English Vocabulary in Use

Michael McCarthy
Felicity O’Dell
Contents

Acknowledgements vi
Using this book 1

Introduction
1 Learning vocabulary – general advice
2 Learning vocabulary – aids to learning
3 Organising a vocabulary notebook
4 The names of English language words
5 Using your dictionary
6 Revising vocabulary
7 Formal and informal words

Word formation
8 Suffixes (e.g. actor, permission, modernise)
9 Prefixes (e.g. over-worked, exhale)
10 Roots (e.g. impress, pressure, expression)
11 Abstract nouns (e.g. faith, hope and love)
12 Compound adjectives (e.g. well-dressed, time-consuming)
13 Compound nouns – combinations of two nouns (e.g. baby-sitter, youth hostel)
14 Compound nouns – combinations of verb + preposition (e.g. drawback, input)
15 Words with interesting origins – people and places (e.g. hooligan, denim)
16 Words with interesting origins – from other languages (e.g. bistro, rucksack)
17 Onomatopoeic words – words that sound like their meaning (e.g. grumble, smash)
18 Words commonly mispronounced (e.g. worry, cough)
19 Homonyms – words pronounced and/or spelt the same (e.g. row, row; bow, bough)

Connecting and linking
20 Time (e.g. as soon as, while, afterwards)
21 Condition (e.g. unless, provided that)
22 Cause, reason, purpose and result (e.g. owing to, with the aim of, as a result)
23 Concession and contrast (e.g. although, on the other hand)
24 Addition (e.g. in addition, furthermore, besides)
25 Text-referring words (e.g. issue, problem)

Countables and uncountables
26 Uncountable words (e.g. information, advice)
27 Words that only occur in the plural (e.g. scissors)
28 Countable and uncountable with different meanings (e.g. paper and a paper)
29 Collective nouns (e.g. a flock of sheep)
30 Making uncountable words countable (e.g. a loaf of bread)
Topics
31 Countries, nationalities and languages
32 The weather
33 Describing people – appearance
34 Describing people – character
35 Relationships
36 At home
37 Everyday problems
38 Global problems
39 Education
40 Work
41 Sport
42 The arts
43 Food
44 The environment
45 Towns
46 The natural world
47 Clothes
48 Health and medicine
49 Travel
50 Holidays
51 Numbers and shapes
52 Science and technology
53 The press and media
54 Politics and public institutions
55 Crime
56 Money – buying, selling and paying

Notional concepts
57 Number, quantity, degree and intensity
58 Time
59 Distances and dimensions
60 Obligation, need, possibility and probability
61 Sound and light
62 Possession, giving and lending
63 Movement and speed
64 Texture, brightness, weight and density
65 Success, failure and difficulty
66 Containers and contents (e.g. box of matches, jar of jam)

Feelings and actions
67 Belief and opinion
68 Pleasant and unpleasant feelings
69 Like, dislike and desire
70 Speaking
71 The six senses
72 What your body does
73 What animals do
Fixed expressions
74 Idioms and fixed expressions – general (different types; advice on their use)
75 Everyday expressions (e.g. as I was saying, that reminds me)
76 Similes – as... as... / like... (e.g. as white as a sheet)
77 Binomials (e.g. odds and ends, spick and span)
78 Idioms describing people (e.g. to have a heart of gold)
79 Idioms describing feelings or mood (e.g. to be in a black mood, to shake in your shoes)
80 Idioms connected with problematic situations (e.g. to take the bull by the horns)
81 Idioms connected with praise and criticism (e.g. she’s streets ahead of the other girls, the world’s worst)
82 Idioms connected with using language (e.g. to talk behind somebody’s back, to put in a nutshell)
83 Idioms – miscellaneous
84 Proverbs (e.g. Many hands make light work.)

Phrasal verbs and verb-based expressions
85 Expressions with do and make
86 Expressions with bring and take
87 Expressions with get
88 Expressions with set and put
89 Expressions with come and go
90 Expressions with look
91 Miscellaneous expressions (with break, run, turn, let, etc.)

Varieties of English
92 Headline English (e.g. boost, axe)
93 US English (e.g. elevator, downtown)
94 Other Englishes
95 Slang (e.g. copper, bread)
96 The language of notices (e.g. refrain, trespassers)
97 Words and gender (e.g. waiter/waitress, chairperson, headteacher)
98 Abbreviations (e.g. UN, OPEC, lab)
99 New words in English
100 Discourse markers (e.g. Right! Mind you!)

Key 202
List of phonetic symbols 270
Index 271
Acknowledgements

We are particularly grateful to Jeanne McCarten and Geraldine Mark at Cambridge University Press who provided us with so much clear-sighted help and creative guidance at all stages during the writing of this book. We should also like to thank Stuart Redman for his thorough and invaluable report on the initial manuscript. We are grateful to students and staff at various institutions who assisted in piloting the materials: Jon Butt and Elaine Smith, International House, London; Nick Kenny, International Language Academy, Cambridge; Brigitte Marrec, Université Paris X, France; Suzanne Pilot, Lycée Blaise Pascal, Longuenesse, France; Tony Robinson, Eurocentre, Cambridge; Ian Scott, Centre for English Language Education, University of Nottingham; Karen Thompson, International House, Toulouse, France; Clare West, English Language Centre, Hove. Lastly, we thank Nóirín Burke at CUP who took over the management of the manuscript in its final stages.

The authors and publishers would like to thank the following for permission to reproduce copyright material in *English Vocabulary in Use*. While every effort has been made, it has not been possible to identify the sources of all the material used and in such cases the publishers would welcome information from the copyright holders.


Illustrations by Amanda MacPhail, Kathy Baxendale and Ken Brooks.