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Learning Language: English

Vocabulary B1

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Vocabulary

The basics

Nationalities: capital letters

➡ **Nationalities**, whether used as **nouns** or as **adjectives**, are **capitalized**.

Example:

- You'll meet lots of **Americans** here.
- I'm half **French**, half **Italian**.

Note: Languages are also capitalized.

Example:

I don't speak **English** very well.

Nationalities: capital letters– Exercise – Sentence practice

Rewrite the following sentences as in the example:

I'll have the banana cream cake too.	I'll also have the banana cream cake.
He wants the house specialty too.	
The French dine late as well.	
We'd like some white wine too.	

'Hour' - 'Time' - 'O'clock'

➡ 'Hour' expresses duration .	Example: Don't take hours . Shall we meet at the harbor in an hour ? I have to be at the theater in a half hour !
➡ 'Time' indicates indeterminate duration .	Example: We won't have time to see him. Take your time .
➡ 'Time' can also indicate the time of day , e.g. as indicated by a clock. 'Time' is often used to ask the time of day .	Example: What time is it? Is it time to go?
➡ 'O'clock' expresses an exact hour and is often omitted.	Example: It's six (o'clock). I'd like to watch the seven o'clock news.

'Hour' - 'Time' - 'O'clock' – Exercise – Word order

an - already - for - here - half - been - I've - hour!

American money

► The **United States'** primary **monetary unit** is the **dollar**. A **cent** is a **hundredth** of a dollar.

Example:

\$4 = four **dollars**

\$1 million = one million **dollars**

\$4.50 = four **dollars** and fifty **cents** (or four fifty)

\$.25 or 25¢ = twenty-five **cents**

Note: \$ precedes the number, to which it refers, ¢ follows the number to which it refers.

- American coins have various names:

1¢ = a **penny**

5¢ = a **nickel**

10¢ = a **dime**

25¢ = a **quarter**

50¢ = a **half dollar**

Note: A number of countries besides the United States have monetary units called dollars. To distinguish among these various currencies, it is useful to speak of '**US dollars**' (or '**American dollars**'), '**Canadian dollars**,' '**Australian dollars**,' etc.

American money– Exercise – Grammar practice

Write in full as in the example:

\$.25	a quarter
\$2.50	
\$1,000	
\$.10	
\$.50	
\$.01	
\$28.50	

Specific topics

'To let'

➡ Permission is expressed using 'let' + object + infinitive without 'to.'	<u>Example:</u> They let their child do what he wants.
➡ 'Let' can also be used as an imperative auxiliary.	<u>Example:</u> Let her do what she likes. Let me just deal with this lady first.

Note:

- ➡ A sentence formed with **let** to express permission **cannot be used** in the passive. The expression '**to be allowed to**' is therefore used.

Example:

- The child **is allowed to** do what he wants.

- ➡ The infinitive without 'to' may be **implied**.

Example:

- She would like to go to India but her parents won't **let** her.

'To let'– Exercise – Sentence practice

Rewrite as in the example:

The secretary makes the deposits. (the boss)	The boss lets the secretary make the deposits
He borrowed on credit. (the bank)	
The retail chain lowered prices. (the manufacturer)	
We did whatever we wanted. (the competitor)	

'To write'

The verb '**to write**' may precede:

➡ An indirect object , where the latter refers usually to a person	<u>Example:</u> • I'm writing to my parents. • I write her every week.
➡ A direct object	<u>Example:</u> • I was writing a love letter.

'To write'– Exercise – Word order

I - the - same - always - write - things.



Expression of preference

Two related expressions are used to speak of **preference**:

➡ 'Would prefer' ('d prefer) precedes a nominal group, a gerund, or an infinitive. Note: In sentences containing 'would prefer', negations are placed before the main verb (an infinitive).	Example: • We would prefer one payment. • Would you prefer staying at home? • I'd prefer to talk to someone else. Example: • I'd prefer not to meet him.
➡ 'Would rather' is used mainly in speech. It precedes an infinitive without 'to' when only one subject is present (i.e., the verb takes the same subject as does 'would rather'), and a past subjunctive otherwise. Note: When only one subject is present, negations precede the infinitive. Where there are two subjects, negations are applied to the conjugated verb.	Example: • Would you rather be in a compartment? • We'd rather he went now. Example: • She'd rather not stay alone. • I'd rather we didn't invite him.

Expression of preference – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

We'd _____ to have some Riesling.
 You should try a _____. Yes, that's a good _____.
 We'll have that, yes, and _____ with the _____.
 You're __a _____, I see!

dessert - birthday - celebrating - champagne - idea - prefer – Bordeaux

Expression of preference – Exercise – Word order

lemon with - would - if - prefer - tea - my - I - it's - possible.

Words and expressions

'To be left' - 'To have left'

'To be left' and 'to have left' express the same idea but are used in different ways.

➡ The passive 'to be left' is formed using subject + 'be left.'	Example: • The weather was bad. • Few people were left on the streets.
➡ The active 'to have left' takes a direct object which precedes 'left.' The resulting form is subject + 'have' + direct object + 'left.'	Example: • Do you have any tea? • I only have coffee left. • Do you have any rooms left?

'To be left' - 'To have left' – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

I _____ write straight, anyway.

Do you _____ write letters? Only when I _____ have to.

Do you have _____ envelopes? I must have a _____ left.

really - often - few - never - enough

'To hope' + dependent clause

- 'To hope' may be followed by a **future** or by a **present simple** referring to the future. The latter case is the more common.

Example:

- She **hopes** he'll come.
- I **hope** my card **won't** get swallowed up this time!
- He **hopes** the traffic's all right.
- I **hope** the water's deep enough!

'To hope' + dependent clause – Exercise – Word order

have - you - I - some - hope - stamps!



'Kind of' followed by a noun

➡ 'Kind of' + noun may be used with or without an indefinite article. 'Kind of a / an' + noun carries a general, vaguer meaning.	Example: • What kind of a man is he? • What kind of aircraft are we flying in?
➡ You can use 'kind of a / an' + noun to ask for a more precise definition or description of something.	Example: • What kind of service do you offer? • What kind of an office plan do you have? Open space or individual offices? • What kind of experience does the position require? • What kind of a problem are you experiencing?
➡ 'Kind of a / an' + noun may also be used to describe or define something in an approximate, rather than a precise, way.	Example: • I have a copy of the report ready, but it's kind of a semi-final version. • Negotiating is kind of a challenge, but I enjoy it.
➡ To compare something to another in an approximate or partial way, you can use the expression 'kind of like a / an' + noun. ➡ Often, this expression is followed by a 'but' clause.	Example: • What is that? It looks kind of like an agenda, but is much bigger. • The new briefcase is kind of like a traditional one, but has more modern features.
➡ You can use the expressions sort of and type of in much the same way as kind of. Note: When referring to something plural, kind of, sort of, and type of become kinds of, sorts of, and types of.	Example: • What sort of investment do you want to make? • What type of a consultant do you plan to hire? • It's sort of an issue, but there's no need to worry. Example: • What kinds of clients do you generally work with?

Vocabulary – B1 level

➡ **Other expressions** useful for **describing or defining something** in an **approximate** way are:

- 'a kind of a / an' + noun
- 'a sort of a / an' + noun
- 'a type of a / an' + noun
- 'some kind of a / an' + noun
- 'some type of a / an' + noun
- 'some sort of a / an' + noun

Example:

- I think Deborah is carrying **some kind of an office chair**.
- The new company restaurant has **a type of a patio** where employees can eat outside.
- Gabriel is working on **some type of presentation**.
- The technical team is having **some sort of a problem**. I don't know the details, though.

'Kind of' followed by a noun – Exercise – Sentence practice

Form a question based on the final part of the sentence:

It's an infectious disease.	What kind of disease is it?
That's the maternity ward.	
He's a heart surgeon.	
She's a specialist in tropical diseases.	

Not to be confused

'At last' - 'At least'

'At last' ('finally') should not be confused with 'at least' ('in any case,' 'at the lowest estimate').

➔ 'At last' may precede a clause, follow an auxiliary, or end a sentence.	<u>Example:</u> • At last you have stopped that noise. • We can at last relax. • She's arrived at last. • We're ready! • At last!
➔ 'At least' may precede a clause, a noun or noun phrase, or follow a clause, auxiliary, or main verb.	<u>Example:</u> • At least your illness isn't serious, otherwise you would be in the hospital. • I hope we'll have a nice summer at least! • And don't forget to rest for at least three days. • You can at least tidy up your bedroom. • This must cost at least 20 dollars.

'At last' - 'At least'- Exercise – Fill in the blanks

Make sure you _____ all your pills!

Yes, I _____ forget them _____ a day or two!

And don't forget to _____ for _____ three days. Thanks, doctor.

I'm feeling _____ better _____. You're welcome.

after - rest - take - usually - already - at least - much

Vocabulary – B1 level

'For' - 'Since' - 'Ago'

A - **For** and **since** are often used after a **main clause** in the **present perfect**.

For + expression of length of time	
➡ For is always followed by a noun phrase .	Example: I've lived in Detroit for five years . He's been studying at Stanford University for two years .
Since + point of departure (precise moment)	
➡ Since introduces a noun phrase or a dependent clause indicating a point of departure (date for example). ➡ When since is followed by a dependent clause, the verb of the clause is, according to the context, either in the preterite or the present perfect .	Example: • I've been learning English since I was eleven years old. • I haven't talked to her since I've been back. • She's been playing the violin since 1987.

B - **Ago** is **preceded** by a **noun phrase** describing a **point in time**.

The verb of the sentence is in the **preterite**.

Example:

- The couple **met two years ago**.
- He **arrived three hours ago**.

'For' - 'Since' - 'Ago' – Exercises – The right word

1. I have been working at the post office _____ five years.

in - for - at - on and off - since

2. Stamps have cost 30 cents _____ the beginning of the year.

occasionally - at - for - since - while – in

'For' - 'Since' - 'Ago'– Exercise – Text transformation

Rewrite the sentences using "for"/"since"/"ago":

It is 2002, the last time I got a letter was in 2001. Today, I have been writing a letter; I started writing the letter at 4 o'clock. Between 5 pm and 5:15 pm I stopped writing. I started writing at 4 pm; it is now 6 pm. At 6 pm I went out; I got back at 7 pm. At the post office I waited in line from 6:30 pm to 6:45 pm.



'Next' - 'The next'

➡ 'Next' + expression of time (e.g. a day of the week, 'week', 'month', 'year', 'term', or 'time') is used without an article and indicates a future time (relative to the moment of speech or writing).	<u>Example:</u> • Next time, give yourself an hour or more to get to the airport. • We've planned a 10% increase for next year. • Next Friday I'm on vacation.
➡ 'The next' is used with the same expressions of time as is 'next'. However, the former expression indicates a future time relative not to the moment of speech or writing, but to some other (past or future) moment which is mentioned or understood.	<u>Example:</u> • I'll spend the first week in Paris and the next two weeks in Rome. • She said she was leaving the next day.
➡ 'The next' can also indicate a period that is beginning or about to begin at the moment of speech or writing. <u>Note:</u> 'The next few days' is a common expression.	<u>Example:</u> • The next school year is going to be easy. (School begins tomorrow.) • Can you put me on the next flight? <u>Example:</u> • You'll get your checkbook in the mail within the next few days.

'Next' - 'The next' – Exercise – Text transformation

Put the following text into the simple future indicative:

Last week she shopped at the mall. Her last visit to the mall was quite successful. Last month she bought a pair of black pants. The last pair of sneakers she purchased were too wide. Last time she took a good friend along. Last time she spent far too much.

'For how long' - 'Since when'

A - 'For': 'how long... (for)'

➡ 'For' introduces nominal groups expressing duration.	<u>Example:</u> We've been traveling for almost a month now.
➡ Statements containing 'for' answer questions containing 'how long... (for)'.	<u>Example:</u> How long have you been traveling for? How long have you been waiting?

B - 'Since': 'since when'

➡ 'Since' introduces a nominal group or subordinate clause expressing a precise past time.	<u>Example:</u> It has been snowing since Monday.
➡ Statements containing 'since' answer questions containing 'since when'.	<u>Example:</u> Since when has it been snowing?

'For how long' - 'Since when' – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

Hey, did your Christmas present _____?

No, when did you _____ it? About two weeks _____.

It _____ I've been waiting _____ years.

No, but you've been waiting _____ we first saw it in the window!

since - feels like - send - arrive - ago - for

'To remember' - 'To remind'

➔ Past actions may be recalled using 'to remember' + gerund or 'to remember' + nominal group. 'To remember' takes the thing remembered as its object.	<u>Example:</u> • He remembered locking the door. • I remember my first day at work.
➔ 'To remember' + infinitive evokes a future action someone must not forget to do.	<u>Example:</u> • Remember to post the letter.
➔ 'To remind' takes as its direct object the person who is reminded of (or to do) something. ➔ Such sentences may be constructed using 'to remind' + object + 'of' + noun, or 'to remind' + object + infinitive.	<u>Example:</u> • He reminded her of her promise. • Remind me to phone him.

'To remember' - 'To remind' – Exercise – Word order

eating - funny - anything - can - remember - you - tasting?

VOCABULARY - Solutions

The basics – Solution(s)

Nationalities: capital letters – Solution(s)

Nationalities: capital letters– Exercise – Sentence practice

Rewrite the following sentences as in the example:

I'll have the banana cream cake too.	I'll also have the banana cream cake.
He wants the house specialty too.	He also wants the house specialty.
The French dine late as well.	The French also dine late.
We'd like some white wine too.	We'd also like some white wine.

'Hour' - 'Time' - 'O'clock' – Solution(s)

'Hour' - 'Time' - 'O'clock' – Exercise – Word order

I've already been here for half an hour!

Vocabulary – B1 level

American money – Solution(s)

American money– Exercise – Grammar practice

Write in full as in the example:

\$.25	a quarter
\$2.50	two dollars fifty two dollars and fifty cents two fifty
\$1,000	a thousand dollars one thousand dollars
\$.10	a dime ten cents
\$.50	fifty cents a half dollar
\$.01	a penny one cent a cent
\$28.50	twenty-eight dollars fifty twenty-eight dollars and fifty cents twenty-eight fifty

Specific topics – Solution(s)

'To let' – Solution(s)

'To let'– Exercise – Sentence practice

Rewrite as in the example:

The secretary makes the deposits. (the boss)	The boss lets the secretary make the deposits
He borrowed on credit. (the bank)	The bank let him borrow on credit.
The retail chain lowered prices. (the manufacturer)	The manufacturer let the retail chain lower prices.
We did whatever we wanted. (the competitor)	The competitor let us do whatever we wanted.

.....

'To write' – Solution(s)

'To write' – Exercises – Word order

I always write the same things.

.....

Expression of preference – Solution(s)

Expression of preference – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

We'd **prefer** to have some Riesling.

You should try a **Bordeaux**.

Yes, that's a good **idea**.

We'll have that, yes, and **champagne** with the **dessert**.

You're **celebrating** a **birthday**, I see!



Expression of preference – Exercise – Word order

I would prefer lemon with my tea if it's possible.

.....

Words and expressions – Solution(s)

'To be left' - 'To have left' – Solution(s)

'To be left' - 'To have left' – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

I **never** write straight, anyway.

Do you **often** write letters?

Only when I **really** have to.

Do you have **enough** envelopes? I must have a **few** left.

.....

'To hope' + dependent clause – Solution(s)

'To hope' + dependent clause – Exercise – Word order

I hope you have some stamps.

.....

'Kind of' followed by a noun – Solution(s)

'Kind of' followed by a noun – Exercise – Sentence practice

Form a question based on the final part of the sentence:

It's an infectious disease.	What kind of disease is it?
That's the maternity ward.	What kind of ward is that? What kind of a ward is that?
He's a heart surgeon.	What kind of surgeon is he? What kind of a surgeon is he?
She's a specialist in tropical diseases.	What kind of specialist is she? What kind of a specialist is she?

.....

Not to be confused – Solution(s)

'At last' - 'At least' – Solution(s)

'At last' - 'At least'- Exercise – Fill in the blanks

Make sure you **take** all your pills!

Yes, I **usually** forget them **after** a day or two!

And don't forget to **rest** for **at least** three days. Thanks, doctor. I'm feeling **much** better **already**.

You're welcome.

.....

'For' - 'Since' - 'Ago' – Solution(s)

'For' - 'Since' - 'Ago' – Exercises – The right word

1. I have been working at the post office **for** five years.
2. Stamps have cost 30 cents **since** the beginning of the year.

'For' - 'Since' - 'Ago' – Exercise – Text transformation

Rewrite the sentences using "for"/"since"/"ago":

It is 2002, the last time I got a letter was in 2001. Today, I have been writing a letter; I started writing the letter at 4 o'clock. Between 5 pm and 5:15 pm I stopped writing. I started writing at 4 pm; it is now 6 pm. At 6 pm I went out; I got back at 7 pm. At the post office I waited in line from 6:30 pm to 6:45 pm.

The last time I got a letter was a year ago. I have been writing a letter since 4 o'clock. For a quarter of an hour I stopped writing. I started writing 2 hours ago. I went out for an hour. At the post office I waited in line for a quarter of an hour.

'Next' - 'The next' – Solution(s)

'Next' - 'The next' – Exercise – Text transformation

Put the following text into the simple future indicative:

Last week she shopped at the mall. Her last visit to the mall was quite successful. Last month she bought a pair of black pants. The last pair of sneakers she purchased were too wide. Last time she took a good friend along. Last time she spent far too much.

Next week she will shop at the mall. Her next visit to the mall will be quite successful. Next month she will buy a pair of black pants. The next pair of sneakers she is going to purchase will be too wide. Next time she will take a good friend along. Next time she will spend far too much.

'For how long' - 'Since when' – Solution(s)

'For how long' - 'Since when'– Exercise – Fill in the blanks

Hey, did your Christmas present **arrive**?

No, when did you **send** it?

About two weeks **ago** .

It **feels like** I've been waiting **for** years.

No, but you've been waiting **since** we first saw it in the window!

.....

'To remember' - 'To remind' – Solution(s)

'To remember' - 'To remind' – Exercise – Word order

Can you remember eating anything funny tasting?

.....



ENGLISH

SPANISH

FRENCH

GERMAN

ITALIAN

DUTCH

