

MAY 2

# cold

/kəʊld/, /coald/

**noun**

Absence of heat (no plural).

An illness, sometimes called 'the cold' or 'the common cold', usually consisting of a runny nose and coughing (plural **colds**).



## The cold

coldness, the absence of heat

*I hate the cold, roll on summer!*

## Come in from the cold

to be allowed to take part in some activity from which you were excluded before

*After months of not being selected, he's come in from the cold and at last been offered a game with the team.*

## Out in the cold

not taking part, not included

*Only her college friends were asked to her party – the rest of us were out in the cold.*

## Suffering from a cold; suffering from the cold

suffering from the viral illness that makes you stuffy-nosed

*I've caught the cold again. That's four colds this year!*

## Usage

You **catch a cold** (the illness), and you can catch several **colds**.

You **feel the cold** (temperature), but you can't feel colds.

**MAY 11**

# **GIVE AND TAKE**

There are many common phrases in English that contain the word GIVE. Many, but not all, of these phrases are to do with stopping, compromising in some way or things being allowed to happen.

## **Give (or lose) ground**

to retreat; to go backwards

## **Give something up for someone**

to leave something to be taken by someone

## **Give something up**

to stop something

## **Give up hope**

to lose hope

## **Give way**

to stop in order to allow something to pass

## **Give in, give up**

to admit defeat

## **Give and take**

willingness to compromise

## **Give as good as you get**

able to take criticism and give it back

## **Give (something) away / Give the game away**

to reveal something that is a secret

## **Give (something) a whirl**

to try something out in a lighthearted way

## **Give (someone) grief**

to criticize or give someone a hard time

## **Give (someone) the push**

to sack someone from a job or role



MAY 3

# common

*/ˈkɒmən/, /com-on/*  
**adjective**

more common, most  
common

Of something that  
belongs to everyone.  
Of something found  
everywhere.  
Of something or  
someone ordinary.  
Of something that  
happens frequently.



## Common ground

ground that belongs to everyone

*Play on the common ground behind the houses.*

## A common person

someone rather ordinary

*She felt common in her old worn-out dress.*

## Common occurrence

happening regularly

*His visits have become a common occurrence.*

## Common courtesy

the basic level of politeness that you expect

*It is just common courtesy to say thank you.*

## Common knowledge

a fact that everyone knows

*It's common knowledge they don't like each other.*

## Common flower

a flower found everywhere

*A daisy is a common wild flower, but it's still beautiful.*



**passed**  
**past**

These words sound alike and are **homophones** which are liable to be confused.

The word **passed** is the past tense and past participle of the verb **pass**, as in:

*We **passed** the school on our way here.*

The word **past** can be a noun, as in:

*You must try to forget the **past**.*

It can be an adjective, as in:

*He seems to have forgotten all about his **past** crimes.*

**Past** can also act as a **preposition**, as in:

*We must have driven **past** the church without noticing it.*

It can be an **adverb**, as in:

*I looked out of the window and saw them walking **past**.*

MAY 5

# agree to agree with disagree with agree on in agreement

## PERPLEXING PREPOSITIONS

A preposition describes a relationship between other words in a sentence. Certain prepositions go with certain words – it is not always easy to know which is correct.

<http://www.helenexley.ro/helen-exley-calendarul-improve-your-english-in-15-minutes-a-day.html>

If you **agree to** something you say that you will allow it to happen.

*They **agreed to** our plan right away.*

You **agree with** someone if you both have the same opinion, as in:

*My brother and I hardly ever **agree on** anything, and, yet again, I **disagree with** him about this.*

**Agree with** can be used to indicate that something is good for you, as in:

*The warmer climate **agrees with** him.*

If you are **in agreement** with someone you have come to the same conclusion, as in:

*We're all **in agreement** about the changes to the club rules.*

MAY 6



# disinterested

# uninterested

Until very recently **disinterested** meant the same as '**impartial**' or '**unbiased**'. It was often confused with **uninterested**, meaning '**not having any interest in something**', and now it has come to share this meaning.

Changes in usage are not always universally welcomed by any means. Many people claim that changes like this spoil what they see as the purity of the English language.

In fact, this particular example of a language change is actually a reversion to a previous usage. According to historical dictionaries from the 17th century, **disinterested** could mean the same as **uninterested**.



MAY 7

# complain

/kəm'pleɪn/,  
/com-plane/ **verb**

**complains, complaining,  
complained**

If you complain about something,  
you say you are not happy about or  
satisfied by it.



## **Complain about**

to say you are dissatisfied with something  
*I complained about the cold weather.*

## **Complain to**

to tell someone about your dissatisfaction  
*I had to complain to the manager about the  
faulty goods.*

## **Complain of something**

to talk about being sore or unwell in some  
manner  
*He complained of a bad back.*

## **Word family**

**complaint** /kəm'pleɪnt/, /com-playnt/ **noun,**  
**plural complaints**

a grumble or expression of dissatisfaction  
*There have been complaints about the service  
at the hotel.*

*I had to write a letter of complaint to the  
manager.*

MAY 8

# confuse

/kən'fju:z/,

/con-'fyooz/ **verb**

**confuses, confusing,  
confused**

To put  
something  
into disorder,  
or muddle it.  
To puzzle or  
bewilder.



## **Confuse something**

to put something into disorder, or muddle it

*I have confused the arrangements by insisting on coming early.*

## **Confused by something or someone**

to be puzzled or bewildered by something or someone

*I was very confused by the questions on the form.*

## **Word family**

**confusion** /kən'fju:ʒən/, /con-'fyoo-zhun/ **noun**,

**plural confusions**

## **In confusion**

disorder

*The room was in total confusion.*

## **Some confusion**

puzzlement, bewilderment

*There was some confusion over the meaning of the word.*



MAY 9

# connect

/kə'nekt/,

/co-nect/ **verb**

**connects, connecting,  
connected**

To join two things together.

To relate a thing or idea with another.



**Connect two things together**

to join two things together

*I had to connect the two pipes.*

**Connect a thing or idea with another one**

to relate a thing or idea with another one

*He finally made the connection and recognized the man as being a childhood friend.*

**Well-connected**

to be related to important or powerful people

*They are not rich but they are well-connected.*

**Word family**

**connection** /kə'nekʃən/, /co-nec-shun/ **noun**

**Loose connection; strong connection etc**

the join between two things

*There is a loose connection between the pipes.*

**Make a connection**

thinking of a certain person, place, event, etc, when one sees another

*The police made a connection between the crimes.*

MAY 10

# contain

/kən'tein/,

/con-tane/ **verb**

**contains, containing,  
contained**

To have something in  
something else.

To keep something within  
boundaries of some kind.

**Something contains something**

something has something inside

*The jar contains jelly beans.*

**Somebody contains something**

somebody is keeping control of something

*We can contain the fire to this small area.*

**Contain yourself**

to keep calm

*I can't contain myself. I am excited about the party.*

**Usage**

You would say:

*The bucket contained water.*

You would **not** say:

*The bucket was containing water.*

**Word family**

**container** /kən'teɪnə/, /con-tay-ner/ **noun, plural**

**containers**

anything made to hold something else in it

*The small tree was in a plant container.*

