

❖ FCE/CAE ❖

Common Transformations

1. It's **possible** that X did Y.
X **might have** done Y.
2. It is **possible** that X **didn't** do Y.
X **might not have** done Y.
3. I'm **sure** X was very Y.
X **must have** been very Y.
4. X **really ought** to do Y.
It is **high time** for X to do Y / It is **high time** (that) X did Y.
It is **about time** for X to do Y / It is **about time** (that) X did Y.
5. X **couldn't do** / **wasn't able** to do Y because Z.
Z **made it impossible** for X to do Y.
6. It **wasn't necessary** for X to do Y but he did it.
X **needn't have** done Y.
7. **Perhaps** X did Y and Z happened.
X **may have** done Y and Z happened.
8. X is **certain** Y did Z.
Y **must have** done Z.
9. I'm **sure** she will do a good job.
She is **bound to** do a good job.
There **is no doubt in my mind** that she will do a good job.
10. X is **almost certain** to get Y.
X **has every chance** of getting Y.
There **is no doubt** that X will get Y.
X **is bound** to get Y.
11. X will **only** do A if Y does B.
X will **not** do A **unless** Y does B.
X will do A **as long as** / **so long as** Y does B.
X will do A **provided (that)** Y does B.

12. X **can do** A provided (that) he doesn't do B.
X can do A **providing (that)** he doesn't do B.
X can do A, **but only if** he doesn't do B.
X can do A **on the condition (that)** he doesn't do B.
X can do A **as long as** he doesn't do B.
13. **If** you don't do, X you shouldn't do Y.
Don't do Y **unless** you do X.
14. X **can do** Y provided (that) Z happens.
As long as Z happens X can do Y.
15. **If** X hadn't done Y, he might have become a famous Z.
If X hadn't done Y, he might have **made a name for himself** as a Z.
16. **If** X doesn't do Y on time, his Z will be rejected.
Failure to do Y on time will **result in** Z being rejected.
17. **If** X had had more time he would have done Y.
If X had **not been short on/of** time he would have done Y.
18. X **made** Y go to bed early because she had to do Z.
X **would have let** Y **stay up late** if she **hadn't had** to do Z.
19. **Only** X prevented Y.
Had it not been for X, Y **would have happened**.
20. **Even if** it is hard, we want to do it.
Hard though it **may be**, we want to do it.
21. **If** X doesn't do Y his reputation will be damaged.
X wants to do Y to **live up to** his reputation.
22. X **didn't do** Y because it was raining heavily.
But for the **heavy rain**, X **would have** done Y.
23. You **should do** Y so that you are sure to succeed.
It's **worth doing** Y **just in case** you don't succeed.
24. X **continued** to do Y.
X **carried on** doing Y.
25. X is **not going** to do Y anymore / X is **going to stop** doing Y.
X is going to **give up** doing Y.
26. X **will not tolerate** Y.
X **will not put up with** Y.

27. He **dismantled** X to see what the problem was.
He **took X apart** to see what the problem was.
28. The meeting **was cancelled** because Y.
The meeting was **called off** because Y.
29. X **has to reduce** the number of Ys he eats.
X has to **cut down on** the number of Ys he eats.
30. X **will let** you stay with them.
X will **put you up**.
X will **take you in**.
31. The meeting **has been postponed** until next week.
The meeting has been **put off** until next week.
32. X **finds** Y really annoying.
Y **gets on** X's nerves.
33. The building is **going to be destroyed**.
The building is going to be **knocked down**.
The building is going to be **demolished**.
34. X **fell** slightly yesterday.
There was a **brief dip** in X yesterday.
35. X **caught** a cold.
X **came down** with a cold.
X **went down** with a cold.
36. X **has been too busy** to do Y.
X **has not got round to** doing Y yet.
37. The traffic jam **delayed** X for several hours.
The traffic jam **held X up** for several hours.
38. X **started** doing Y seriously.
X **got down to** doing Y.
39. X **managed** to persuade Y to do Z.
X managed to **talk Y into** Z / **into doing** Z.
40. X **managed** to persuade Y not to do Z.
X managed to **talk Y out of** Z / **out of doing** Z.
41. X **has been thinking** about Y all day.
Y **has been on** X's mind all day.

42. More than 100 people came to the meeting.
More than 100 people **showed up** at/for the meeting.
More than 100 people **turned up** at/for the meeting.
More than 100 people **attended** the meeting.
Over a 100 people came to the meeting.
43. X **wants** to do Y but has not found the time to do it yet.
X wants to do Y but **has not got (a)round** to doing it yet.
44. X **found** Y by chance.
X **came across** Y.
X **bumped into** Y.
45. X is **investigating** allegations of Y.
X is **looking into** allegations of Y.
46. X is **considering** ways of cutting costs.
X is **looking at** ways of cutting costs.
47. X **had an argument** with Y and are not talking to each other anymore.
X **fell out** with Y.
48. X **couldn't understand** what had happened.
X **couldn't work out** what had happened.
X **couldn't put the finger on** what had happened.
X **couldn't piece together** what had happened.
49. X **let** Y know what was going on.
X **put Y in the picture** about what was going on.
X **brought Y up to speed** about/with what was going on.
X **filled Y in on** what was going on.
50. X **headed** to/for the door.
X **made his/her way** to the door.
51. X **always gives** the impression that he's very confident.
X always **comes across** as being very confident.
52. X **wants** to throw Y away.
X wants to **remove** Y.
X wants to **get rid of** Y.
53. X **made** Y stop.
X **put an end to** Y.

54. X **found it difficult** to understand Y.
 X **struggled to understand** Y.
 X **found it hard to get/come to grips with** Y.
 X **found it difficult to get his head around** Y.
55. X was **raised** by his parents.
 X was **brought up** by his parents.
56. X **cried** his eyes out immediately when he was told Y.
 X **burst into tears** as soon as he was told Y.
 X **broke in/into tears** as soon as he was told Y.
 X **broke out in/into tears** as soon as he was told Y.
57. X **watched** Y while Z did ...
 X **guarded** Y while Z did...
 X **kept an eye on** Y while Z did...
58. X **needs to make** a decision about Y.
 X needs to **make up** his/her **mind** about Y.
59. X claims **must be submitted** before Y.
 You need to **put in** your X claims before Y.
60. The flight **leaves** New York at 2pm.
 The flight **takes off** from New York at 2pm.
61. X **decided** to advertise Y on the internet.
 X decided to **put an ad/advert/advertisement** for Y on the internet.
62. X **never takes any notice** of Y.
 X **never pays any attention** to Y.
63. X is **really excited** about Y / doing Y.
 X is **looking forward to** Y / doing Y.
 X **can't wait** to do Y.
64. I **don't think** they should abolish Y.
 They **shouldn't do away with** Y.
65. X **didn't realize** what it meant at the beginning.
 The **meaning didn't sink in** with X at the beginning.
 X **didn't understand** what it meant at the beginning.
66. X **escaped** in a white Mercedes.
 X **made his getaway** in a white Mercedes.
67. **Don't get** depressed because of X.
Don't let X get you down.

68. X **becomes/gets** angry when people shout at him.
X **loses his temper** when people shout at him.
X **gets mad** when people shout at him.
X **flies off the handle** when people shout at him.
69. X **postponed** doing Y until later.
X **put off** doing Y until later.
70. X **rejected** Y's proposal.
X **turned down** Y's proposal.
71. X **must never** do A without doing Y first.
On no account must X do A without doing Y first.
X **shouldn't** do A **without** doing Y first.
72. Y **should be turned off** at all times during Z.
Under no circumstances should Y be **kept turned on** during Z.
Whatever happens, Y **never** be **kept turned on** during Z.
73. **Nobody** ever told X that Y.
At no point was X **told** that Y.
74. X **had to try** for months before he got Y.
Only after trying for months did X get Y.
Only after having tried for months did X get Y.
75. X **rarely** does Y.
Rarely does X do Y.
76. **As soon as** X did Y somebody's phone rang.
No sooner had X done Y **than** somebody's phone rang.
77. X **has never read** such a boring book before.
Never before has X read such a boring book.
78. This door **must not be left** open at any time.
At no time must this door be **left open**.
79. X **only caught** Y when his wife came.
Only when his wife came, **did** X catch Y.
80. X is **not revealed** until the very last page.
Not until the very last page, is X revealed.
81. X **would never** do Y again.
Never again would X do Y.

82. X had **hardly** done Y when the phone rang.
Hardly had X done Y **when** the phone rang.
83. X **had not enjoyed** himself so much since Y.
Not since Y, **had** X enjoyed himself so much.
84. X **had never been** to such a fantastic Y.
Never had John been to such a fantastic Y.
85. X **in no way** wants to be associated with Y.
In no way does X **want** to be **associated** with Y.
86. X had **scarcely** finished Y when Z happened.
Scarcely had X finished Y **when** Z happened.
87. X **seldom** does Y so early.
Seldom does X do Y so early.
88. X **rarely** appreciates Y.
Rarely does X appreciate Y.
X **hardly ever** appreciates Y.
89. X **would understand** Y only later.
Only later would X understand Y.
90. X **had seen** such Y nowhere before.
Nowhere before had X seen such Y.
91. X **understood** little about the situation.
Little did X **understand** about the situation...
92. X **never thought** of doing Y.
It **never occurred** to Y to do Y.
The **thought** of doing Y **never crossed** X's mind.
93. X **would never have guessed** that ...
X **would never have thought** that...
Little did X know that...
94. X **will need** to do Y every day if he wants to succeed.
Only by doing Y every day **will** X succeed.
95. He **didn't do** X until Y happened.
It was only when Y happened **that** he did X.
96. **Nearly every** X there is Y.
Hardly an X **passes without** there being a Y.

97. We **have not arranged** a date for X yet.
A date for X **has not been arranged** yet.
98. The business **has been bought** by X.
The business has been **taken over** by X.
The business is **under new management**.
The business is **under the management** of X.
99. X is **having** his house decorated.
X is **having improvements made** to his house.
X is **having** his house **done up**.
100. **It is thought** that X cannot do Y.
X is **thought to be unable** to do Y.
101. X is **thought** to have caused Y.
Y is **thought to have been brought about** by X.
X is **thought to have given rise** to Y.
102. **They are said** to be worried about Y.
There **is said to be concern** among them about Y.
103. X **needs doing**.
X **needs to get done**.
104. There **are** various ways of avoiding Y.
Y can be **prevented** in various ways.
105. X is **rumored** to be (doing) Y.
Rumor has it that X is (doing) Y.
Word spread that X is (doing) Y.
Word got out/around that X is (doing) Y.
106. **They say** X is Y.
X is **reputed/said to be** Y.
107. X **wishes** he had done Y / X **wishes** he had not done Y.
X **regrets not having** done Y / X **regrets having** done Y.
108. I **regret** not telling the truth.
I **wish I had told** the truth.
If only I had told the truth.
109. X **wishes** Y would stop criticizing his work.
X wishes Y would stop **finding fault with** his work.
110. I'll **call** you later tonight, X promised.
X **promised** that he **would call** later that night.

111. **Do you know** the way to the restaurant? X asked Y.
X asked Y **if she knew where** the restaurant was.
112. **Did you go** to the tournament on Saturday? David asked me.
David **wanted to know if** I had **been** to the tournament on Saturday.
113. X **said** he had not done Y.
X **denied having** done Y.
X **denied** doing Y.
114. X **said** it was Y's fault that Z happened.
X **placed the blame** on Y for Z **having happened**.
X **laid/pin/put/place the blame** on Y for Z.
Y **got the blame** for Z **happening**.
Y **came in for the blame** of ...
115. X **said** Y, but I'm sure he is wrong.
X said Y, but I'm sure he's **made a mistake**.
X said Y, but he **must have made a mistake**.
116. X **said** he was sorry for doing Y.
X said he **regretted** doing Y.
X **apologized for** doing Y.
117. Mike, **you broke** my computer. Said Nigel.
Nigel **accused** Mike **of breaking** his computer.
118. X **says** that he can't promise that you will succeed.
X says that he **can't guarantee** that you will succeed.
119. X **says** that Y was not as good as he expected.
X says that Y **didn't live up to** his expectations.
X says that Y **fell short of** his expectations.
120. X **told** Y not to go there because it was snowing.
X **warned Y against/off** going there because it was snowing.
X **warned Y not to go** there because it was snowing.
121. X **says** he prefers to do something on his own.
X says he'd **rather not** do something with other people.
122. X **said** he objected to Y.
X **raised/voiced objections** to Y.
X **had objections** to Y.
123. Someone will **always** remember X / doing X.
Someone will **never forget** X / doing X.

124. I **think** doing X is a waste of time.
 There is **no point** in doing X.
 There isn't **any point** in doing X.
 It is **not worth** doing X.
 It's **no use** doing X.
 It's **no good** doing X.
Do not bother to do / doing X.
125. There **isn't much chance** of X doing Y.
 X **isn't likely** to do Y.
 There is **little prospect** of X doing Y.
126. X **should think** about Y.
 X should **take Y into consideration**.
127. X **wants** to learn / start learning Y.
 X wants to **start doing** Y.
 X wants to **take up** Y / doing Y.
128. X **became** quite Y.
 X was **overcome with/by** Y.
129. X **went** somewhere on his/her own.
 X went somewhere **by himself/herself**.
 X went somewhere **alone**.
130. X **saw** something and did Y immediately.
 X saw something and did Y **without hesitation**.
131. X **demande**d to do Y.
 X **insisted on** doing Y.
132. X **should consider** A before doing B.
 X should **take into account** A before doing B.
133. X was **led to believe** Y..
 X was **under the impression (that)** Y..
 X was **given the impression (that)** Y..
134. **Feel free** to do Y.
Do not hesitate to do Y.
135. **When** you decide to do Y.
 When you **make up your mind** to do Y.
 When you **come to the decision** to do Y.
 When you **make the decision** to do Y.

136. X is **not very likely** to be given Y.
X **has little chance** of being given Y.
137. X **soon recovered** after Y.
X **made a quick/fast/speedy/rapid recovery** after Y.
138. X **has** a good reputation in the city.
X is **highly regarded** in the city.
X is **highly thought of** in the city.
X is **highly spoken of** in the city.
139. X was **certain** that Y would be OK.
X was **in no doubt** that Y would be OK.
140. X had **completely forgotten** Y / that he did Y.
X **didn't have any recollection** of Y / of doing Y.
X **had no recollection** of Y / of doing Y.
141. X **said** Y was his fault.
X **took the blame / took responsibility** for Y.
142. X **didn't know** he had to do Y.
X **didn't know** he was **meant to** do Y.
X **didn't know** he was **supposed to** do Y.
143. X **tried really hard**, but never got Y.
No matter how hard he **tried**, he never got Y.
However hard he **tried**, he never got Y.
144. X **likes** to look/looking after Y.
X likes to **take/taking care of** Y.
X **enjoys taking care of** Y.
145. X **didn't manage** to rink Y.
X **didn't succeed in** winning Y.
146. X **will be punctual** today.
X will be **on time** today.
147. X **found it difficult** to think of the right answer.
X found it **hard to come up with** the right answer.
148. X **did** Y so that he would be ready for the race.
X did Y **in order to** be ready for the race.
X did Y **so as to** be ready for the race.
149. X **had to finish** Y before he went out.
X had to **stay in** until he had finished Y.

150. X **had not expected** Y to be so good.
Y was **better than** X had expected.
151. X **does not intend** to do Y.
X **has no intention** of doing Y.
X **would not dream** of doing Y.
X **is not planning** to do Y.
X **is not planning on** doing Y.
152. There is **no way** X will do Y.
X **has no intention** of doing Y.
X **has no thought** of doing Y.
X **wouldn't dream** of doing Y.
153. X **has** a good reputation for Y.
X is **highly regarded** for Y.
X is **held in high repute** for Y.
154. X was **surprised** to be given Y.
Being given Y came as a surprise to X.
Much to his surprise, X was given Y.
155. X is **improving**.
X is **changing for the better**.
X is **making an improvement**.
X is **getting better**.
X is **looking up**.
156. X is **going to get worse**.
X is going to **change for the worse**.
X is going to **worsen/deteriorate**.
157. X was **very disappointed** when Y decided to leave.
Y's **decision to leave, came as a disappointment** to X.
Much to X's disappointment, Y decided to leave.
To X's great disappointment, Y decided to leave.
158. **Much to X's surprise/amazement/annoyance...**, Y happened.
To X's great surprise/amazement/annoyance..., Y happened.
Y came as a surprise/amazement/annoyance to X.
159. X **did not mention** Y.
X **made no reference** to Y.
160. X **didn't arrive** on time.
X **failed to arrive** on time.

161. X **does** Y now and again.
 X does Y **(every) now and then**.
 X does Y **(every) once in a while**.
 X does Y **from time to time**.
162. X **owed** Y €200.
 X was €200 **in debt** to Y.
163. X **owed** €200 to Y.
 X was **in debt** to Y for €200.
164. X **arrived** at X just in time to do Z.
 X **made (it to) X just in time** to do Z.
165. X **finds** it very satisfying doing Y.
 X **gets a lot of satisfaction** from doing Y.
166. X **maintains** that he kept his word that he would not tell anyone X's secret.
 X **denies breaking** his **promise to keep** X's secret.
167. X **studied** history because he/she wanted to become a Y.
 X studied history **with a view to** becoming a Y.
 X studied history **with an eye to** becoming a Y.
168. X **didn't feel** like doing Y that night.
 X was **not in the mood** for doing Y that night.
 X was **not in the mood** to do Y that night.
169. X was **offended** by what Y said.
 X **took exception to** what Y said.
 X **took offence at** what Y said.
170. X **thinks** it would be better to get on as quickly as possible.
 X **would prefer us to make as much progress** as we can.
171. X was **astonished** by Y as he hadn't thought he would win a Z.
Not having expected a Z, X was **completely astonished** by Y.
172. X was **upset** that Y didn't support him in the argument.
 X was upset Y **didn't back him up** in the argument.
173. X is **sure** that Y can solve the problems.
 X is sure that Y can **come up with a solution** to the problems.
174. Doing Y is my **number one priority**.
 It is **of the utmost importance** that I do Y.

175. It's **impossible** to say who will win.
There is **no (way of) telling** who will win.
176. X **wants** to do Y as far as I know.
To (the best of) my knowledge, X wants to do Y.
From what I understand, X wants to do Y.
My understanding is that X wants to do Y.
177. X **is recovering** in hospital.
X is **making a recovery** in hospital.
178. X **must take** as much advantage as possible of Y.
X **must make the most** of Y.
179. X **doesn't mind** where we go.
It **doesn't matter** to X where we go.
It's **all the same** to X where we go.
180. There is **no more** X available in Y.
Y **has run out** of X.
181. X **doesn't like** Y very much.
X is **not very keen** on Y.
182. X **needed** Y yesterday but he couldn't get it.
X **could have done with** Y yesterday.
183. X **didn't know** that X were so expensive.
X **had no idea** that X **cost** so much.
184. X is **becoming** quite well known as a Y.
X is **making a name for himself/herself** as a Y.
185. X **made** his mark on Y.
X **had an important effect** on Y.
186. X **faced** with some difficulties.
X **came up against** some difficulties.
X **met with** some difficulties.
187. I **will consider** it and give you an answer next week.
I will **think it over** and give you an answer next week.
188. X **corrected** Y on a number of points which Y had misunderstood.
X **set/put Y right** on a number of points which Y had misunderstood.
X **set/put Y straight** on a number of points which Y had misunderstood.

189. X **concluded** that there was nothing else he could do.
X **came to the conclusion** that there was nothing else he could do.
X **reached the conclusion** that there was nothing else he could do.
X **drew the conclusion** that there was nothing else he could do.
190. X **always does** Y when Z happens.
X **has a tendency to** do Y when Z happens.
191. **One day** something will happen.
It's **only a matter of time** before something happens.
192. X was **forced** to do Y.
X **had no choice but to** do Y.
193. X **has** a feeling of great respect for Y's dedication.
X **admires** Y for his dedication.
X **looks up to** Y for his dedication.
194. It is X's **responsibility** to do Y.
It is X's **decision** to do Y.
It is **down to** X to do Y.
It is **up to** X to do Y.
195. X **didn't accept** the job he was offered.
X **rejected** the job he was offered.
X **turned down** the job he was offered.
196. X **has** a natural ability for computers.
X has a **natural talent** for computers.
X has a **flair** for computers.
X is **very skilful** with computers.
X **has always been very good** with computers.
197. X **didn't want** to go out.
X **didn't feel like** going out.
X was **not up for** going out.
X was **not in the mood for** going out.
198. X **realised** he could never be an actor.
X realised he was **not the right type of person** to be an actor.
X realised he was **not cut out** to be an actor.
199. X **caused** Y to be cancelled.
Y was **cancelled because of** X.
Y was **cancelled as a result of** X.

200. X **was dismissed** for being late.
X was **fired** for being late.
X **got the sack** for being late.
X was **given the sack/given the boot** for being late.
X was **removed from** his job for being late.
201. X **lost** his job because of his laziness.
X lost his job **on the grounds of** his laziness.
202. X is **living** there temporarily.
X is **living** there **for the moment**.
X is **living** there **for the time being**.
203. **Explaining** what you mean to a kid can be difficult.
Getting your point across to a kid can be difficult.
Getting your message across to a kid can be difficult.
204. **I need to make** her understand that I don't want to see her anymore.
I need to **get it across** to her that I don't want to see her anymore.
I need to **get it through** to her that I don't want to see her anymore.
205. X **only managed** to see the thief for a second as he ran away.
X **saw** the thief **briefly**, as he ran away.
X only **caught a glimpse** of the thief as he ran away.
X only **caught sight** of the thief as he ran away.
206. X **assumed** Y was coming.
X **took for granted** Y was coming.
X **took it as read** that Y was coming.
207. The company **struggled** to replace X.
The company **struggled to fill the vacancy/post created/left** by X.
208. X **impressed** Y.
X **made a good impression** on Y.
209. **Hopefully**, this will help us to understand what happened.
Hopefully, this will **shed/cast/throw some light** on what happened.
210. **Nobody can foresee** how X will react.
It **remains to be seen** how X will react.
211. X **expects** to do Y before he is thirty.
X expects to do Y **by the time** he is thirty.
212. X **felt** very comfortable doing Y.
X was **very confident and relaxed** doing Y.
X was **at ease** doing Y.

213. X was **highest** in November.
 X was **at its highest** in November.
 X **reached a peak** in November.
214. X **can't drive** because of his disability.
 X's **disability prevents** him (from) **driving**.
215. X **was very tired**, after working so much that day.
 X **ran himself into the ground** that day.
 X **drove himself into the ground** that day.
 X **worked himself into the ground** that day.
216. X is **scheduled** to start at 5 p.m.
 X **is to start** at 5 p.m.
217. X **replaced** Y after the meeting.
 X **took the place of** Y after the meeting.
 X **substituted for** Y after the meeting.
218. X **tends** to do Y.
 X **is in the habit of** doing Y.
 X **has the habit of** doing Y.
219. X **shows** that Y has risen sharply today.
According to X there has been a **dramatic rise** in Y today.
220. X **didn't realize** how important Y was.
 X **failed to realise** the **importance** of Y.
221. X **does not stop** Y from doing A.
 X is **ineffective at stopping** Y from doing A.
222. X **happened** for the second year running.
 X happened for the **second year in succession**.
 X happened for the **second year in a row**.
223. X **knows/knew** nothing about Y.
 X is/was **in the dark** about Y.
224. X was **shocked/surprised** by Y.
 X was **taken aback** by Y.
225. There is **no point** in doing X.
 It's **no use** doing X.
 It's **no good** doing X.
 It's **not worth** doing X.

226. X **thinks** learning Y is a waste of time.
X **can't see the point** in/of learning Y.
X **sees no point** in learning Y.
227. X **is about** to do Y.
X is **on the verge** of doing Y.
X is **on the point** of doing Y.
228. X is **going to become** Y one day.
It is **only a matter of time** before X becomes Y.
229. X **ignored** Y.
X **took no notice** of what Y said.
X **didn't take any notice** of what Y said.
X **didn't heed** what Y said.
X **paid no heed** to what Y said.
X **didn't pay any heed** to what Y said.
230. X **can alter** depending on the weather.
X is **subject to alteration** depending on the weather.
X is **subject to change** depending on the weather.
231. X **disagreed** with Y, so he resigned.
X's **resignation resulted from** his **disagreement** with Y.
X's **disagreement** with Y **resulted in** his resignation.
X's **disagreement** with Y **led to** his resignation.
232. **When** X first met him, he thought he was very polite.
When X first met him, he **struck him as (being)** very polite.
When X first met him, X **got/had the impression** that he was very polite.
233. X **was bitterly disappointed** he was not given Y.
To X's bitter disappointment, he was not given Y.
234. The cost of X **has come down**.
There has been a **drop** in the cost of X.
There has been a **fall** in the cost of X.
235. X **doesn't care** if Y does it or not.
It **makes no difference** to X whether/if Y does it or not.
It's **all the same** to X whether/if Y does it or not.
It **is of no consequence** to X whether/if Y does it or not.
236. X **was determined** to do Y.
X **insisted on** doing Y.

237. Do you think you could give me a hand to do Y?
 Would you mind giving me a hand to do Y?
 I would appreciate it if you could give me a hand to do Y.
 I would appreciate it if you gave me a hand to do Y.
 I would appreciate your giving me a hand to do Y.
 I would appreciate you giving me a hand to do Y.
238. X finds it very satisfying doing Y.
 X gets a lot of satisfaction from doing Y.
239. It was a mistake not to do Y.
 I should have made it a point of doing Y.
 I should have made it my business to do Y.
240. X is head of this company.
 X is in charge of this company.
 X is the person leading this company.
241. She is by nature not critical.
 It's not in her nature to be critical.
 She is not one to be critical.
 It's not like her to be critical.
 It would be out of character of her to be critical.
 It is not in her character to be critical.
242. X's application was turned down because he didn't have Y.
 X's application was turned down on the grounds that he didn't have Y.
243. So much responsibility was putting pressure on X.
 So much responsibility was weighing X down.
 So much responsibility was weighing down on her.
244. Scientists have made an unexpected discovery.
 There has been an unexpected breakthrough.
245. I can't remember her name.
 I can't recall her name.
 I can't bringPhilippines bring her name to mind.
 I can't call her name to mind.
 I can't think of her name.
 Her name doesn't come to me.
246. X has done Y for as far as he can remember.
 X can't remember when he started doing Y.

247. X **didn't seem** to realize the magnitude of the problem.
X **didn't seem to understand** the magnitude of the problem.
X **didn't seem to be aware of** the magnitude of the problem.
X **seemed to be unaware of** the magnitude of the problem.
X **didn't seem to grasp** the magnitude of the problem.
248. Doing Y is **not allowed** here.
Doing Y is **not permitted** here.
Doing Y is **forbidden** here.
249. **What happened** confirmed what X predicted.
X's **predictions were borne out** by what happened.
250. X **wants** to do Y.
X is **interested in** doing Y.
X **has an interest in** doing Y.
251. X is **interested** in learning Y.
X **would like to** learn Y.
252. X **doesn't have** enough money to buy expensive clothes.
X **can't afford** to buy expensive clothes.
X's salary **doesn't run to (buying)** expensive clothes.
253. X **could do with** Y.
X **could use** a Y.
X **could benefit from** Y.
Y **would do** X good.
254. X **has no connection** with (being) Y.
X **is not the cause of** (being) Y.
X **is not related to** (being) Y.
X **has nothing to do with** (being) Y.
X **doesn't equate to/with** (being) Y.
255. **How much did you pay** for X?
How much did X **cost** you?
How much did X **set you back**?
How much did you **spend** on X?
256. X is **too lazy** to do Y.
It is **too much effort** for X to do Y.
X **can't be bothered** to do Y.

257. X **had to deal** with a serious problem.
X was **faced with** a serious problem.
X **came up against** a serious problem.
X **met with** a serious problem.
X **encountered** a serious problem.
258. X **was so thrilling** that Y couldn't stop cheering.
Y was so **thrilled by** X that he **couldn't stop cheering**.
259. **When** X was a kid, he would play football every Friday.
When X was a kid, he **used to** play football every Friday.
When X was a kid, he was **in the habit of** playing football every..
When X was a kid, he was **accustomed to** playing football every..
260. X **has very little** Y.
X **hardly has any** Y.
261. **Do you mind** if I phone you later?
Can I get back to you later?
262. X is **not as good** at A as Y.
Y is **better** at A than X.
263. It's the **most** X I've ever seen.
I have **never** seen **such an** X / I have **never** seen a **more** X.
264. He **doesn't like** either of them.
He likes **neither** of them.
265. **Not as many** people do X as when Y.
There are a **lot fewer** people doing X than when Y.
266. There **are no fewer than** X.
There are **as many as** X.
267. Y is **easier** than Z.
Y is **not as hard as** Z.
268. X **can't ride** a bike, so he certainly can't ride a motorcycle.
X can't ride a bike, **much less** a motorcycle.
X can't ride a bike, **even less** a motorcycle.
X can't ride a bike, **still less** a motorcycle.
X can't ride a bike, **let alone** a motorcycle.
269. X is a **much better** mechanic than Y.
Y is **nowhere near as good** as a mechanic as X.

270. Women **outnumbered** men by two to one at the concert.
There were **twice as many** women as men at the concert.
271. **Do you mind** if I do Y?
Do you **have any objection to** me/my doing Y?
272. Y was **too expensive** for X to buy.
X **didn't have enough money** to buy Y.
273. **Although / even though** it was X.
Despite / In spite of it being X.
274. **Despite** all his efforts X could not do Y.
No matter how hard X tried, he could not do Y.
However hard X tried, he could not do Y.
275. X **did Y although** he had never done Z.
In spite of X never having done Z he did Y.
276. **While** X was walking down the street, he saw Y.
While walking down the street, X saw Y.
When X was **walking** down the street, he saw Y.
It was while X was **walking** down the street **that** he saw Y.
277. **Since** X is inevitable, we need to learn to do Y.
As X is inevitable, we need to learn to do Y.
Given that X is inevitable, we need to learn to do Y.
Because X is inevitable, we need to learn to do Y.
278. **When it comes to** X.
As far as X is concerned.
279. **Having finished** X, John went home.
After finishing X, John went home.
After he had finished X, John went home.
280. X **didn't know** how to do Y, so he made a mistake.
Not knowing how to do Y, X **made a mistake**.
281. X **treats** Y as a brother rather than as a friend.
X **treats Y not so much as a friend as** a brother.
282. **In the end** X got home on Tuesday.
X **ended up** getting home on Tuesday.
Eventually, X got home on Tuesday.
X **finally** got home on Tuesday.

283. There **was a fault** with X and the Y didn't work.
The Y **whose** X was **faulty/had a fault**.
284. X **found it difficult** to get used to the fact that he'd lost his job.
X found it **hard to come to terms with** the fact that he'd lost his job.
285. It is **difficult** to accept Y.
It is difficult to **get used to** Y.
It is difficult to **come to terms with** Y.
286. X was **not used** to Y.
Y was something X was **not accustomed to**.
287. **Some** people really struggle with X.
Some people **find** X / doing X **very difficult/hard**.
288. X **did** Y a month ago.
It **has been a month since** X did Y.
It **is a month since** X did Y.
289. **It took** X five minutes to do Y.
X **took** five minutes to do Y.
X **spent** five minutes doing Y.
290. X **will take place** after Y.
Y will be **followed by** X.
X will be **held** after Y.
291. You **need to have** a lot of X to do Y.
Y **calls for** a lot of X.
292. **It doesn't seem** to me as if Y is Z.
As far as I can tell Y is not Z.
293. **I don't believe** that Y will do Z.
It **is my belief** that Y won't do Z.
I **have/get the impression** that Y won't do Z.
I **have/get a feeling** that Y won't do Z.
There **is no reason to believe** that Y will do Z.
294. **I think** there are going to be X.
In my opinion, there are going to be X.
In my estimation, there are going to be X.
If you ask me, there are going to be X.
295. X is **so** + adjective (e.g. powerful, beautiful, interesting, etc.) that...
Such is X's + noun (e.g. power, beauty, interest, etc.) **that...**

296. It **seems unbelievable** that X is Y when it is so Z.
X is so Z **that** it is **hard to believe** that it is Y.
297. The **only** person who didn't come was X.
Everybody came **apart from** X.
Everybody came **except for** X.
298. X was **easy** for to do Y.
X **had no difficulty (in)** doing Y.
X **didn't have any difficulty (in)** doing Y.
X **didn't find it hard** to do Y.
299. X **did** Y easily.
X **had no problem in** doing Y.
X **had no problem** doing Y.
X **had no problems** doing Y.
X **didn't have any problems** doing Y.
X **had no difficulty in** doing Y.
X **had no difficulty** doing Y.
300. It is **not probable** that he will be returning to England.
It is **improbable** that he will be returning to England.
It is **not likely** that he will be returning to England.
It is **unlikely** that he will be returning to England.
He is **unlikely** to be returning to England.
He is **not likely** to be returning to England.