

# Contents

<b>Before you begin</b>	6	<b>Section 7: Education</b>	
		education	52
<b>Section 1: A place to live</b>		course	53
world	10	lesson	54
country	11	practise and homework	55
home	12	exam and mark	56
building	13		
accommodation and rent	14	<b>Section 8: Sport and fitness</b>	
		sport	58
<b>Section 2: The environment</b>		team	59
environment	16	game	60
pollution, fumes, waste and rubbish	17	race, competition and match	61
earthquake and flood	18	victory	62
storm	19	defeat	63
damage	20	prize	64
		strength	65
<b>Section 3: The natural world</b>		energy and exercise	66
weather	22		
heat and temperature	23	<b>Section 9: Health</b>	
air	24	health	68
light	25	illness	69
fire	26	disease and infection	70
water	27	stress	71
noise and silence	28	smoking and drugs (illegal)	72
		pain	73
<b>Section 4: Work</b>		appointment, symptom and test	74
job	30	treatment and cure	75
career	31	operation and drug	76
staff and duty	32		
qualification and interview	33	<b>Section 10: Money</b>	
skill	34	money and cash	78
training	35	savings, fortune and debt	79
wage, salary and pay	36	price	80
		fee and charge	81
<b>Section 5: Travel</b>		expense	82
trip	38		
holiday	39	<b>Section 11: Food</b>	
flight	40	food	84
delay and destination	41	drink	85
passenger	42	meal and dish	86
passport and visa	43	diet and appetite	87
luggage and fare	44	party	88
<b>Section 6: Traffic</b>		<b>Section 12: Fun and entertainment</b>	
traffic	46	fun and entertainment	90
street	47	joke	91
route and map	48	television and programme	92
accident	49	concert	93
injury	50		

fan and audience	94	<b>Section 18: Crime and punishment</b>	
film	95	crime and criminal	142
music and song	96	offence, offender and victim	143
		arrest and charge (criminal)	144
<b>Section 13: People</b>		evidence	145
life	98	trial and verdict	146
death	99	sentence and fine	147
age	100	punishment and prison	148
character	101		
clothes and fashion	102	<b>Section 19: Conflict</b>	
appearance	103	war	150
habit and routine	104	peace	151
		attack	152
<b>Section 14: Relationships</b>		defence	153
friend	106	bomb and explosion	154
enemy	107	casualty	155
marriage	108	weapon and gun	156
divorce	109	dispute and strike	157
love	110	campaign and demonstration	158
respect	111		
family	112	<b>Section 20: Communication</b>	
		language	160
<b>Section 15: The body and the senses</b>		conversation	161
head	114	discussion	162
hand	115	speech	163
heart	116	secret, rumour and lie	164
eye	117		
sight	118	<b>Section 21: Information</b>	
view	119	news	166
smell	120	message	167
taste	121	document	168
voice	122	article	169
breath	123	letter	170
sleep and dream	124	mail	171
		advert, publicity and reputation	172
<b>Section 16: Feeling and mood</b>			
feeling	126	<b>Section 22: Technology</b>	
mood	127	machine	174
happiness and pleasure	128	equipment	175
anger	129	computer and internet	176
fear and anxiety	130	fault	177
worry	131	repair	178
confidence	132		
disappointment and relief	133	<b>Answer Key</b>	179
surprise and shock	134		
		<b>Alphabetical List of Words</b>	196
<b>Section 17: Society</b>			
government and election	136		
vote	137		
society	138		
justice	139		
law	140		

# Before you begin

## 1. What are key words?

'Key words' are the most common and most useful words in English. They are the most important words to learn. The main reason they are important is because they can combine with lots of other words in short expressions. We call these expressions 'collocations'.

## 2. What are collocations?

Collocation is 'the grammar of words' – how words go together with other words. Collocation tells us which words can come before or after other words. Here are some examples from this book:

- verbs with money

You can earn money, save money, lend money, and inherit money.

- adjective with price

You can pay the full price for something. Perhaps you only paid half-price.

- verbs with food

You can prepare, serve, eat and waste food.

These are just a few of the collocations you will learn in this book.

## 3. Why are all the key words in this book nouns?

Nouns are the most important words we know. All the other parts of speech – adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, verbs, and prepositions – are important too, but they don't tell us as much as nouns do.

Nouns tell us **WHAT** we are talking about:

a language

Verbs then tell us what we can do with a language:

learn it, acquire it, speak it or translate it.

Adjectives can then tell us what kind of language:

our first language, a foreign language, body language, bad language.

But the most important idea is to start with ideas or things which we express with nouns.

If you are having a meal and you would like the salt, you could simply say:

salt

Everybody knows that you want the salt. So you could have said:

the salt

or the salt, please

or pass the salt, please

or Could you pass the salt, please?

We know that the last sentence is the best way of saying what we want. If we had said:

Could you pass the X, please?

nobody would know what we wanted! In this situation, the noun 'salt' carries 99% of our meaning.

## 4. Why is it important to learn the collocations of the most important nouns?

If we know 100 of the most important nouns, and we learn 10 verbs or adjectives which can go with them, we will then know 1,000 expressions. Every time we learn 100 nouns with 10 collocations of each, we add another 1,000 expressions to our vocabulary. Quite simply, learning to use more words

along with the words we already know is the most useful way to expand our English. If you study all three books in this Key Words for Fluency series, you will learn over 10,000 expressions.

### 5. Who chose the words in this book?

These words chose themselves! In all the modern databases of English, the key words in this book are among the most commonly used. The best way for you to improve your English is to learn the most common collocations of these most common words. This intermediate book contains around 15 collocations of over 200 of the most useful words at this level. That means you will practise over 3,000 useful expressions if you study this book. Dictionaries contain thousands of words



*"He makes too many silly mistakes!"*

and expressions, but they cannot tell you which ones to learn or how to use them.

The 3,000 expressions in this book will help you to improve and help you to pass your examinations.

### 6. Why is this book called Key Words for Fluency?

Fluency is the ability to speak naturally, listen efficiently, read quickly, and write well. What does this mean?

1. Speaking naturally means NOT making everything up one word at a time, but speaking in whole expressions at normal speed.
2. Listening efficiently means understanding people at the speed at which they speak. This means that when you hear the first word of an expression or the first few words of a sentence, you know how it is going to end.
3. Reading quickly means that your eye is ahead of your brain! You are able to predict what the author has written.
4. Good writing is writing which expresses exactly what you want to say in natural ways which the reader will immediately understand.

All those skills depend on having a large store of words and expressions which you don't need to think about or construct every time you use English. The more collocations you know, the less you need to think! And the more fluent your English becomes.

### 7. Test yourself!

Here are eight common situations. You should be able to guess the missing words immediately.

1. I need to work harder at my English. I make too many silly .....

*The answer is 'mistakes'. Although people would understand what you meant if you said 'faults', it is not the word we use in this situation. Again, 'make a mistake' or 'make mistakes' is a fixed expression – a collocation.*

2. Look, we've got plenty of time. I'd like to see what the countryside round here is like. Let's take the scenic ..... home.

*The answer is 'route'. You wouldn't say 'scenic road' or 'scenic way'. The collocation is 'scenic route'. If you used 'way' or 'road', people would understand, but 'scenic route' is the natural choice.*

3. If your television breaks down in the first three months, we promise to replace it free of .....  
*The answer is 'charge'. You might have guessed 'cost'. Again, your meaning is clear, but the collocation used in this situation is 'free of charge'.*
4. Not only did she win the marathon, she also set a new world .....  
*The answer is 'record'. In fact, the whole collocation is 'set a new world record'. This is a good example of a verb + adjective + noun collocation. Most of the collocations in this book are two or three words: verb + noun or adjective + noun or noun + preposition + noun. This example shows that collocations can be quite long. It is really important that you learn the whole expression.*
5. There's been a coup and the president and his family have fled the .....  
*The answer is 'country'. You 'flee a country' if you are a politician and you want to get out fast! We don't 'flee the nation' – always the country.*
6. On the way to Athens last week, we flew through an electric storm. The plane was struck by .....  
*The answer is 'lightning'. You are 'struck by lightning'. You can't be 'struck by thunder'. The collocation 'struck by lightning' is fixed. You never need to think about it! Just learn it and remember it!*
7. It's so stuffy in here. I just want to get out into the fresh .....  
*The answer is 'air'. You might think of saying: I just want to get outside. Because we have this ready-made collocation 'get out into the fresh air', that's the natural thing to say!*
8. Sorry, I'm late. The traffic was terrible. My taxi got stuck in a traffic .....  
*The answer is 'jam'. The collocation 'traffic jam' is so common, it's difficult to think of it as two words! However, it is important that you notice and learn the whole expression 'got stuck in a traffic jam'. And it is equally important that you make yourself use the expression. Practise by changing the pronoun, the tense, and the context. For example:  
 We got stuck in a huge traffic jam on the way to the airport and missed our flight.  
 I try to avoid the rush hour because I hate getting stuck in traffic jams.*

#### Finally

I hope that these 8 examples help you understand why noticing and learning collocation is so important:

- The more collocations you know and can use, the more fluently you will be able to speak. It means you won't have to make up everything new all the time – you can just remember whole expressions.
- The more collocations you know, the easier it will be to understand people who speak quickly – particularly native speakers.
- The more collocations you know, the easier it will be to read because you won't have to read every word.
- The more collocations you know, the easier it will be to write well and accurately. You won't need to translate from your own language into English as much.

# Section 1

## A place to live

world	10
country	11
home	12
building	13
accommodation and rent	14



## Verb + world

change the world  
destroy the world  
take over the world  
see the world

## Adjective + world

a changing world  
an ideal world  
the outside world  
a safer world  
the whole world

## World + noun

world affairs  
world peace  
a world authority  
a world record

### 1. Verb + world

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the above verbs:

1. As a young man I wanted to ..... the world before I settled down. That's why I went off to Australia and New Zealand.
2. Like many young people, my son is very idealistic and he wants to ..... the world and make it a better place.
3. Man is the only creature capable of ..... the world.
4. Fast food outlets seem to have ..... over the world. You'll find burgers and fries in almost every corner of the planet.

### 2. Adjective + world

Complete these sentences with the above adjectives:

1. As the only survivor of the crash, I felt I was the luckiest man in the ..... world.
2. We must get rid of nuclear weapons to guarantee our children a ..... world.
3. We live in a rapidly ..... world and must learn to adapt if we are to succeed.
4. In an ..... world, no one would go hungry.
5. The people on this small island have no telephones or radios – they are completely cut off from the ..... world.

### 3. World + noun

Complete these sentences with the above nouns:

1. Dr Voits, a world ..... on UFOs, will be giving a talk in the main lecture theatre this evening.
2. Maurice Green broke his own world ..... when he won the 100 metres at the Olympics.
3. If you want to broaden your knowledge of world ....., you should read a newspaper every day.
4. The recent increase in terrorism is a real threat to world .....

### Notes

1. Note these prepositional expressions:  
*The ceremony was watched by millions around the world / throughout the world / the world over.*
2. Note these expressions:  
*There's nothing in the world we can do about it. (nothing at all)*  
*There's no need to rush, we've got all the time in the world. (have plenty of time)*  
*He carried on, without a care in the world. (not worried about anything at all)*  
*The food was out of this world! (fantastic)*  
*Thanks for coming. It means the world to me. (very important to me)*
3. Note that if you break a world record, you become the world record holder.

# country

## Verb + country

enter a country  
flee a country  
paralyse a country  
represent a country  
run a country

## Adjective + country

a foreign country  
a free country  
a neighbouring country  
an underdeveloped country  
a wealthy country

## Common expressions

countries break off relations  
countries go to war  
countries gain independence  
countries host sporting events  
countries sign agreements

### 1. Verb + country

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the above verbs:

1. He ..... the country to escape arrest for the murder of his wife.
2. A rail, air and bus strike has ..... the country. Most offices and factories have had to shut down.
3. You'll need a visa to ..... the country.
4. Many people are unhappy with the way the government is ..... the country.
5. She was proud to ..... her country at the recent Olympics.

### 2. Adjective + country

Complete these sentences with the above adjectives:

1. It's hard to believe that, in such a ..... country, some people don't have enough food.
2. It's difficult to live in a ..... country if you don't speak the language.
3. Don't tell me what to do! It's a ..... country and I can do what I like!
4. The UN is often involved in settling border disputes between ..... countries.
5. The developed world should provide more aid to ..... countries.

### 3. Common expressions

Match the halves:

1. Which country will host
  2. Twenty countries signed
  3. The country gained
  4. Our country has broken off
  5. The two countries are in danger of
- a. independence from the UK in 1967.
  - b. going to war over oil.
  - c. diplomatic relations with the UK.
  - d. an agreement to stop whaling.
  - e. the next Olympic Games?

#### Note

Note these verb + preposition expressions:

We are here today to honour those who fought and died for their country in two World Wars.  
Thirty illegal immigrants have been deported back to the country they came from.  
All vehicles are checked at the border to prevent drugs being smuggled into the country.



"She was so proud to represent her country!"



# home

Verb + home	Home + noun	Verb + noun + home	Preposition + home
get home	home address	take a taxi home	at home
head home	home cooking	see (you) home	away from home
leave home	home delivery	send (you) home	from home
return home	home town	welcome (you) home	on the way home
call home			
own your home			

## 1. Verb + home

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the above verbs:

1. He ..... home at the age of 18 and joined the army.
2. I think we should ..... home now, before it gets too dark.
3. I might be able to go – it depends on what time I ..... home from work.
4. Some people want to ..... their home, while others are quite happy to rent.
5. I ..... home once a week on my mobile to see how my parents are keeping.
6. We became increasingly worried when our daughter failed to ..... home.

## 2. Home + noun

Choose the correct collocation:

1. When I went away to university I missed my mother's home cooking / meals.
2. Please remember to write your home address / street at the top of the letter.
3. The price of the dishwasher includes free home transport / delivery and installation.
4. When she dies, she wants to be buried in her home city / town.

## 3. Verb + noun + home

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the above verbs:

1. The teacher ..... him home from school for bad behaviour.
2. One of my colleagues ..... me home safely after the party.
3. If you miss the last bus, you can always ..... a taxi home.
4. Hundreds of fans went to the airport to ..... their team home.

## 4. Preposition + home

Match the two halves:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. My job involves a lot of travel so I'm | a. on the way home from work.          |
| 2. There was nobody                       | b. to work from home.                  |
| 3. I stopped at the supermarket           | c. at home when I called.              |
| 4. The internet makes it possible         | d. away from home for weeks at a time. |

## Notes

1. Note these adjective collocations:  
*My ideal home would have an indoor swimming pool and it would overlook the sea.*  
*He's from a broken home. His parents separated when he was only four.*  
*They spend the summer in their holiday home in the French Alps.*
2. Note the expressions 'home-grown' and 'home-made':  
*We had home-grown vegetables and home-made bread for lunch.*

# building

## Verb + building

construct a building  
demolish a building  
convert a building  
evacuate a building  
restore a building

## Adjective + building

a derelict building  
an empty building  
a fine building  
a high-rise building  
the main building  
a public building

## Noun + prep + building

appearance of a building  
damage to the building  
entry to the building  
a floor of the building  
the tenants of a building

### 1. Verb + building

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the above verbs:

1. Our company has the contract to design and ..... the new parliament building.
2. This beautiful old building has been painstakingly ..... to its former glory.
3. Within minutes of receiving the bomb threat, we had ..... the building.
4. There are plans to ..... the old school building into homes for the elderly.
5. Engineers say that the building is unsafe and that it will have to be .....

### 2. Adjective + building

Complete the sentences with the above adjectives:

1. Our footsteps echoed through the ..... building.
2. New York has ..... buildings everywhere.
3. On the day of the King's funeral, flags flew at half mast on all ..... buildings.
4. Many homeless people end up sleeping rough in parks and ..... buildings.
5. My department isn't in the town centre, but the ..... building of the university is right in the middle of town.
6. Prague is a beautiful city with lots of ..... buildings.



"It's nothing but high-rise buildings everywhere!"

### 3. Noun + preposition + building

Complete the sentences with the above nouns:

1. .... to the building has been estimated at £60,000.
2. By law, there has to be a fire exit on each ..... of the building.
3. The burglars gained ..... to the building through the back door.
4. All the ..... of the building are unhappy about the increase in rents.
5. The interior of the hotel has been extensively renovated, but the outward ..... of the building hasn't changed for over 100 years.

### Notes

1. Note how we say we like a building:  
*It is an attractive building with beautiful gardens.*  
*The castle is an impressive building with its high walls and huge gate.*  
*The Blue Mosque in Istanbul is a truly magnificent building.*
2. A 'listed building' is one which cannot be changed without permission from the government. It is usually an important building because of its history or design.