B1 ENGLISH CHAPTER 1 Lesson 2

Vocabulary: Topics (Unit 5-10)



Using 'the'

Most names of countries are used without 'the', but some countries and other names have 'the' before them, e.g. the United States / the US(A), the United Kingdom / the UK, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates / the UAE, the European Union / the EU, the Commonwealth.

Adjectives referring to people, countries and languages

With -ish: British Irish Flemish Polish Danish Turkish Spanish
With -(i) an: Canadian Brazilian Latvian Korean Russian Australian
With -ese: Japanese Chinese Vietnamese Portuguese Maltese Taiwanese
With -i: Israeli Iraqi Kuwaiti Pakistani Yemeni Bangladeshi
With -ic: Icelandic Arabic Slavonic
Some adjectives are worth learning separately, e.g. Swiss, Thai, Greek, Dutch, Cypriot.

Nationalities

Some nationalities and cultural identities have nouns for referring to people, e.g. a Finn, a Swede, a Turk, a Spaniard, a Dane, a Briton, an Arab, a Pole. For most nationalities we can use the adjective as a noun, e.g. a German, an Italian, a Belgian, a Catalan, a Greek, an African, a European. Some need woman/man/person added to them (you can't say 'a Dutch'), so if in doubt, use them, e.g. a Dutch man, a French woman, an Irish person, an Icelandic man.

World regions

D



Regional groups and ethnic groups

People belong to **ethnic groups** and **regional groups** such as **African-Caribbean**, **Asian**, Latin **American**, **North African**, **Scandinavian**, **Southern African**, **European**, **Arabic**. These can be used as countable nouns or as adjectives.

Many **Europeans** enjoy travelling to the Far East to experience **Asian** cultures. **Arabic** culture extends across a vast region of North Africa and the Middle East.

People speak **dialects** as well as languages. Everyone has a **native language** or **first language** (sometimes called **mother tongue**); many have **second** and **third languages**. Some people are expert in more than one language and are **bilingual** or **multilingual**. People who only know one language are **monolingual**.



5.1 Write the related adjectives in the correct columns.

Ireland	Iceland	Thaila	nd Latvia	Israel	Switzerland	China	Pakistan
Turkey	Arabia	Brazil	the Netherlands	Korea	Denmark		

-(i) an	-ic	-ish	-i	-ese	(other)
Latvian		Irish			

5.2 Match the countries with their world regions.

1	Sweden	C	a	the Middle East
2	Cambodia		b	Southern Africa
3	Nicaragua	ī	С	Scandinavia
4	Tunisia	Ħ	d	East Asia
5	Saudi Arabia	Ħ	е	Central America
6	Botswana	Ħ	f	North Africa

5.3 Correct the mistakes in these newspaper headlines.

New James Bond to be played by a Swedish!

BRITAIN'S HAVE HIGHEST TAX RATE IN EUROPE MALTISH PRIME MINISTER VISITS WASHINGTON

Police arrest Danish on smuggling charge

Iraqian delegation meets Pakistanian President

5.4 Famous names. Can you name a famous ...

- 1 Argentinian sportsman or woman? *Lionel Messi*
- 2 Spanish actor?

Swede

- 3 South African political leader?
- 4 Australian singer?

5 Italian opera singer?6 Irish rock-music band?7 American golfer?

5.5 Over to you

Complete the sentences so that they are true for you.			
1 I am (nationality)			
2 My first language is			
3 I speak (number) language(s) fluently, so I am			
4 My ethnic/ regional group is			
5 I have visited these countries:			
6 I would like to travel to			
7 One language I would like to learn is			
8 I've never been to these two countries: and			



A Cold weather

In Northern Europe, **daytime**¹ temperatures are often quite mild, even in **late**² autumn. The days are often **misty**³, foggy and **damp**⁴. Soon, winter arrives, with **frost**⁵, icy roads and **severe**⁶ weather, including heavy snow. As people **expect** the weather to be bad, they try and keep warm so they don't **freeze**! Freezing weather may continue in the far north until May or even June, when the ground starts to **thaw** /θox/7 and the ice **melts**⁸ again.









¹ during the day ² towards the end of a period of time ³ with clouds of small drops of water in the air, making it difficult to see things in the distance ⁴ slightly wet, and not pleasant or comfortable ⁵ thin, white layer of ice on surfaces when the weather is very cold ⁶ extremely bad ⁷ change from hard, frozen state to softer state ⁸ change from solid to liquid under heat

Warm/ hot weather



In a **tropical**¹ climate, the weather is often **stifling**², **muggy**³ and **humid**⁴. In other hot climates, there may be **boiling**⁵ hot days, and **heatwaves**⁶ may be common.

¹ very hot, as in countries near the Equator ² hot, uncomfortable, you can hardly breathe ³ very warm and a little damp ⁴ hot and damp, makes you sweat a lot ⁵ extremely hot ⁶ very hot, dry periods

Wet weather



В

C









shower

heavy rain

pour down

torrential rain

flood

This wet weather scale gets stronger from left to right.

shower (noun) → heavy rain → pour down (verb) / downpour (noun) → torrential rain → flood (noun and verb)

This rain won't last long; it's only a **shower**. [short period of rain]

There was quite **heavy rain** during the night. / It **rained heavily** during the night.

It was absolutely **pouring down** yesterday. / There was a real **downpour**.

In Malaysia there is usually **torrential rain** most days, and the roads sometimes get **flooded**./

There are sometimes **floods** on the roads.

The sky's a bit **overcast**; I think it's going to rain. [very cloudy] We had a **drought** /draut/ last summer. It didn't rain for six weeks.

D Wind

There was a **gentle breeze** on the beach, just enough to cool us. There was a very **strong/high wind** and my umbrella blew away. There was a **gale** that day, so we didn't go sailing. [very high wind] People stayed indoors because there was a **hurricane** on the way. [extremely high, dangerous wind]



Common mistakes

The noun weather is uncountable. We say: We had **bad weather** that day. (NOT We had a bad weather.)



6.1 Answer the questions about the word	; in A opposite.
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- 1 Which adjective could you use to describe something that is wet, but not very wet? damp
- 2 Which adjective would you use before 'summer' to refer to the end part of it?
- 3 Which verb means the temperature has gone up and there is no longer frost or ice?
- 4 Which word can be used to describe something that happens in the day?
- 5 What happens to ice cream on a very hot day?
- 6 If you see a thin, white covering on everything on a cold day, what is it?
- 7 If you can't see things in the distance, what is the weather probably like?
- 8 Which two adjectives could you use to describe a wind that blows very hard?
- 9 Which adjective can you use to describe very bad weather?

6.2 What types of weather do these pictures suggest?









1 hurricane

2

3

4

6.3 Rewrite the words in bold using words from B opposite.

I think it would be interesting to live in a hot weather that is hot and damp and makes you	
that are slightly warm and damp	
extremely hot days, and I don't n	
occasionally, but when it's hot and uncomforta	
it's just impossible. Maybe I should stay at home	e and forget about moving to a hot climate!

6.4 What kinds of weather do you think caused the following to happen? Write a sentence which could go *before* each of these. Use words from the opposite page.

1	The weather was stifling .	We had to use the air-conditioning every afternoon.
2		The sweat was pouring out of us.
3		It just cooled us nicely on the hot beach.
4		Cars were sliding everywhere out of control.
5		The postman had to use a boat to get around.
6		You couldn't really see the trees in the distance.
7		The earth became rock hard and a lot of plants died.
8		It blew the newspaper right out of my hands.
9		My hair and clothes got soaking wet.
10		It looked as if it would rain at any minute.

6.5 Over to you

This chart shows anyone who wants to visit the West of Ireland what weather they can expect at different times of the year. Make a similar chart for your country or home region.

Dec-Mar	April-June	July-Aug	Sept-Nov
coldest months; usually wet; heavy rain; snow on high ground	generally cool, often wet and windy but	warmest months; sunny, with showers; cool sea breezes	often mild, becoming cold; damp, misty and foggy, often overcast
iligii giouliu	getting warmer	COOL Sea DI eezes	loggy, often overcast



Describing people: appearance

Hair, face, skin and complexion /kəm'plek [ən/



and she's **thin-faced**/ she's got a **thin face**.



She's got straight hair She's got long, wavy hair She's got curly hair and she's **round-faced**/ she's got a round face.



and is black.



He's got a crew-cut. He's white.



He's bald /boxld/ and has freckles.



He's got a beard and moustache /mus'taxʃ/ and has a **chubby** face.



He's got receding hair and a few wrinkles /ˈrɪŋkəlz/.



He used to have black hair but now it's gone grey, almost white.

What sort of person would you find attractive? **Blonde**, **fair**, **dark** or **ginger-haired** / **red-haired**? She has such beautiful **auburn** hair. /'atban/ [red-brown]

Fair and dark can be used for hair, complexion or skin. Some people like getting a tan in summer [exposing their skin to the sun so that it goes darker], although the risks of getting **sunburnt** are well known.

В

Height and build

Fat may sound impolite. Instead we can say that someone is rather plump or stout, or a bit **overweight**. If someone is broad and solid, we can say they are **stocky**. A person with good muscles can be well-built or muscular. [generally said about men] Someone who is very fat can be described as **obese** /əʊ'biːs/, especially when talking in a medical context.

Someone who is thin can be described as **slim** [positive] or **skinny** [negative]. If someone **has a nice figure**, they have an attractive shape. [generally said about women]

C

General appearance

She's a very **smart** and **elegant** woman, always **well-dressed**; her husband is quite the opposite, very **scruffy** and **untidy-looking** / **messy-looking**.

Chloe looked **stunning** in her red dress. [very attractive]

He's very **good-looking**, but his friend's rather **unattractive**. [opp attractive]

Her eyes are her best **feature**. [the most attractive

part of her face]

Do you think **beautiful** women are always attracted to **handsome** men? I don't. I think personality matters most.

First impressions are always important.

[your first reaction to someone]

Language help

The suffix **-ish** is useful for describing people (see <u>Unit 70</u>). She's **tallish**. He has **brownish** hair. He must be thirtyish / in his thirties.



7.2

7.1 Choose a word from the opposite page to complete these sentences.

1	I wish I could get a <i>tan</i> like yours but my skin just goes red in the sun.
2	My cousin used to have a lovely but she's put on weight in all the wrong places since
	she stopped taking much exercise.
3	Thomas's eyes are his best – they're so large and sparkly and such a deep brown.
4	Jess is in her thirties but she still has the same lovely fresh as her young daughter has.
5	Staff at the bank were told to dress smartly for work so they would always create a
	goodon customers.
6	I'd call her rather than ginger-haired – her hair's dark brown with just a tinge of red in it.
7	George says that the round his eyes just show that he has smiled a lot in his life.
8	Even in jeans Alina manages to look
9	Carla looks beautiful in old clothes and without any make-up but when she's dressed up for an
	evening out she's absolutely
Ar	nswer these remarks with the opposite description.
1	A: I thought you said he was the short, chubby one.
	B: No, no, not at all, he's the tall, thin-faced one.
2	A: Was that his brother, the one with wavy hair?
	B: No, completely the opposite, his brother's
3	A: She's always quite well-dressed, so I've heard.
	B: What! Who told you that? Every time I see her, she's
4	A: So Charlene's that rather plump, fair-haired woman, is she?
	B: No, you're looking at the wrong one. Charlene's

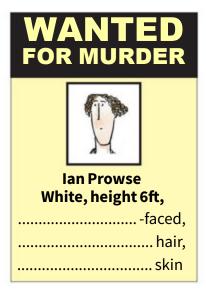
B: No, I'm afraid not; rather

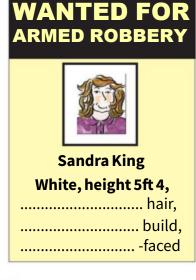
B: No, apparently she's only

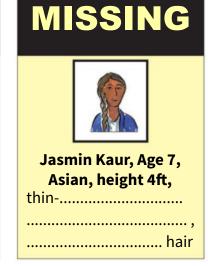
7.3 WANTED! MISSING! Complete the gaps in these police posters with your own ideas.

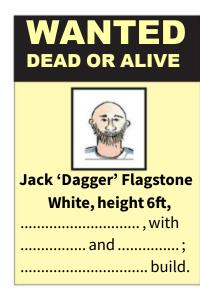
6 A: I don't know why, but I expected the tour guide to be fiftyish or rather plump.

5 A: So, tell us about the new boss; good-looking?









7.4 Over to you

Write a description of each of these people, giving information about their hair and face, their height and build and general appearance:

- 1 you yourself
- 2 your best friend
- 3 a neighbour
- 4 your ideal of a handsome man / a beautiful woman



A Intellectual ability

lots of ability	intelligent bright clever sharp shrewd able gifted talented brainy (informal)
lacking ability	stupid foolish simple silly brainless daft dumb dim thick (the last five are predominantly informal words, and they can all be offensive)
clever, in a negative way, using brains to trick or deceive	cunning crafty sly

B Attitudes towards life

Amal is **pessimistic** while Nia is **optimistic** – he always expects the worst to happen while she looks on the bright side.

It is strange that one of the twins is so **extroverted** while the other is so **introverted** – Ben loves being the focus of attention while Jake prefers to be alone with his thoughts.

I feel very **tense** (or **wound up** / **stressed out****) after a very busy day at work but, after a hot bath, I'll soon feel **relaxed**.

Eva is very **sensible** – she'd never do anything stupid. In other words, she's very practical and **down-to-earth**.

Roberto is very **sensitive** – he gets very **upset** (or **worked-up**, more informal), if he feels people are criticising him.

Attitude towards other people

Enjoying others' company: sociable gregarious*

Disagreeing with others: quarrelsome argumentative

Taking pleasure in others' pain: cruel sadistic

Relaxed in attitude to self and others: easy-going even-tempered laid-back**

Not polite to others: **impolite rude ill-mannered discourteous***Telling the truth to others: **honest trustworthy reliable sincere**Unhappy if others have what you do not have yourself: **jealous envious**

One person's meat is another person's poison

Some characteristics can be either positive or negative depending on your point of view. The words in the right-hand column mean roughly the same as the words in the left-hand column except that they have negative rather than positive connotations.

positive associations	negative associations
determined thrifty economical self-assured confident unconventional original frank direct open broad-minded enquiring* generous innocent ambitious	obstinate stubborn pig-headed stingy mean tight-fisted miserly* self-important arrogant full of yourself** eccentric odd peculiar weird** blunt abrupt brusque curt unprincipled permissive inquisitive nosy** extravagant naive pushy**
assertive	aggressive bossy**

^{*} These words are much more common in written than in spoken English.

^{**} These words are much more common in spoken than in written English.



8.1	Match the word	Is on the left with the	eir opposites or	the right.		
	1 clever	[f] a	introverted			
	2 extroverted	☐ b	tight-fisted			
	3 rude	☐ c	courteous			
	4 cruel	d	gregarious			
	5 generous		kind-hearted			
	6 unsociable	⊢ f	dim			
8.2	-	at the speaker likes on the second state of the speaker likes of the spe	=	=	e sentences? Reword each itive or vice versa).	:h
		ry thrifty. <i>Likes - Carm</i>	en's very stingy.	5 Ni	co's quite bossy.	
	2 Molly's usua	=			nd Marcus self-important	
	•	e broad-minded.			on't you think James is no	sy?
	4 Sam can be	aggressive.		O FIG	eya is very original.	
8.3	Pair the words	that have similar me	anings.			
	brainless - silly		3			
	brainless	curt	gifted	rude	tense	
	brusque	direct	honest	sensible	tight-fisted	
	crafty	down-to-earth	impolite	silly	trustworthy	
	cunning	frank	miserly	talented	wound up	
8.4	_	-			nalyse aspects of your responding question.	
	extravagant	assertive	inquisitive	reliable		
	1 If you arrange	to most at 7 nm, do yo	u arrivo at 7 pm	reliable		
	2 When you hav	'e a problem, do vou tr	iink the worst w	ili happen?		
	3 Do you find it	easy to tell your boss if	you feel he or sh	ne has treated y	ou badly?	
	4 Do you always	s look out of the windo	w if you hear a c	ar draw up?		
	5 Do you often b	ouy your friends presei	nts for no particı	ılar reason?		
	6 Do you freque	ntly disagree with wha	at other people s	say?	2	
	2 Do you prefer	to be in the company	e nas said somet of other people?	ning unkind to y	you?	
	o boyou prefer	to be in the company t	orother people:			
8.5	What questions	like those in 8.4 cou	ld you ask to fi	nd out if a pers	son is the following?	
	1 thrifty Do you	use up leftover food?				
	•	4 intelligen	t 6	original	8 stressed out	
	3 sensible	_		obstinate		
		2 22 3				
8.6	Over to	VOIJ				
	6					
		•	_	Describe them u	sing adjectives in this uni	t
		ons why you chose eac	-			
	EXAMPLE My	brother is sociable beca	use he loves bein	g with other pec	pple.	



A Positive and negative qualities

positive

She has **a heart of gold**. [very kind, generous] He's **as good as gold**. [helpful, well-behaved; used generally for children]

negative

She's **as hard as nails**. [no sympathy for others] He's **a nasty piece of work**. [unpleasant]

Note also:

Her **heart's in the right place**. [is a good and kind person even though they do not always seem so] He's such **an awkward customer**. [difficult person to deal with] She's **a pain in the neck**. Nobody likes her. [nuisance, difficult] He **gets on everyone's nerves**. [irritates everybody]

B Idioms based on 'head'

You can learn idioms by associating them with a key word or words. Two of the idioms in A, for example, are based on *gold* and two on *heart*. Here is a set of idioms describing people based on the word *head*.

to have

your head screwed on [be sensible, informal] a head for heights [not suffer from vertigo] a head like a sieve [bad memory] a good head for figures [be good at maths] your head in the clouds [unaware of reality]

to be head and shoulders above someone [much better than]

to bury your head in the sand [refuse to think about a difficult situation in the hope you won't have to deal with it]

to keep your head [stay calm in a difficult situation]







C How people relate to the social norm

She's a bit of **an odd-ball**. [peculiar, strange]
He's really **over the top**. [very exaggerated in behaviour]
He's (gone) **round the bend**, if you ask me. [absolutely crazy/mad]
My politics are very **middle- of- the- road**. [very normal; no radical ideas; neither left- nor right-wing]

Who's who in the class? Idioms for people in the classroom

Sam's **teacher's pet**. [teacher's favourite] Laura's **top of the class**.

Harry is **a** real **know-all**. [thinks he knows everything]

Ali's a bit of **a big-head**. [has a high opinion of him/herself] Anna's a **lazy-bones**.

The last three idioms are used of people outside the **classroom situation** too.



9.1 Try to complete these idioms from memory if possible.

- 1 She does a lot of voluntary work; she has a heart ... of gold.
- 2 Don't expect any sympathy from the boss; she's as hard ...
- 3 I'm sure Ahmed will help you; he's as good ...
- 4 Although Florian sometimes seems a bit bad-tempered his heart is ...______
- 5 I don't think you'll like him; he's a nasty ...
- 6 I try to avoid having much to do with Liam. He's rather an ...

9.2 What do we call ...

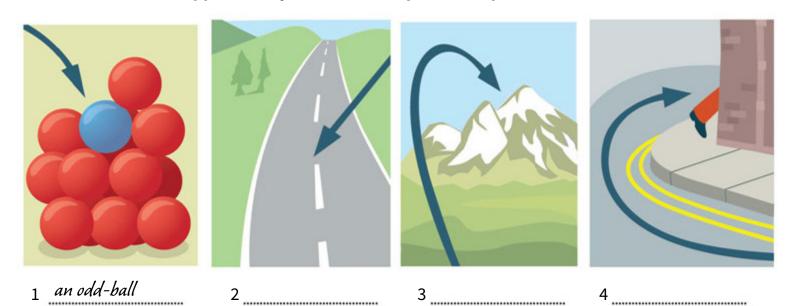
- 1 an irritating person who knows everything? *a know-all*
- 2 the person who is the teacher's favourite?
- 3 someone who thinks they are the best and says so?
- 4 the one who gets the best marks?
- 5 a person who is very lazy?

9.3 Complete the sentences using an idiom from B.

- 1 I'd better write it in my notebook. I have ... a head like a sieve.
- 2 Ask Martha to check those sums. She has ...
- 3 Don't ask me to go up that tower. I'm afraid I don't ...
- 4 She's very sensible and knows what she's doing. She ...
- 5 He's quite out of touch with reality. He really ...
- 6 The problem won't go away so there's no point ...
- 7 Max is top of the class, ... everyone else.
- 8 Even when others around him are panicking Raul always ...

9.4 Which part of the body might a difficult person (a) get on (b) be a pain in?

9.5 Which of the idioms opposite do you think these pictures represent?



9.6 Oven to ver

Over to you

Choose five idioms from this unit that you could use to describe people that you know.



A Types of relationship

ANITA: Are you and Holly **best friends?**

LUCY: She's a good friend – she's not my best friend.

ANITA: But she's more than just a casual **acquaintance**¹, right?

LUCY: Oh, yes. We were **housemates**² at university.

ANITA: Really? So how did you first meet her?

LUCY: I met her through my **ex**³, Kallum. She wasn't in a **steady**⁴ relationship with anyone at the

time, and she was looking for someone to share a room.

ANITA: Uh- huh. Is that Kallum who's now Olivia's **partner**^{5?}

LUCY: Yeah, that's the one. They're not just partners, they're married and they're **colleagues** too.

They're saving to buy a house now, so Kallum's living with his **parents-in-law**⁶ at the moment.

¹ a person you have met but you don't know well ² **mate** [friend; *infml*] is used in compound nouns to describe a person you share something with, e.g. classmate, roommate, workmate, flatmate, housemate. Workmate is common in non-professional or informal contexts; colleague is common among professional people, and sounds more formal. ³ ex-can be used without (informally) or with another word: ex-girlfriend, ex-husband, etc. ⁴ fixed and not changing suddenly ⁵ partner is used for someone you live with but are not married to, or for a business relationship where you share the ownership or running of a company ⁶ his wife's parents (his mother-in-law and father-in-law)

Internet relationships

В

MyBook | Home Profile Friends Inbox

If you join a social network, you can acquire **friends** (people you share personal information with) and build up your list of **contacts**. You can **invite** people to become your friends, and you can choose to **accept** new friends who invite you. You can **interact** with your friends by exchanging messages or posting **comments** on their page. You can also **share** photos and **tag** your friends (name them in photos that you post). If you want to fi nish a relationship, you can **unfriend/defriend** that person.

Liking and not liking someone

core verb positive (stronger) negative

like love adore idolise dislike can't stand loathe /ləuð/

respect look up to admire look down on despise attract be attracted to fancy (infml) leave someone cold

She doesn't just like Ben, she idolises him. I can't stand him.

I really fancy Charlotte, but her friend just leaves me cold / doesn't do anything for me.

Phrases and idioms for relationships and dating

Lily and I get on well (with each other). [have a good relationship]

Jack and Amelia don't see eye to eye. [often argue/disagree]

I've **fallen out with** my parents again. [had arguments]

Carl is **having an affair** with his boss. [a sexual relationship, usually secret]

Let's try and **make it up**. [be friends again after a row/quarrel]

He's dating a Spanish girl. They've been **seeing each other** for a couple of months. [meeting and spending time together]

They met at a party and **got together** soon after. [started a romantic relationship]

Common mistakes

We say: People make friends. (NOT get friends or find friends)

It's often difficult to **make** new **friends** when you move to another city. (NOT It's often difficult to get friends ...)



10.1	Use words with the suffix <i>-mate</i> to rewrite these sentences.
	 1 This is Jack. He and I share a flat. This is Jack. He and I are flatmates. 2 Mike was the person I shared a room with at university. 3 We were in the same class together in 2006, weren't we? 4 She's not really a friend; she's just someone I work with. 5 Abbie is always arguing with the people she shares a house with.
10.2	How many sentences can you write about the relationships between the people in the pictures, using words from the opposite page?
	EXAMPLE Jon and Erica are colleagues.
	1 Jon Erica 2 PARKS AND NASH GRAPHIC DESIGNERS Ben Parks Nash Georgie Tania Started a relationship year ago - meet regular
10.3	Complete the text messages with the correct form of words from B opposite.
	Have you checked your social media this morning? Sam has ¹ you in a really funny photo and ² it with everyone! ①
	My grandma has just ³ me to be her friend online! Don't know if I should 4or not.
	I'm going to ⁵ about me online
10.4	What do you think the relationships between the people below would be? Use the verbs, phrases and idioms opposite.
	 1 a teenage music fan: (a) parents He/ She might like/ dislike his/ her parents. (b) pop star (c) strict teacher (d) mate 2 a personal assistant: (a) another personal assistant (b) the boss (c) a very attractive workmate 3 a 45-year-old: (a) teenagers (b) ex-husband/wife who was cruel
10.5	Correct the mistakes in these sentences. There may be more than one mistake.
	 Rosie and Matt don't set on eye to eye. I fell up with my parents last night. It wasn't my fault. We had a quarrel but now we've made it well. Do you think Josh and Nuala are making an affair? I do. I see very well with all my colleagues at work. Jo's attractive, but her mate just makes me cold completely. Maria seems to find it difficult to get friends among her classmates. I met my boyfriend at a party and we became together soon after.
10.6	Over to you
	Complete the sentences so they are true for you.
	is a good friend of mineis just a casual acquaintance.
	Someone I look up to is A famous person I loathe is
	Someone I once fancied was Someone I adore is

