are formed from proper nouns.

*The **English** language is widely spoken in the world.*

2. **Descriptive Adjective** are words that describe nouns and pronouns such as smell, taste, texture, appearance and shape.

*The **brave** soldier returned from battle a hero.*

3. **Quantitative Adjective** are words that qualify a noun and pronoun by quantity. These words answer the question “how much?” (e.g., **no, little, much, sufficient, enough**)

*How **much** bread did you eat for breakfast.*

4. **Numeral Adjective** are words that describe the number of nouns or the order of nouns being described.

*She gave **six** lollipops to the students.*

5. **Demonstrative Adjective** are words used to express the relative position of a noun in time or space,

(e.g., **this, that, these, those**).

*I love **those** photographs of the mountains.*

6. **Distributive Adjective** are words used to refer to members of a group as individuals.

There are only 4 distributive adjective : **each, every, either, neither**.

***Each** soldier had his own rifle.*

7. **Interrogative Adjective** are words used to modify nouns by asking questions.

There are 3 interrogative adjective: **what, whose, which**.

***What** type of music should I play at the wedding?*

NB: Don't confuse interrogative adjectives with interrogative pronouns.

Pronouns take place of nouns and stand alone.

Adjective modify nouns.

8. **Possessive Adjective** are words that sit before nouns to show ownership.

***Their** belongings were stolen from the motel room.*

Adverbs

Adverbs describe or modify **verbs**, **adjectives**, or even other **adverbs**.

For example, in the sentence:

*“I **quickly** walked to the park,”*

the adverb “quickly” modifies the verb “walked” to show that the speaker walked fast instead of slowly.

In the sentence

*“The child was **very** small,”*

the adverb “very” modifies the adjective “small.”

There are **6** types of adverbs:

- Conjunctive Adverbs

- Sentence Adverbs

- Adverbs of Time/Frequency (When?)

- Adverbs of Place/Direction (Where?)

- Adverbs of Degree (How Much?)

- Adverbs of Manner (How?)

Types of Adverbs:

- **Conjunctive Adverb** (also called **connector**) connects phrases or independent clauses. It provides transitions between ideas and shows relationships.

*It rained last night. **Nonetheless**, the final match has not been canceled.*

- **Sentence Adverb** starts the sentence and modifies the whole sentence.

***Hopefully**, we will win the match.*

- **Adverbs of Time/Frequency** (When?) indicate time or frequency of the action in the sentence. They answer the question 'when/how frequently is the action performed?'

Always, never, often, eventually, now, frequently, occasionally, once, forever, seldom, before, Sunday, Monday, 10 AM, 12 PM, etc. are common adverbs of time/frequency.

*He **always** gets a good result.*

- **Adverbs of Place/Direction** (Where?) indicate place/direction of the action in the sentence. They answer the question 'where is the action performed?'

Across, over, under, in, out, through, backward, there, around, here, sideways, upstairs, in the park, in the field, in that place, etc. are some common adverbs of place/direction.

*I went **through the jungle**.*

➤ **Adverbs of Degree** (How Much?) express the importance/degree/level of the action in the sentence are called adverbs of degree. They answer the question 'how much is the action performed?'.
Completely, nearly, entirely, less, mildly, most, thoroughly, somewhat, excessively, much, etc. are common adverbs of degree.

*She **completely** forgot about her anniversary.*

➤ **Adverbs of Manner** (How?) express the manner/approach/process of the action in the sentence are called adverbs of manner. They answer the question 'how is the action performed?'.
Beautifully, equally, thankfully, carefully, handily, quickly, coldly, hotly, resentfully,

earnestly, nicely, tirelessly, etc. are common adverbs of manner. These adverbs usually end in -ly.

*Let's divide the prizes **equally**.*

Prepositions

Prepositions link **nouns** and **pronouns** to other words within a sentence.

Prepositions precede words to link them to nearby words.

Most of the time, prepositions indicate where a noun or pronoun is with regard to **space** & **time**.

There are also preposition of **agent**, preposition of **instrument**, preposition of **manner/method**.

Examples:

*"I put my hat **on** the rack."*

The preposition "on" shows where the speaker placed his or her hat (space).

*"I made dinner **after** I went to the grocery store."*

The preposition "after" tells when the speaker made dinner (time).

*"The poem Odyssey was written **by** Homer."*

The sentence with the preposition "by" states that a person did a doings (agent).

*"Timmy is going to England next week **with** his girlfriend."*

The sentence with the preposition "with" states that the doing was done with someone or something (instrument).

*“He will die **by** the sword.”* (the sword will be the manner of his death)

*“He faces danger **with** courage.”* (he is courageous when faced with danger)

*“She spoke **as if** she was the head of the team.”* (in the manner of the head)

*“He acts **like** there is no other option.”* (in a manner that there is no other option)

*“They traveled **on** foot.”* (they walked)

*“I have worked **as** a teacher & counselor.”* (in the capacity of a teacher & counselor)

The sentences with the preposition “by”, “with”, “as if”, “like”, “on” and “as” show what was used to make something happen or show the method with which something was done (manner)/(method).

Here is a list of **common** prepositions:

above, about, across, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, by, down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, like, near, of, off, on, since, to, toward, through, under, until, up, upon, with, within, as if ...

Articles

There are **two** types of articles:

- definite and
- indefinite.

➤ The **definite article** is the word “**the**,” which indicates one specific thing, e.g.,

*“Go get **the** car.”*

In that example, we are referring to one specific car.

➤ There are **two indefinite articles**: “**a**” and “**an**.”

These are used to refer to something that is **not** as specific, e.g.

*“Go read **a** book” or*

*“Go eat **an** apple.”*

In these examples, we are telling the listener to:

- read any book or
- eat any apple.

The article “**an**” is used before words that begin with a **vowel sound**.

Conjunctions

Conjunctions link words or parts of sentences.

There are **two** types of conjunctions:

- coordinate and
- subordinate.

➤ The **coordinate conjunctions** are

“and,”

“but,”

“either ... or,” and

“neither ... nor.”

These conjunctions link words or groups of words that have equal significance in a sentence,

e.g.,

*“red **and** blue balls”* or

*“I went to the store, **but** I didn’t buy anything.”*

In the second example, both parts of the sentence

(“I went to the store” and “I didn’t buy anything”)

could stand on their own as complete sentences.

➤ **Subordinate conjunctions** link more important words or groups of words to words that are considered less important.

The subordinate conjunctions are

“that,”

“as,”

“after,”

“before,”

“since,”

“when,”

“where,”

“unless,” and

“if.”

In the sentence:

*“**After** I went to the store, I came home and made dinner,”*

the phrase “After I went to the store” can**not** stand on its own as a complete sentence.

Therefore, it depends on the second part of the sentence to make sense.

Practice 4

Conversation Questions & Answers

- Following are 5 topics conversation questions & answers, that you will face very often in your daily life.

16. A foreign country

17. Parties

18. A teacher

19. A friend

20. A hotel

- Within your group of 12 students practice and take turns working on these topics.
 - First practice the same dialogue
 - Then modify the dialogue as you wish to adapt it to YOUR daily life

16. A FOREIGN COUNTRY

- Have you ever travelled abroad? If yes, what country was it?
- Yes, I have. I traveled to the USA last year with my family.
- Where is that country located?
- The USA is located in North America.
- What is it famous for?
- The USA is known for its cultural achievements and landmarks.
- What are the special food and drinks of that country?
- There are many. They are known for fast food, dairy, and many beverages.
- What do you like about that country?
- I like the fast pace of life and the various sub-cultures.
- How many citizens are there in that country?
- The current population of the United States of America was over 324 million in 2016, which accounts for 4.3% of the total world population.
- What language do people there speak?
- The national language is English, but many people also speak Spanish, French, German, and Chinese.
- Do you want to go back there again?
- Sure.
- Why do people like to travel abroad?
- They just want to discover new places, learn new cultures and maybe speak new languages.

17. PARTIES

- On what occasions do people in your country celebrate parties?
- There are many occasions when people throw parties such as New Year's eve, wedding engagements, family reunions, birthdays, etc., but sometimes people hold parties just when they meet up and want to have something fun to do.
- Are you a party animal?
- Yes, I am. I'm crazy about going to parties. I love meeting friends, drinking, and talking.
- When do parties often start and finish?
- It depends on what kind of party it is. I believe the perfect time to have a party is in the evening, from 8-11 pm.
- Where are the parties thrown?
- They are held inside or outside. Some formal events like weddings/housewarmings are organized inside while others like family reunions and birthdays may be held outside.
- What do you usually wear when you come to a party?
- I often wear casual clothes like a T-shirt and jeans if I go to informal parties, and a dress for formal ones.
- What do people do in the parties you attended?
- At the party, people talk, eat and drink together. Some go there to find business opportunities and new partners.
- Do you enjoy drinking alcohol at the parties?
- Yes, a little beer can cheer me up.
- Do people have to bring anything to the party?
- It's not required, but sometimes visitors bring some gifts to show their love for the host.
- Why do people, especially the youth, love going to parties?
- It's just a good way for them to chill out after a long day.

18. A TEACHER

- Who is your favorite teacher?
- I like Mr. Tom the most, he is my English teacher.
- Is he a foreign teacher?
- Yes, he's from the US.
- What do you like about his lessons?
- I have fallen in love with his American accent and he always shows us something new about the world outside of textbooks.
- What's he like?
- He's not only knowledgeable but also very friendly. He always treats us like friends, not students.
- What does he usually wear when coming to class?
- He usually wears a gray suit when he comes to class.
- Do you love his subject?
- Yes, I enjoy English a lot.
- Do students in your class like him?
- Yes, all of us admire him.
- Do you want to be a teacher like him?
- No, although I like him, my dream is not to become a teacher. I would like to be a chef.
- Have you ever been punished by him?
- No, he rarely punishes anyone.
- Do you want to see him again?
- Of course, he's a great mentor.

19. A friend

- Who's your best friend?
- It's Jenny. She's my best friend.
- What does she look like?
- She has shoulder-length brown hair. I just love her lovely smile.
- How and when did you meet?
- I first met her when we were in high school.
- How often do you see this friend?
- I see her every day. We're in the same class.
- What's she like?
- She's not only thoughtful but also very understanding. She's always by my side to cheer me up whenever I'm in trouble.
- Do you and her share anything in common?
- Yes, a lot. We both love shopping and playing sports.
- What do you and her do together?
- We usually do homework and read books together.
- Have you and her ever quarreled?
- Yes, but we seldom quarrel. When we do argue, afterwards we seem to understand more about each other.
- Does she know how to cook?
- Yes, but she's not a great cook.
- Do your parents like her?
- Yes, a lot. They always ask Jenny to come over for dinner.
- Why is a friend important in life?
- A good friend can make your life better in many ways. I don't think anyone can stand loneliness.

20. A hotel

- What is your favorite hotel? Where is it located?
- It's the Sheraton, a five-star hotel located in Saigon, Vietnam.
- How do you know that hotel?
- Before coming to Vietnam for traveling, I searched on the Internet. It's one of the best hotels in Vietnam.
- Why do you choose to stay in that particular hotel?
- I like the architecture there, and online all the reviews about the hotel are positive.
- Is it by the beach?
- No, Saigon is not a beach-side city.
- Does it attract many tourists?
- Yes, I guess. When I stayed there, it was completely booked.
- What type of room did you stay in and what facilities did you get from the hotel?
- I stayed in a double-bed room. The room is equipped with air-conditioner, a flat-screen TV, wardrobe, etc.
- What do you like about that hotel?
- A gymnasium, swimming pool, and BBQ area are available. I also love the green space surrounding the hotel.
- Are all the staff friendly and helpful?
- Yes, definitely. They all are professional.
- How much does it cost a night?
- It costs me around \$250/night.
- Do you recommend that hotel to friends?
- Yes, if they come to Vietnam. I love everything there.

Set (4) - Fed up with cutting corners

DIALOGUE

Mary : The New Year is just **around the corner**. It's time to **shop around** for bargains.

Suzan : Yeah, you're right. Everything is **sky-high** nowadays and I'm **fed up with cutting corners** just to **make ends meet**.

Mary : Why don't you **cut down on** smoking then?

Suzan : You may say I'm **making excuses**. But it does **give me some solace**.

Mary : **Get out of here!**

VOCABULARY

Around the corner: very near.

Shop around: to go to several shops before you decide what to buy.

Sky-high: very high.

To be fed up with: annoyed, unhappy, or bored, especially with a situation that has existed for a long time.

Cut corners: do something perfunctorily so as to save time or money.

Make ends meet: to have enough money to buy what you need to live.

Cut down on: to do or use less of something.

Make an excuse: to give a reason for doing something you shouldn't do.

Give solace: to help and comfort when you are feeling sad or worried.

Get out of here!: used to express disbelief.