

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 3 Lesson 3

Vocabulary:

Basic concepts (Unit 51-55)

A

Number and quantity

Number is used for countable nouns (e.g. a large number of students), **amount** for uncountable nouns (e.g. a large amount of money).

Some adjectives for expressing number and quantity:



Even **minute** amounts of toxic material can be dangerous. (*fml*)

Add just a **tiny** amount of chilli pepper, or else it may get too hot.

Were there many people at the airport? Oh, about **average**, I'd say. (fairly informal)

A **considerable** number of people failed to get tickets. (*fml*)

A **significant** number of students have dropped out of university in the last year.
[noticeably large]

Substantial amounts of money have been wasted on this project. (*fml*)

There is an **excessive** amount of sugar in many soft drinks. [too much; rather formal]

A **vast** / An **enormous** quantity of sand was blown on to the road during the storm.

B

Informal words for number/quantity

I've got **dozens of** nails in my tool box. [a dozen is 12; *dozens of* means many; especially used for countables]

Scores of people were injured when the gas tank exploded. [a score is 20 or about 20; *scores of* means a large number of; usually formal]

There's **heaps/bags/loads of** time yet, slow down! (usually with singular *there is*, not *there are*; countable or uncountable; *infml*)

There was absolutely **tons of** food at the party – far too much. (again, note singular *there was*; especially used for things, not so often used for abstract nouns)

There are **tons of** apples on this tree this year – last year there were hardly any.

(Note: The verb here is plural because of 'apples', but singular in the example before with 'food' – number depends on the *noun* following, not on **tons/lots/loads**.)

Just a **drop** of milk for me, please. [tiny amount of any liquid]

C

Degree and intensity: collocations with *utter(ly)*, *total(ly)*, *wholly*

Utter(ly), **total(ly)** and **wholly** mean complete(ly).

Utter combines with 'strong' nouns like *nonsense*, *contempt*, *silence*, *confusion*, *chaos* and *despair*.

There was **utter chaos** during the transport strike.

Utterly combines with adjectives such as *ridiculous*, *confused* and *impossible*.

I was **utterly confused** by the instruction manual that came with my camcorder!

Total combines most often with *disbelief* and *ban*, e.g. She looked at him in **total disbelief**. The government introduced a **total ban** on smoking in public places.

Totally combines most often with *different*, *unexpected*, *unsuitable* and *wrong*, e.g.

The two brothers have **totally different** personalities.

Wholly combines most often with *dependent*, *inadequate* and *unacceptable*, e.g.

The success of the project was **wholly dependent** on the weather.

Exercises

51.1 Complete the sentences with words from A opposite.

- 1 It takes a c onsiderable amount of time to learn to ski well.
- 2 As..... quantity of food is thrown away every day by supermarkets. It's a scandal. (*two possible answers*)
- 3 The scientists found only a m amount of the chemical in the food and said it was safe to eat.
- 4 We ate an e amount of food at dinner last night! (*two possible answers*)
- 5 V..... amounts of money are wasted by government departments every year.
- 6 The number of students registering for our courses is about a for the autumn semester.
- 7 At..... amount of water had got into the keyboard and it stopped working.
- 8 Last year we didn't really notice an increase in prices, but this year the increase has been S..... .

51.2 Use words from A to fill the gaps. More than one answer may be possible.

- 1 Even a tiny / minute amount of sand can damage a camera.
- 2 I've had an absolutely amount of work lately. I'm exhausted!
- 3 Oh, you've given me a amount of food here! I mustn't eat too much.
- 4 It takes a amount of money to start a business.
- 5 An amount of fat in your diet is dangerous.

51.3 Circle the most suitable answer. More than one may be correct.

- 1 Tons / Scores / Bags of people came on to the streets to hear his speech.
- 2 We've got loads / scores / dozens of time. The train doesn't leave till 2.30.
- 3 There was / were tons of food left over after the dinner party.
- 4 I've got heap / loads / dozens of CDs that I never play any more.
- 5 There was / were dozens of people waiting outside the building.

51.4 Using intensifiers from C, write what you could say in the following situations.

- 1 You thought someone's views were completely ridiculous. His/Her views were utterly ridiculous.
- 2 You read two novels by the same author which were completely different.
.....
- 3 You thought someone's behaviour was completely unacceptable.
.....
- 4 You thought a particular way of working produced chaos.
.....
- 5 You listened to someone's story and did not believe a word of it.
.....
- 6 You think there should be a complete ban on using mobile phones in cinemas.
.....

51.5 Over to you

Write sentences that are true for you using these collocations:

wholly dependent utterly confused totally unexpected utter nonsense

A

Pronunciation of numbers

Notice how we say the following:

28% twenty-eight per cent

$1\frac{2}{3}$ one and two thirds

4^2 four squared

10.3 ten point three

10m × 12m ten metres by twelve metres

$\frac{4}{5}$ four fifths

7^3 seven cubed

32°C or F thirty-two degrees Celsius or Fahrenheit

$\frac{9}{13}$ nine thirteenths / nine over thirteen

8^4 eight to the power of four

Decimal fractions are separated by a dot and not a comma in English and this is pronounced **point**.

Note how commas are used to separate each set of three numbers in long numbers:

1,623,457 = one million, six hundred and twenty-three thousand, four hundred and fifty-seven.

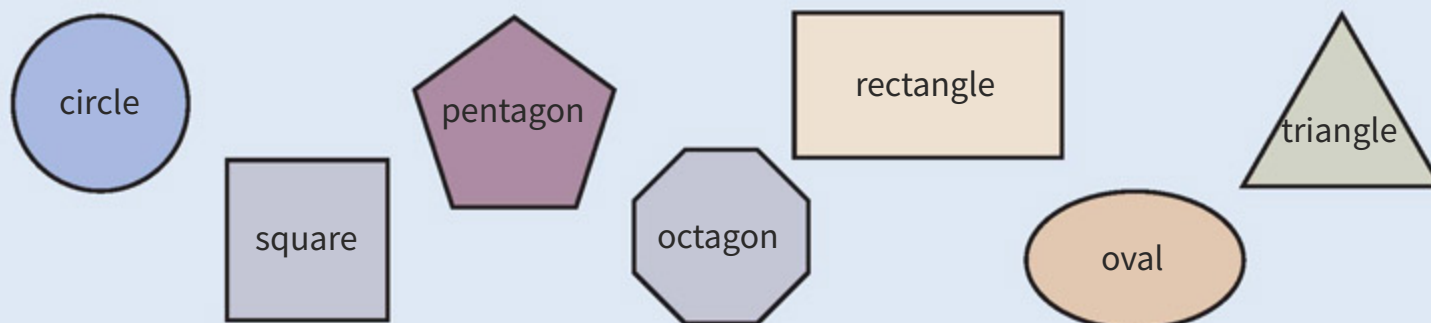
Telephone numbers are usually said like this: 01223 20675 = oh one double two three, two oh six, seven five.

Language help

When saying a long number, you pronounce each set of up to three digits separately with rising intonation, until the last set, where the intonation falls at the end to make it clear that the number is complete.

B

Two-dimensional shapes



The corresponding adjectives are: **circular**, **pentagonal**, **rectangular**, **triangular**, **square**, **octagonal**, **oval**.

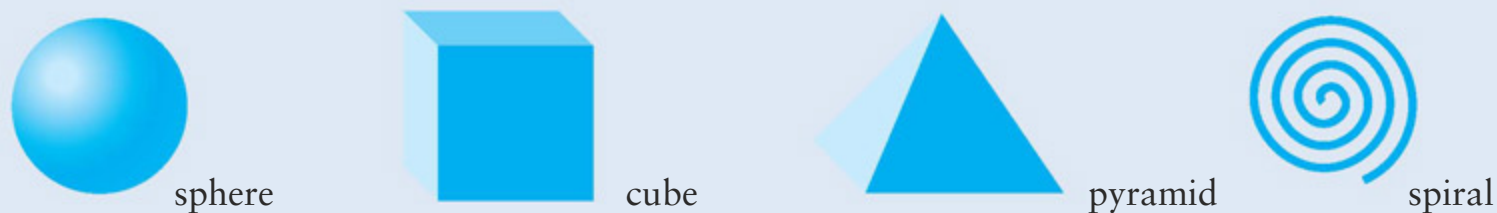
A **rectangle** has four **right angles**. A pentagon has five **sides**.

A **circle** is cut in half by its **diameter**. Its two halves can be called **semi-circles**.

The **radius** of a circle is the distance from its centre to the **circumference**.

C

Three-dimensional shapes



The corresponding adjectives are: **spherical**, **cubic**, **pyramidal**, **spiral**.

The two halves of a sphere can be called **hemispheres**.

D

Arithmetic

+ **addition**

$$2x + 3y - z = \frac{3z}{4x}$$

$$6 \times 7 = 42$$

– **subtraction**

Two x plus three y minus z equals three z divided by four x or three z over four x

Six **times** / **multiplied by** seven is forty-two or six sevens are forty-two

× **multiplication**

÷ **division**

Exercises

52.1 Write the following in words rather than in figures or symbols.

- 1 17.1% of adults have false teeth. *Seventeen point one per cent of adults ...*
- 2 According to a UN study, 2% of the world’s population owns over $\frac{1}{2}$ of all household wealth.
- 3 $0^{\circ}\text{C} = 32^{\circ}\text{F}$
- 4 This article says that 8,556,981 people are currently living in London.

52.2 How good at maths are you? Try this numbers quiz. Write the answers in words rather than figures.

- 1 What is seven times nine? *sixty-three*
- 2 Name two shapes that have four right angles.
- 3 Subtract 41 from 93.
- 4 What is three fifths of twenty?
- 5 How many sides has an octagon?
- 6 What is one third of ninety-nine?
- 7 What is three squared?
- 8 What is four cubed?

52.3 Complete this table.

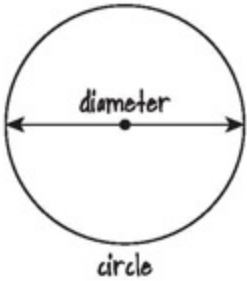
description	name of shape	adjective
shape with four sides of equal length and four right angles	<i>square</i>	<i>square</i>
round shape		
shape with three sides		
shape with eight sides		
shaped a bit like an egg		
three-dimensional round shape		
three-dimensional square shape		

52.4 Correct the mistakes in how the numbers are said in these sentences.

- 1 $3^2 = 9$ Three square equals nine. *Three squared equals nine.*
- 2 46.6% Oxygen accounts for forty-six comma six per cent of the earth’s crust.
- 3 $7 \times 9 = 63$ Seven nine are sixty-three.
- 4 18°C The temperature today is eighteen points Celsius.
- 5 $3\text{m} \times 6\text{m}$ My bedroom is three multiplied by six metres.
- 6 6^9 What is six at the power of nine?
- 7 $\frac{11}{16}$ Eleven sixteens of the students passed the exam.
- 8 $\frac{2}{3} \times 5^3 = 83\frac{1}{3}$ Two third times five cubes is eighty-three and three third.

52.5 Draw the following shapes.

- 1 A circle with its diameter indicated.
- 2 A right-angled triangle with two equal sides of about two centimetres in length.
Draw a small circle at the centre of the triangle and then draw lines from the centre of the circle to each of the angles of the triangle.
- 3 A rectangle with diagonal lines joining opposite angles.
- 4 An octagon with equal sides. Draw an oval in the middle of the octagon.
- 5 A cube of roughly 3cm by 3cm by 3cm.



A

Periods of time – words and typical contexts

the Ice Age the Stone Age the Middle Ages the computer age

[major historical/geological periods]

After the war, a new **era** of stability began. [long period, perhaps several decades]

A **spell** of hot weather [indefinite but short period] He's had a couple of **spells** in hospital in the last two or three years.

The city went through several **stages** of development to become what it is today. [period of development or particular time in a process]

Most teenagers go through a **phase** of being lazy. [a period which is part of a longer period; *phase* can also mean the same as *stage*]

B

Useful expressions with time

During the 1980s I lived in Barcelona **for a time**. [vague, indefinite period]

The doctor says you should stay in bed **for the time being**. [for now, not specific]

She can get a bit bad-tempered **at times**. [occasionally / now and then]

By the time we get home this pizza will be cold! (Note: followed by present tense, not future with *will*)

I'm not in regular contact with her; I just send her an email **from time to time**. [sometimes but not often]

One at a time, please! I can't deal with you all together.

We arrived just **in time** to hear the Prime Minister's speech. [at the right time / with enough time to do something]

Our plane was **on time** and she was waiting for us at the airport. [punctual / neither early nor late]

I've told you **time and time again** not to ring me at the office! [many times; very emphatic and usually in negative contexts]

The city has changed a great deal **over the course of time / over the course of the last two centuries**. (used about long periods of time)

C

Verbs associated with time passing

2002 → 2012 Ten years had **elapsed** since they last saw each other. (normally used in the perfect or past, without adverbs; *fml*)

Time seems to **fly** as you get older. [pass very quickly]

This film **lasts** for three hours.

The meeting **went on / dragged on** for two hours. (suggests longer than expected or desired; **drag on** is stronger)

D

Adjectives describing duration (how long something lasts)

There was a **momentary** loss of electrical power and the data was lost. [very brief]

I just got a **fleeting** glimpse of the President as his car drove past. [very short and quick]

Venice has a **timeless** beauty.

Common mistakes

Don't confuse *in time* and *on time*. *In time* means with enough time to do something or at the right time. *On time* means punctual, neither early nor late.

*We got there just **in time** for dinner.*

*I expect she will be late - the trains are never **on time**.*

Exercises

53.1 Fill the gaps with *age, era, period, spell, phase or stage*.

- 1 The Minister said that before the new law came into force there would be a *period* of six months when people could hand in firearms without being prosecuted.
- 2 The last two decades of the twentieth century will be seen by historians as the beginning of the computer *era*.
- 3 The new university will be built in three *phases*, beginning with the opening of the science faculty in 2015.
- 4 These factories mark the beginning of a new *stage* of industrial development for the country.
- 5 My son went through a *spell* of not wanting to go to school when he was about nine or ten.
- 6 We had a very cold *period* in February. All the water pipes froze up.

53.2 Complete the sentences.

- 1 *Over* the *course* of a century, from 1900 to 2000, the population grew steadily.
- 2 The lecture / for almost three hours and everyone was totally bored.
(two answers)
- 3 The archaeologists discovered some tools which dated from the Stone *age*.
- 4 Time seems to when you're enjoying yourself.
- 5 A period of seven years between the two earthquakes.
- 6 Shakespeare's plays have a quality - they never grow old.
- 7 It was just a visit. She only stayed for about ten minutes.
- 8 There was a pause as the official considered her answer. Then she said she would try to help us.

53.3 Which phrases from B could you use in the following situations? Write exactly what you might say.

- 1 To a child who leaves the fridge door open despite being told off often.
I've told you time and time again not to leave the fridge door open!
- 2 To someone you're happy to see who arrives just as you are serving tea/coffee.
- 3 On a birthday card you expect will arrive at someone's address after you arrive in New York.
- 4 A large group of people want to talk to you but you'd prefer to see them individually.
- 5 Ask someone to use an old computer while the new one is being repaired.
- 6 Tell someone you'll do your best to arrive punctually at a meeting.
- 7 Explain to someone that the weather can be very hot in your city occasionally.
- 8 Tell someone you enjoy a game of tennis sometimes but not often.



53.4 Over to you

Your country/culture may have names for important periods of its history (for example, British people often refer to the years 1840-1900 as the 'Victorian era/period' because the monarch at the time was Queen Victoria). Make a list in English of important historical periods from your culture.

A

Broad and wide and tall and high

Wide is more common than **broad**, e.g. It's a very **wide** road/garden/room.

Make a note of typical collocations for **broad** as you meet them, e.g. Economics is a very **broad** subject. We came to a **broad** expanse of grassland. [big area]

Note the word order for dimensions, e.g. The room's **five metres long** and **four wide**.

Don't forget that **tall** is for people but can be used for things such as buildings and trees when they are **high** and **thin** in some way. Otherwise, use **high** for things.

She's very **tall** for a five-year-old.

Her office is in that **tall** building in the square.

There are some **high** mountains in the North.

B

Deep ≠ shallow

The **deep** and **shallow** ends of a swimming pool.

C

Derived words, phrases and compounds

long Let's measure the length /*lenθ*/ of this rope.

I swam 20 **lengths** (of the swimming pool).

I've **lengthened** her skirt for her. [*opp* = **shorten**, see below]

Getting a visa can be a **lengthy** process. (usually refers to time; rather negative)

Tony has got a job as a **long-distance** lorry driver.

short The new road will **shorten** our journey by ten minutes.

There's a **shortcut** to the station. [quick way]

wide Let's measure the **width** /*wɪðθ*/ of the room.

They're **widening** the road.

broad I want to **broaden** my experience. (usually more abstract contexts)

She's very **broad-minded** and tolerant of others. [willing to accept other people's behaviour and beliefs; *opp* = **narrow-minded**]

I admire the **breadth** of his knowledge. (usually more abstract concepts)

high The **height** /*haɪt*/ of the wall is two metres.

The fog **heightened** the feeling of mystery. (usually used only for feelings and emotions)

low You can **lower** the microphone if it's too high. [*opp* = **raise**]

far He loves travelling to **faraway** places. [a long way away = **distant**]

distant What's the **distance** from Helsinki to St Petersburg? [= How far is it ...?]

deep The **depth** of the river here is about three metres.

His death so soon after hers **deepened** our sadness. (often with feelings)

D

Other verbs for dimensions and for changing them

Our garden **stretches** all the way to the river, so we have plenty of room to **extend** the house if we want to.

The cities are **spreading** and the countryside is **shrinking**. [getting bigger; getting smaller]

The business **expanded** considerably in the last decade. [grew in size; *opp* = **contract**]

Exercises

54.1 Complete B’s replies using a suitable form of the dimension/distance words opposite and any other necessary words.

- 1 A: These trousers I’ve bought are too long.
B: Well, why don’t you get *them shortened?*
- 2 A: He’s a big boy, isn’t he? 1.90 metres!
B: Yes, he’s .
- 3 A: Why are we going across the field?
B: Just to get there a bit quicker; it’s .
- 4 A: We’ll have to measure how high the room is.
B: That’s not necessary; we already know the .
- 5 A: The traffic seems to move far quicker on this road since I was last here.
B: Yes, well, they .
- 6 A: Why do they have music on TV news programmes? It seems totally unnecessary!
B: Well, I think they want to create a feeling of drama, and the music is supposed to .

54.2 Give opposites for:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 a length of the pool <i>a width of the pool</i> | 4 a local call | 7 narrow-minded |
| 2 to shorten | 5 deep water | 8 raise your hand |
| 3 a very broad range of goods | 6 nearby places | |

54.3 Match the sentence beginnings on the left with the endings on the right.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 The city’s spread a lot; | ☒ | a for miles along the river. |
| 2 It takes ten weeks; | ☐ | b you should broaden it. |
| 3 We extended the house | ☐ | c it’s much bigger now. |
| 4 You can choose; | ☐ | d there’s a wide range. |
| 5 Your experience is too narrow; | ☐ | e it’s a lengthy business. |
| 6 The forest stretches | ☐ | f to give us more room. |

54.4 Use the verbs in the box to fill the gaps.

spread expand extend stretch shrink contract

- 1 I’ll *spread* the rug out on the grass so we can both sit on it.
- 2 The steel industry when the economy was strong, but now it has and only employs 8,000 people.
- 3 This sweater of mine has in the wash!
- 4 Our land as far as those trees there.
- 5 The arts centre has recently its opening hours.

54.5 Fill in the prepositions. If you are unsure, try looking up the word *distance* in a dictionary.

- 1 The car was parked *at* a distance about 150 metres from the scene of the robbery.
- 2 I saw you the distance yesterday but didn’t call out as you were with someone.
- 3 She’s a great shot. She can hit an empty can a distance of about 100 feet.
- 4 What’s the total distance here Paris?

A

Obligation

You will **be liable** /'laɪəbl/ for any damage when you rent a car. [obliged to pay; *fml*/legalistic]

The company **is obliged** to give a refund if the tour is cancelled.

The bank robbers **forced** him at gunpoint to open the safe.

We **had no choice/alternative but** to sell our house; we owed the bank £100,000.

The death sentence is **mandatory** /'mændətəri/ for drug-smuggling in some countries. [automatic; there is no alternative]

Was sport **compulsory/obligatory** at your school? No, it was **optional**. [you can choose]

I am **exempt** from paying income tax as I'm a student. [free from obligation]



B

Need

This plant is **in need of** water. (more formal than 'needs/wants')

There's a **need for** more discussion on the matter. [we feel a need; *fml*]

There is a **shortage** of teachers. [there are not enough]

She could not concentrate **through lack of** sleep. [she had none or not enough; *fml*]

A car is **an absolute necessity** if you live in the countryside and there is no public transport. [something you must have] You just can't **do without** one. [survive or live without]

What are the **requirements** for a Master's course in English? [things you must do or need]



C

Possibilities

I've been given **an opportunity** to work in Berlin. [a real chance]

Is there any **chance/possibility** you'll be free next week? (**chance** is less formal than **possibility**)

A rise in oil prices is **inevitable** as oil supplies run out across the world. [is certain to happen]

It is doubtful whether the economy will improve next year. [it may not improve]

It is probable that the next government will change the tax laws.

Most scientists believe that climate change is no longer just a possibility but is now an absolute **certainty**.

Common mistakes

The correct preposition after the noun **need** is **for**, not *of*. *There is a need for more qualified teachers.*
(NOT *There is a need of ...*)

Exercises

55.1 Match the sentence beginnings on the left with the endings on the right.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 The club closed down | ☒ | a of repairs and redecoration. |
| 2 People could not heat their homes | ☐ | b for university entry on the website. |
| 3 Most people cannot do | ☐ | c because of the oil shortage. |
| 4 There is a real need | ☐ | d for better day care for young children. |
| 5 There is a list of requirements | ☐ | e through lack of interest. |
| 6 The whole house is in need | ☐ | f without a mobile phone these days. |

55.2 Continue the sentences using obligation words and phrases from A opposite with the words in brackets.

- 1 They were losing £10 million a year, so the company *was forced/obliged to close down.*
(close down)
- 2 You don't have to buy the travel insurance; it's
(extra charge)
- 3 You can borrow the camcorder, but you will
(for any damage to it)
- 4 We'll have to sell the house. I'm afraid we have
(otherwise, bankrupt)
- 5 He didn't want to give them the money, but they had guns; they
(hand it over)
- 6 No, he couldn't choose to pay a fine; a prison sentence is
(for dangerous driving)
- 7 I didn't want to do maths, but I had to. It's
(in all secondary schools)
- 8 If you're unemployed, you're (paying tax)

55.3 Answer the questions.

- 1 If a fee or charge is mandatory, do you have to pay it or can you choose? *You have to pay it.*
- 2 If an event is inevitable, how certain is it that it will happen? 20%, 50% or 100%?
- 3 If a car is exempt from tax, how much tax do you have to pay for it?
- 4 If an exam is optional, are you obliged to take it?
- 5 If you are liable for something, is it your or someone else's responsibility?

55.4 Rewrite the words in bold using expressions from the opposite page.

- 1 Most people consider that a mobile phone is not a luxury but **something you absolutely must have.**
an absolute necessity / something you can't do without
- 2 I have been given a **chance** to work with a team of zoologists in East Africa.
- 3 Is there any **chance** that you will be free to join us at 4 pm tomorrow?
- 4 It's **not at all sure** whether there will be any change in the situation in the near future.
- 5 It's not just a possibility that food prices will go up, it's **absolutely certain to happen.**
- 6 **She will probably** arrive tomorrow.

55.5 Over to you

Name something which ...

- 1 you think is inevitable.
- 2 there is a need for in your country.
- 3 was compulsory when you were at school.
- 4 you personally are in need of right now.
- 5 you own that you couldn't do without.