

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 3 Lesson 4

Vocabulary: Basic concepts (Unit 56-60)

A

General words to describe sound

I could hear the **sound** of voices/music coming from the next room. (neutral)

The **noise** of the traffic here is pretty bad. [loud, unpleasant sounds]

The children are making a terrible **racket** upstairs. Could you go and tell them to be quiet? [very loud, unbearable noise, often of human activity; *informal*]

Sound and **noise** can both be countable or uncountable. When they are of short duration or refer to different sounds/noises, they are countable. When they mean a lot of continual or continuous sounds, they are uncountable.

I heard **some** strange **sounds/noises** in the night. (countable)

I wish the children wouldn't make **so much noise** when I'm working. (uncountable)

The **sound** of the sea is very relaxing. (uncountable)

B

Sound words and things that typically make them

All the words in this section can be used as nouns or verbs.

I could hear the rain **pattering** on the roof. We heard the **patter** of a little child's feet.

verb/noun	example(s) of what makes the sound
bang	a door closing in the wind, a balloon bursting
chime	a big public clock on a building sounding the hour
clang	a big bell ringing, a hollow metal object being struck
clatter	a metal pan falling onto a concrete floor
crash	a big, solid, heavy object falling onto a hard floor
hiss	gas/steam escaping through a small hole
hum	an electrical appliance when switched on, e.g. computer, freezer
rattle	small stones in a tin being shaken
ring	a small bell, a telephone
roar /r /	noise of heavy traffic, noise of a huge waterfall
rumble	distant noise of thunder, noise of traffic far away
rustle /'rʌsəl/	opening a paper/plastic bag, dry leaves underfoot
screech	a car's tyres when the brakes are suddenly applied
thud	a heavy object falling onto a carpeted floor

C

Darkness

Here are some adjectives for **dark** conditions. (For adjectives describing brightness, see [Unit 59](#).)

These brown walls are a bit **gloomy**. We should paint them white.

This torch is getting a bit **dim**. I think it needs new batteries.

It was a **sombre** /'sɒmbə/ room with dark, heavy curtains. [serious, imposing]

D

Types of light

Note these collocations.

A torch gives out a **beam** of light. A diamond ring **sparkles**.

A camera gives a **flash** of light. Stars **twinkle**. A candle flame

flickers in the breeze. White-hot coal on a fire **glows**.

The sun **shines** and gives out **rays** of light. A gold object **glitters**.



Language help

Many of the words relating to darkness and light can be used about people's expressions too. Light suggests happiness and darkness suggests unhappiness. *Kate's face was **glowing** with pleasure. Dan looks very **gloomy**. Has he had some bad news?*

Exercises

56.1 Choose *sound*, *noise(s)* or *racket* to fill the gaps. You may use the words more than once.

- 1 I could sit and listen to the *sound* of the river all day.
- 2 There was a terrible outside the pub last night; it was a fight involving about six people.
- 3 My car's making some strange I'll have to have it checked.
- 4 Oh! What an awful! I think you should take up a different instrument; the violin's just not for you!
- 5 I can't sleep if there's of any kind, so I use ear-plugs.

56.2 Using the table in B opposite, what sound do you think each of these might make?

- 1 A bottle of sparkling mineral water being opened. *hiss*
- 2 A box of saucepans being dropped down an iron staircase.
- 3 A mouse moving among dead grass and leaves.
- 4 A child falling over on a wooden floor.
- 5 A starting gun for a sporting event.
- 6 A train passing at high speed a few feet away from you.
- 7 A slow train passing, heard through the walls of a house.
- 8 A car coming to a halt very suddenly.

56.3 Choose the best word from the box to complete each sentence. Put it in the correct form.

chime clang hum patter rattle ring

- 1 I woke up when a small earth tremor *rattled* the cups on the table.
- 2 I can hear my mobile - I think it must be at the bottom of my bag.
- 3 It's cosy indoors with the rain on the windows.
- 4 We live in the country but can still always hear a of traffic from the road across the fields.
- 5 I couldn't sleep last night and heard the clock on the town hall every hour.
- 6 Joe the metal gate behind him as he left the garden.

56.4 Pair up the sentences on the left with the ones on the right so they make sense.

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 I saw a beam of light coming towards me. | ☒ b | a Then it died, leaving us in complete darkness. |
| 2 The jewels sparkled in the sunlight. | ☐ | b It was a police officer holding a flashlamp. |
| 3 The candle began to flicker uncertainly. | ☐ | c But blacks and greys do suit her. |
| 4 The first rays of the sun shone into the room. | ☐ | d I'd never seen such a beautiful bracelet. |
| 5 She always wears rather sombre clothes. | ☐ | e As we got nearer we realised it was a bush. |
| 6 We could see a dim shape in the fog. | ☐ | f It was clearly time to get up. |

56.5 Which do you think is the correct meaning of the underlined words in these sentences?

- 1 Her eyes were shining as she told me her news. ☒ a
a looked full of happiness b looked angry c looked afraid
- 2 Jessica glowed all through her pregnancy. ☐
a looked rather worried b looked pale c looked very happy
- 3 She beamed at him. ☐
a smiled b shouted c attacked
- 4 He has a twinkle in his eyes. ☐
a a grain of sand b a sign of humour/enjoyment c a sign of anger

A

Possession

All his **possessions** were destroyed in the terrible fire. [everything he owned]

Don't leave any of your **belongings** here; we've had a few thefts recently. [smaller things, e.g. bag, camera, coat; always plural]

Estate in the singular can mean a big area of private land and the buildings on it, or all of someone's wealth upon death.

They live on a **housing estate** / an **estate**. [area containing a large number of houses or apartments built close together at the same time]

She owns a huge **estate** in Scotland. [land, etc.]

After his death, his **estate** was calculated at 10 million euros. [all his wealth]

Property (uncountable) is used in a general sense for houses, land, etc.

He's only 14; he's too young to own **property**.

A **property** (countable) is a building (e.g. house, office block) or land.

She owns some valuable **properties** in the town centre.

B

Words for people connected with ownership

The **proprietor** /prə'praɪətə/ of this restaurant is a friend of mine. (used for shops, businesses, etc.; *fml*; **owner** is less formal)

The **landlord/landlady** has put the rent up. [owner of rented property]

Do you own this house? No, we're just **tenants**. [we rent it]

He **inherited** a big house in the country when his parents died. [became the owner after someone's death]

C

Giving

The river **provides** the village **with** water / **provides** water **for** the village. (or **supplies**)

Jakes Ltd **supplies** our school **with** paper and other items. (often for 'selling' contexts)

It gives me pleasure to **present** you **with** this gift from us all.

His parents **supported** him while he was at college but now he's independent.

The school restaurant **caters for** 500 people every day. [looks after the needs of]

That uncle of mine that died **left** £3,000 to an animal shelter.

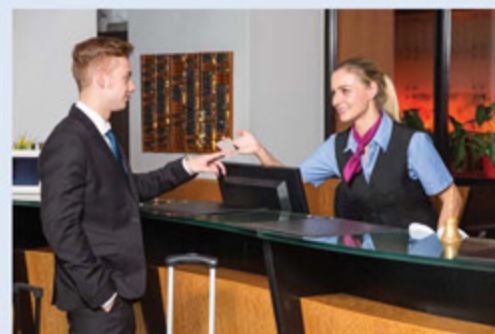
When she died she **donated** all her books to the library. (for large gifts to institutions)

I'm running a marathon next week for a cancer charity.

Will you **sponsor** me? [give money if I complete the race]



Would you like to **contribute/donate** something to the children's hospital fund?



You've been **allocated** room 24. Here's your key.

D

Phrasal verbs connected with giving

When I left the job I had to **hand over** the keys to my office to the new person.

I didn't really want to **let go of** my bike but I had no money so I had to sell it.

The people from the charity **handed out** / **gave out** stickers for everyone to wear. [distributed]

I had a banjo once, but I **gave it away**. [gave it free to someone]

This vase has been **handed down** from generation to generation in my family.

Exercises

57.1 Complete the missing words from A opposite.

- 1 He became a multi-millionaire and bought a huge *estate* in the country.
- 2 Some of the p in this street have sold for more than five million euros this year.
- 3 I left some of my b in the changing room at the gym and they were stolen.
- 4 On his death, Mr Carson's e was valued at £400,000.
- 5 She sold all her p and travelled around the world for a year.
- 6 It's often difficult for young couples to buy p and they have to rent a place instead.

57.2 The verbs in the middle column have been jumbled. Put them in the right sentences.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 A millionaire | inherited <i>donated</i> | his entire library to the school. |
| 2 The director was | supported | the best parking place. |
| 3 My mother's cousin | donated | me £5,000 in her will. |
| 4 A farmer nearby | catered | us with logs for the fire. |
| 5 When I retired they | left | me with a camera. |
| 6 The restaurant | allocated | for vegetarians. |
| 7 My parents | presented | me when I was out of work. |
| 8 The oldest son | supplied | the house when his father died. |

57.3 What questions using words from B and C opposite do you think were asked to get these answers?

- 1 *Are you the owner/proprietor of this restaurant?*
No, I'm not the owner. I just work here as a waiter.
- 2 ?
Yes, he became the owner when his aunt died. It's a massive house.
- 3 ?
OK, I'll give you one euro for every kilometre you run.
- 4 ?
Yes, that's right. I pay rent every month.
- 5 ?
Actually, I've already given something. Sorry.
- 6 ?
No, I'm sorry, we don't. You have to buy your own pens and exercise books.

57.4 The rise and fall of Mr Fatcatt - a sad story. Fill the gaps with suitable words from the opposite page.

Toby Fatcatt began his career by buying old ¹ *properties* in the city when prices were low. Soon he was one of the biggest private ² in the city, with around 1,000 ³ renting houses and flats from him. He was also the ⁴ of many shops and businesses. He became very rich and bought himself a huge ⁵ in Scotland, but then there was an economic crisis and he had to sell all his ⁶ and ⁷ - everything. He was left with just a few personal ⁸ and finally died penniless.

57.5 Over to you

Think of something that ...

- 1 you would hand over to a mugger if threatened.
- 2 has been handed down in your family.
- 3 you have given away at some time in your life.
- 4 is often given out in classrooms.
- 5 you value and would not want to let go of.

A

Particular types of movement

Move is the basic verb for all movement, but don't forget it also means 'to move to a new house/flat', e.g. We've **moved**. Do you want our new address?

Cars, lorries, etc. **travel/drive** along roads.

Trains **travel** along rails.

Boats/ships **sail** on rivers / across the sea.

Rivers/streams **flow/run** through towns/villages.

Things often have particular verbs associated with their types of movement. You should learn these as typical collocations when you meet them, and record them with a phrase or sentence, for example:

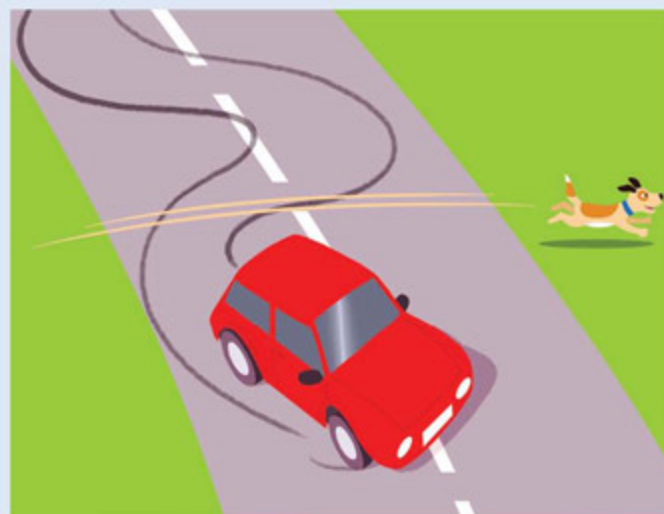
The car **swerved** /swɜːvd/ to avoid a dog which had run into the road. [moved suddenly to the side]

White clouds **drifted** across the sky. [moved slowly]

The flag **fluttered** in the wind. [moved gently from side to side]

The leaves **stirred** /stɜːd/ in the light breeze. [moved slightly]

The trees **swayed** back and forth as the wind grew stronger. [moved slowly from side to side]



B

Verbs to describe fast and slow movement

The traffic was **crawling along** because of the roadworks. [moving very slowly]

Stop **dawdling**! /'dɔːdlɪŋ/ We'll be late! [moving more slowly than is necessary]

Suddenly a car came round the bend and **tore along** the road at high speed.

Seconds later, a police car **shot past** after it.

Everyone was **hurrying/rushing** to get their shopping done before closing time.

The train was just **creeping along** at about 20 miles per hour. I knew we'd be late. [moving very slowly]

The donkey was **plodding** along the road. [plodding suggests heavy, often tired, movement]

The plane was **cruising** at a height of 30,000 metres. [travelling at a steady speed]

C

Nouns to describe speed and their typical contexts

speed is a general word used for vehicles, developments, changes, etc., e.g. We were travelling at high **speed**.

rate is often used in statistical contexts; the rate of increase/decrease, e.g. The birth **rate** is going down.

pace shows how you experience something as happening fast or slow, e.g. The lesson was going at a very slow **pace**.

velocity /və'lobɪti / is used in technical/scientific contexts, e.g. The **velocity** of a moving object.

Common mistakes

We say **at** a speed/rate/pace. (NOT in or with a speed/rate/pace)

The train was travelling **at a speed** of 120 kph. (NOT The train was travelling with a speed of 120 kph.)

Exercises

58.1 Pair up the sentences on the left with the ones on the right so they make sense.

- 1 That tree was swaying back and forth in the wind.

2 The cruise liner is leaving tomorrow.

3 A cat ran out in front of my car.

4 The most famous river in France is the Seine.

5 A train came off the rails yesterday.
- ☒ a It sails at dawn.

☐ b It flows through the capital city.

☐ c It was moving so much I thought it would break altogether.

☐ d It was travelling at 160 kph at the time.

☐ e I had to swerve hard and nearly ended up in the river.

58.2 What other things do you think could be described by each verb apart from the contexts given opposite? Use a dictionary, if necessary.

- 1 **sway:** a tree, *someone dancing, someone walking on a ship in a rough sea, someone who's drunk*
- 2 **crawl:** traffic, _____
- 3 **shoot:** a car, _____
- 4 **flutter:** a flag, _____
- 5 **drift:** a cloud, _____

58.3 Fill the gaps with *speed, rate, pace* or *velocity*. Use the guidelines opposite to help you.

- 1 The *rate* of decline in this species is alarming.
- 2 I just couldn't stand the _____ of life in the city, so I moved to a small village.
- 3 The teacher asked the students to calculate the _____ of a series of objects dropped from a specific height.
- 4 A: What _____ were you doing at the time? B: Oh, about 60 kph, I'd say.
- 5 The company is showing an impressive _____ of growth.

58.4 Correct the error in each sentence.

- 1 Pierre ~~creeped~~^{crept} down the stairs making as little noise as possible.
- 2 We were making progress but only in a very slow pace.
- 3 The baby stired but didn't wake up.
- 4 The old man swerved a little but didn't fall over.
- 5 Trains can travel with a much faster speed than buses.

58.5 Use a dictionary to make notes to help you learn the difference between these near synonyms. Make notes under the headings *usage* and *grammar*, as in the example.

	usage	grammar
fast quick rapid swift	<i>e.g. fast car / fast train - refers to speed</i>	<i>adjective and adverb - 'she drove fast'</i>

58.6 Over to you

In what situations might you ...

- 1 tear out of the house?

2 deliberately dawdle?

3 plod along at a steady pace?
- 4 not even dare to stir?

5 shoot past someone's office/room?

6 creep around the house?

A

Texture - how something feels when you touch it

adjective	typical examples
smooth /smu:ð/	the paper in this book
polished	varnished wood; a shiny metal surface
silky	silk itself; fine, expensive tights or stockings
slippery	a fish just out of the water
furry /'fɜ:ri/	a thick sheepskin rug
rough /rʌf/	new, unwashed denim jeans; bark of a tree
coarse /kɔ:s/	sand
jagged /'dʒæɡɪd/	sharp, irregular edges of broken glass or metal
prickly	a thistle; a cactus; thorns on a rose

Your hair **has a silky feel**. This cotton is very smooth **to the touch**. The table had a beautiful polished **surface**. /'sɜ:fɪs/ The ground was rough **underfoot**.

B

Brightness



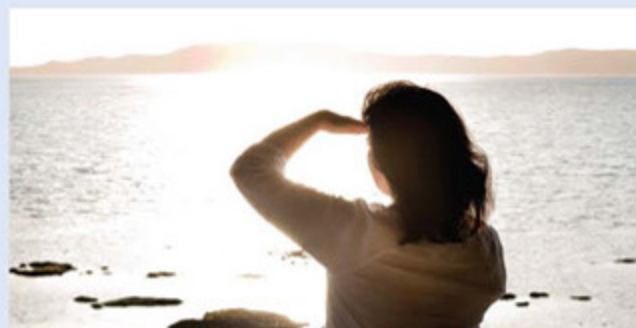
a **shady** corner of the garden



carnival costumes full of **vivid** colours



shiny leather shoes



a **dazzling** light

You wear such **dull** colours - why don't you start wearing **bright** colours for a change?
The light's too **dim** to read in here. We need another lamp.
I wear sunglasses when I drive because of the **glare** of the sun.

C

Density and weight

A **solid** ≠ **hollow** object. She has **thick** ≠ **thin/fine** hair.

An area with **dense** ≠ **sparse** vegetation.

Your bag's **as light as a feather**! Have you brought enough clothes?

Your bag's **as heavy as lead**! What's in it? Bricks?

This suitcase is very **bulky/cumbersome**. /'kʌmbəsəm/ [difficult, big and heavy]

Exercises

59.1 Which adjectives from A opposite could describe the texture of these things?

- 1 A new cotton T-shirt. *smooth*
- 2 Heavy, stone-ground wholemeal flour.
- 3 A wet bar of soap.
- 4 The branches of a rose bush.
- 5 A gravel pathway.
- 6 The inside of a pair of sheepskin gloves.
- 7 The edge of a piece of broken, rusty metal.
- 8 The surface of a mirror.
- 9 A silk scarf.
- 10 An empty sack.

59.2 Rewrite the sentences. Look at the words in bold and follow the instructions in brackets.

- 1 The material **felt** metallic. (change to noun) *The material had a metallic feel.*
- 2 The cloth was rough when you **touched** it. (change to noun)
- 3 We sat in a part of the garden where there was **shade**. (change to adjective)
- 4 Suddenly there was a light which **dazzled** everyone. (change to adjective)
- 5 The ground was very wet **under our feet**. (change to adverb)
- 6 My suitcase **weighs very little**. (use feather)

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

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 We walked through the jungle vegetation, | ☒ | a which was hollow. |
| 2 We found it inside an old tree, | ☐ | b which was absolutely solid. |
| 3 We loved the new colour, | ☐ | c which was as heavy as lead. |
| 4 We examined the desert vegetation, | ☐ | d which was very vivid. |
| 5 We tried to drill into the rock, | ☐ | e which was very dense. |
| 6 We couldn't lift the box, | ☐ | f which was very sparse. |

59.4 What could you do if ...

- 1 your reading lamp was rather dim? *get a brighter one*
- 2 you were fed up with the dull colour of the walls in your room?
- 3 you found the glare of the sun uncomfortable?
- 4 you wanted your shoes to be shiny?
- 5 your rucksack was too bulky or cumbersome?

59.5 Over to you

Look round your own home and find ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 something soft to the touch. | 4 something furry. |
| 2 something rough underfoot. | 5 something smooth. |
| 3 something with a polished surface. | |

A

Succeeding

We **succeeded in** persuading a lot of people to join our protest. (in + -ing)

I **managed** to contact him just before he left his office.

I don't think I can **manage** the whole walk. I think I'll turn back. (**manage**, but not **succeed**; may have a direct object in this meaning)

We've **achieved** / t i vd/ / **accomplished** /ə'kɒmplɪʃt/ a great deal in the last year.

(both are used with quantity phrases such as 'a lot' and 'a little'; **accomplish** is rather formal)

The company has **achieved** all its **goals/aims/targets** for this year. (**achieve** is more common than **accomplish** with nouns expressing **goals** and **ambitions**)

Do you think his plan will **come off**? [succeed; *informal*]

Here is a matrix for some typical collocations with 'succeeding' verbs:

	reach	attain	secure	realise	fulfil	achieve
an ambition		✓		✓	✓	✓
a dream				✓	✓	
an agreement	✓		✓			
an obligation					✓	✓
a target	✓	✓				✓
a compromise	✓					

B

Failing and difficulty

Plans and projects sometimes **go wrong** / **backfire**. [don't go as intended]

Companies, clubs and societies often **fold** / **go under** through lack of success. [close down; **go under** is informal]

A plan or project may **falter** /'fɒltə/, even if it finally succeeds. [have ups and downs]

All your plans and hard work / efforts may **come to nothing**.

I have great **difficulty** (in) getting up in the morning.

I **find it difficult** to remember the names of everybody in the class. (**hard** can also be used here; it is more informal)

It's hard/difficult to hear what she's saying.

I often **have trouble** starting the car on cold mornings. (more informal)

We've **had a lot of bother with** the neighbours lately. (very informal)

Can you **cope with** three more students? They've just arrived. [deal successfully with a difficult situation]

I've got no money and my girlfriend's left me. I need help; I **can't cope** any more.

C

Word formation

verb	noun	adjective	adverb
succeed	success	successful	successfully
accomplish	accomplishment	accomplished	-
achieve	achievement	achievable	-
attain	attainment	attainable	-
fulfil	fulfilment	fulfilling	-
harden	hardness	hard	hard

Common mistakes

Izzy **had great difficulty** finding somewhere to live in London. (NOT difficulties)

Paul **had considerable success** with his first novel. (NOT successes)

Exercises

60.1 Choose a suitable verb to fill the gaps. If the exact word in the sentence is not in the vertical column of the matrix on the opposite page, look for something that is close in meaning. More than one verb is often possible.

- 1 The management have reached a no-strike agreement with the union.
- 2 Now I've _____ all my family responsibilities, I can retire and travel the world.
- 3 The school building fund has failed to _____ its target of £250,000.
- 4 I never thought I would _____ my ambition, but now I have.
- 5 Very few people _____ all their hopes and dreams in life.
- 6 We hope the two sides _____ a compromise and avoid war.
- 7 I'm afraid that little plan of mine didn't _____ off.

60.2 Fill in the missing word forms where they exist.

verb	noun	adjective
realise	<i>realisation</i>	
	difficulty	
	target	
fail		
	trouble	

60.3 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- 1 I find ^{it} very difficult to understand English idioms.
- 2 She succeeded to rise to the top of her profession.
- 3 Do you ever have any trouble to use this photocopier? I always seem to.
- 4 I've accomplished to work quite hard this last month.
- 5 I'm amazed that you can cope all the work they give you.
- 6 Did you have many difficulties finding the book in the library?
- 7 Unfortunately, it seems as if all Johnny's plans have come at nothing.
- 8 I'm afraid I haven't had any successes in contacting Lara today.

60.4 In what sorts of situations would you hear the following remarks?

1 We'll have to get an au pair. I just can't cope.

You would probably hear it from a parent who is finding it too difficult to combine work and family life.

2 I can't believe it — £5,000. The company folded and now I've got nothing to show for it!

3 It went under, I'm afraid, and he's bankrupt now.

4 You can't manage all that. Let me help you.

5 Yes, her plan came off even though the odds were really against her.

60.5 Over to you

- What would you do if ...
- 1 you were having a lot of bother with your car?
 - 2 you started a small business but it came to nothing?
 - 3 you couldn't cope with your English studies?