

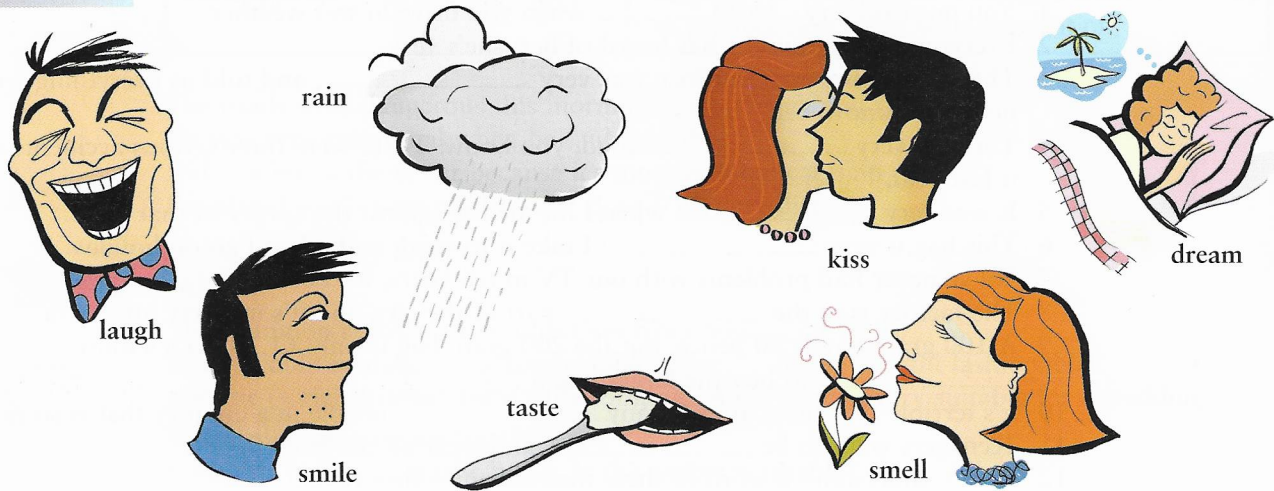
Nouns and verbs with the same form

Many words in English function as noun and verb, or verb and adjective, or noun and adjective, with the same form.

What's the **answer**? (noun) I must **clean** my room. (verb) I don't like the **cold**. (noun)
Answer the question. (verb) It's a **clean** room. (adj) I don't like **cold** weather. (adj)

The same word form can have different meanings, but this unit looks at examples where the meaning is the same or similar, and concentrates on nouns and verbs with the same form.

A Noun and verb



brake (= stop a car using the **brake** on the floor)
diet (= eat less to lose weight)
guess (= give an answer without knowing the facts)

ring (= telephone)
queue (= wait in a line of people)
murder (= kill someone)

Many common words can function as noun and verb with the same form and meaning: *drink, rest, look, cost, swim, wash, push, pull, reply, kiss, chat* (= a casual conversation *informal*) [also *practise* (v) and *practice* (n)].

B Which verb?

It is often more natural in English to use the verb + noun structure (e.g. had a guess) and not the verb (e.g. guessed). You need to know which verbs to use with the nouns.

<i>verb</i>	<i>verb + noun</i>
I didn't know the answer, so I guessed .	I didn't know the answer, so I had a guess .
We rested for a while.	We had a short rest.
She braked suddenly.	She put on the brakes suddenly.
He needs to diet .	He needs to go on a diet .
I'm going to ring him.	I'm going to give him a ring .
I looked in the paper.	I had a look in the paper.
I dreamt about you last night.	I had a dream about you last night.
We had to queue for half an hour.	We had to wait in a queue for half an hour.

Exercises

9.1 What word is being defined? (The first letter has been given to you.)

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1 Give an answer without knowing the facts | g..... |
| 2 Eat less in order to lose weight | d..... |
| 3 Wait in a line of people | q..... |
| 4 Kill someone | m..... |
| 5 Telephone | r..... |
| 6 Press your lips against another person's lips | k..... |
| 7 Have a casual conversation | c..... |
| 8 Images in your mind when you are sleeping | d..... |

9.2 Rewrite these sentences using the underlined nouns as verbs. Change or add words if necessary.

Example There was a lot of rain yesterday.
It rained a lot yesterday.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1 We had a long <u>wait</u> . | We |
| 2 This apple has got a strange <u>taste</u> . | This |
| 3 We waited in the <u>queue</u> for half an hour. | We |
| 4 The <u>cost</u> of the holiday was about £500. | The |
| 5 I wrote a <u>reply</u> to his letter yesterday. | I |
| 6 She gave me a <u>smile</u> this morning. | She |

9.3 Rewrite these sentences using the underlined verbs as nouns. The meaning must stay the same.

Example They want to rest for a bit.
They want to have a rest for a bit.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 I'll <u>ring</u> him this evening. | I'll |
| 2 I'll <u>diet</u> if necessary. | I'll |
| 3 If you don't know, just <u>guess</u> . | If you don't know, just |
| 4 I <u>braked</u> but I still couldn't stop in time. | I |
| 5 I <u>dreamt</u> about my mother. | I |
| 6 Did you <u>look</u> in the paper? | Did you |

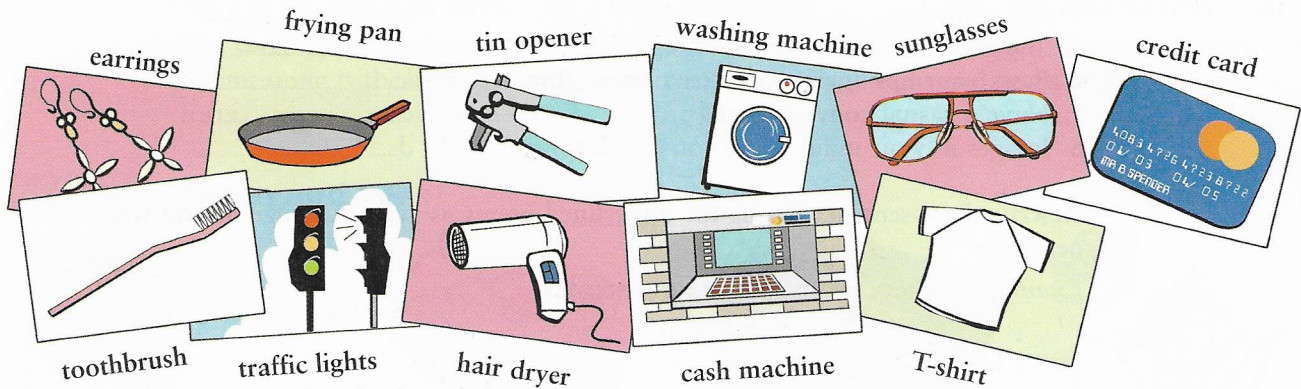
9.4 Sometimes the same word can be a verb and noun but the meaning changes. Read these pairs of sentences. Do the verb and noun have a similar meaning, or are they different in meaning?

- 1a We had a long wait for the bus.
b If we wait any longer, we may miss the train.
- 2a I gave him the book.
b Did you book the table in the restaurant?
- 3a They take a break after an hour's work.
b Did he break his arm skiing?
- 4a I go for a run most mornings.
b I was late so I had to run to get to school on time.

Compound nouns

A Formation

A compound noun is formed from two words, and occasionally three, to create a single new idea.



dining room (= room where you eat meals)

science fiction (= stories about the future)

writing paper (= paper for writing letters)

mother tongue (= your first language)

bus driver (= person who drives buses)

bus stop (= where buses stop for people to get on)

haircut (e.g. My hair's long; I need a haircut.)

traffic jam (= long line of cars moving very slowly)

babysitter (= person who looks after children when parents are out)

box office (= place where you buy cinema or theatre tickets)

travel agent (= job of a person who makes travel arrangements for us)

film star (e.g. Tom Cruise, Meg Ryan)

income tax (= tax you pay on your salary)

dishwasher (= machine for washing dishes)

brother-in-law (= your sister's husband or wife's brother)

B One word or two?

Some short common compound nouns are written as one word, e.g. **bedroom**, **postman**; a few are written with a hyphen, e.g. **T-shirt**, **make-up** (= stuff you put on the face, often on lips and around eyes, to be more attractive); but most are written as two words, e.g. **credit card**, **bus stop**. Use a dictionary to check if necessary.

C Pronunciation

The main stress is usually on the first part, e.g. **post office**, **income tax**, but sometimes it is on both parts, e.g. **science fiction**, **mother tongue**. Use a dictionary to check if necessary.

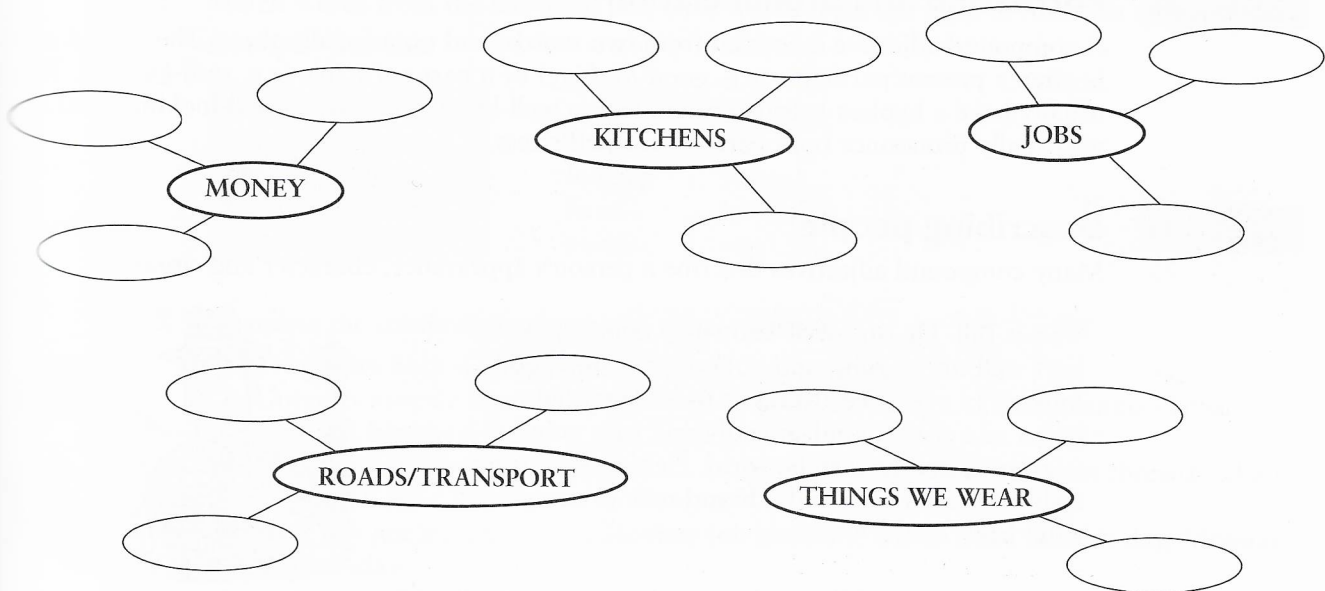
D Forming new compounds

One part of a compound often forms the basis for a number of compound nouns.

postman	film star	toothbrush	living room
postbox	pop star	toothpaste	waiting room
post office	rock star	toothache	chat room (= an area for communication on the internet)

Exercises

10.1 Find compound nouns on the opposite page connected with each of these topics.



10.2 Complete each sentence with a suitable compound noun from the opposite page.

- 1 We booked our holiday through a *travel agent*.
- 2 I'm sorry I'm late. There was a terrible on the motorway.
- 3 Humphrey Bogart was a famous in the 1940s and 50s.
- 4 The were red but he still didn't stop.
- 5 When I got to the dentist, I had to sit in the for 40 minutes.
- 6 Mary wanted to go out, but she couldn't find a for the children.
- 7 When I'm driving I always wear if it's very bright and sunny.
- 8 Most people have to pay on their salary; the more you earn, the more you pay.
- 9 I washed my hair; then I discovered that the wasn't working.
- 10 We waited at the for 20 minutes, then three arrived at the same time.
- 11 My brother loves, but I never read stuff like that about the future.
- 12 Your jeans were dirty so I put them in the with mine.

10.3 Take one word (the first part or the second part) from each compound and create a new compound. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary.

Examples brother-in-law mother-in-law
postbox post office

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 dining room | 5 traffic lights |
| 2 film star | 6 sunglasses |
| 3 credit card | 7 hair dryer |
| 4 toothpaste | 8 boyfriend |

Now mark the main stress on each of the compound nouns you have created.

Compound adjectives

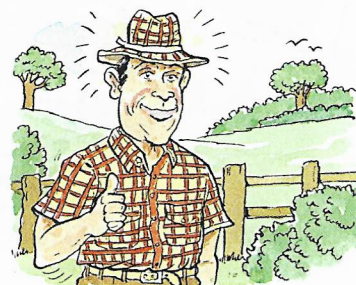
A Formation and pronunciation

A compound adjective is formed from two words, and occasionally three. The second part is often a present participle (e.g. *good-looking*) or a past participle (e.g. *well-known*). They usually have a hyphen before a noun, (e.g. a *well-known actress*, a *good-looking man*) and we usually pronounce both parts with equal stress.

B Describing people

Many compound adjectives describe a person's appearance, character and situation.

This is Bill. He isn't **well known** (= famous), he isn't **well off** (= rich), and nobody says he's **good looking** (= very nice/attractive to look at). But he's a nice man – kind, friendly and **easy going** (= relaxed and easy to be with). Here he's wearing a **short-sleeved** shirt and a **brand-new** (= completely new) hat.



C 'Well' and 'badly'

These adverbs combine with many past participles to form compound adjectives. We can use both of them with most of these participles, e.g. *well-paid* or *badly-paid* (NOT *badly-known*).

a **well-organised** team

a **well-equipped** computer room

a **well-written** story

a **well-known** writer (= famous)

a **well-paid** job (= good salary)

a **badly-behaved** child (= acting in a bad way)

a **badly-dressed** young man (= wearing old or dirty clothes)

D A 'five-minute' walk

We often combine a number and a singular noun to form a compound adjective. The nouns in bold in these sentences, e.g. **walk**, **hotel** are often used with the particular adjectives.

It's a **ten-minute walk** to the shop. (= a walk of ten minutes)

He works in a **four-star hotel**. (= a hotel with a rating of four stars)

I gave her a **twenty-pound note**. (= a note with a value of twenty pounds)

Our flight finally left after a **two-hour delay**. (= the plane was two hours late)

The winner was a **ten-year-old girl**. (= a girl who is ten years old)

If you park your car there, you could get a **fifty-euro fine**. (= a penalty of €50 to pay for parking in the wrong place)

E Common compounds

She used to have a **part-time** job – just mornings – but now she works **full time**.

Most people are **right handed**, but about 10% are **left handed**.

I went **first class** to Paris, but it was more expensive.

Mary bought a **second-hand** BMW. (= the car was not **brand new**, but new for her)

Exercises

11.1 Match words from the left-hand box with words from the right to form ten compounds.

Example *first-class*

first	well
easy	good
five	short
brand	second
part	left

new	known
class	time
looking	sleeved
hand	handed
going	star

11.2 Complete the compound adjective in these sentences.

- They were both wearing short-..... shirts.
- Goran Ivanisevic is probably the most famous left-..... tennis player.
- He's just bought a brand-..... car.
- One girl was very badly : she kept shouting and then threw food all over the floor
- She's just got a-time job now. She works three hours a day, Monday to Thursday.
- It was a very badly-..... article: terrible punctuation and lots of spelling mistakes.
- They're very well, so they can go to expensive restaurants.
- She's got a little shop near the market, where she sells second-..... things.
- When I saw her, she was with a very good-..... man in a white suit.
- Have you ever met a well-..... actor or politician?
- I had a nice time with my cousin – he's good company and very easy
- She has a seven-.....-old son.

11.3 Find two examples to complete these compound adjectives.

- well-^{known}.....
--time
- badly-.....
--handed

11.4 Choose the most suitable noun to follow the adjectives in these sentences.

- I stayed in a five-star in London.
- We didn't get to Malaga until midnight because we had a two-hour at Heathrow.
- She bought a paper and paid for it with a twenty-pound
- It's just over a kilometre, so it's only about a fifteen-minute
- I had to pay a forty-pound for not having a parking ticket.

11.5 Write about yourself using ten different compound adjectives from the opposite page. You can describe yourself, your personality, your family, your clothes, the place where you live, the journeys you make, etc. Compare your answers with someone else, if possible.

Collocation (word partners)

A What is collocation?

If you want to use a word naturally, you need to learn the other words that often go with it. This can be different from language to language. For example, in English we say:

I **missed the bus**. (= I didn't catch the bus) (NOT I ~~lost~~ the bus)

He had to go to hospital; it's a **serious injury**. (= a bad injury) (NOT a ~~grave~~ injury)

She was **bitterly disappointed** (= very disappointed/unhappy) with her exam result.

B Verb + noun

The meaning of many of these examples may be clear, but did you know these verbs and nouns go together? Are they the same or different in your language?

start	{	a car (= turn on the engine)	tell	{	a story
		a family (= think about having a first child)			a joke (= a funny story)
					the truth (<i>opp</i> tell a lie)

miss	{	a person (= be unhappy because a particular person is not there)
		a lesson (= not go to a lesson)

get on a bus (*opp* get off a bus)

waste time/money (= use it badly)

C Adjective + noun

a soft { drink (= non-alcoholic drink)
voice (*opp* a loud voice)

dry { wine (*opp* sweet wine)
weather (*opp* wet weather)

a strong accent (*opp* a slight accent)
(a) strong coffee (*opp* (a) weak coffee)

heavy { traffic (= a lot of cars on the road)
rain (= raining a lot)
smoker (= a person who smokes a lot)

hard work (= difficult physically or mentally)
a hard question (= difficult to answer)

a great { success (= very successful)
time (= an enjoyable time)

I can't understand his English because he has such a **strong accent**.

The conference was **hard work** but everyone said it was a **great success**.

There was **heavy traffic** in the city centre because of the **wet weather**.

We had a **great time** in Brazil – the beaches are fantastic.

D Adverb + adjective

The underlined adverbs in 1–3 mean *very*, the adverbs in 4–5 mean *fully/completely*. In each case, we often use these adverbs with the adjectives that follow them. Notice also the phrases in bold.

1 I'm terribly sorry to bother you (= to disturb you), but is Steven there?

2 She is well aware of the **problem**. (= she knows all about the problem)

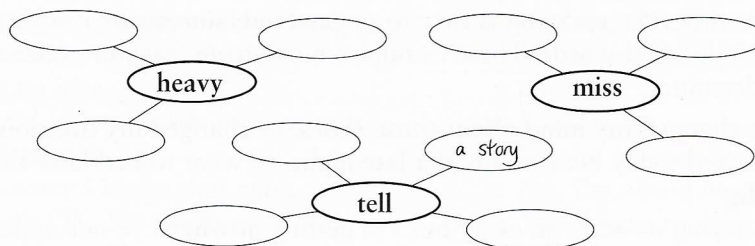
3 It is vitally important to make a note of common collocations in your notebook.

4 He's fast asleep. (= in a deep sleep)

5 She was wide awake (= fully awake) a minute ago.

Exercises

- 12.1** You can keep a record of common collocations using diagrams. They are very clear on the page and you can add to them. Complete these.



- 12.2** Write the opposite.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 get on the bus | get off the bus | 5 an alcoholic drink |
| 2 a strong accent | | 6 tell the truth |
| 3 strong coffee | | 7 catch the bus |
| 4 a soft voice | | 8 sweet wine |

- 12.3** Complete these sentences with a suitable word.

- I'm terribly sorry I'm late, but I the bus and had to wait ages for another one.
- He everyone the same joke, and nobody laughed.
- We had snow in the night and I couldn't the car this morning.
- Everyone said the party was a success.
- I think they want to get married and a family.
- We carried the suitcases up to the fourth floor, and it was very work.
- It's important that we finish this work by the end of the week.
- If this rain continues, I don't think he'll come.
- I don't drink coffee at night because it keeps me awake.
- I really my family when I stayed in Australia on my own last year.
- I'm sure she is aware of the problem.
- I my time on that course; it was terrible.
- When I went into the children's room, the boys were both asleep, but Angela was awake, reading a Harry Potter story.

- 12.4** The adjectives on the left can all mean 'very big', but we often use them with the nouns on the right. Use a dictionary to find the correct collocations, and then complete the sentences below. You will need to look at the example sentences in the dictionary, perhaps at the adjectives and the nouns.

wide	vast	size	range
large	broad	shoulders	majority

- A: What do you take? B: Medium or
- Fortunately the shop I go to has a of shirts and jumpers to choose from.
- I've got very , but my waist is quite small.
- A few men can't find clothes to fit them, but the are small, medium or large.

A What is an idiom?

An idiom is a group of words with a meaning that is different from the individual words. Sometimes the meaning is easy to understand; sometimes it is difficult to understand from the individual words. These examples move from 'easy to understand' to 'more difficult to understand'.

I've **changed my mind** about those shoes. (= changed my decision or opinion)

I'm tired today because I had a **late night**. (= went to bed later than usual) (*opp* an early night)

I'm trying to write an essay but I'm **getting nowhere**. (= not making progress)

You find fast food restaurants **all over the place**. (= everywhere)

My wife and I **take it in turns** to cook. (= I cook one day, she cooks the next, etc.)

I'm sorry but I don't think I can **make it** (= come) on Friday. I'm really busy.

They asked us to **keep an eye on** (= watch/look after) the house while they're away.

I **feel like** (= want) a drink; I **feel like going** out this evening. (= want to go out)

We should **get rid of** some of this stuff. (= remove it/throw it away)

That boy really **gets on my nerves**. (= is very annoying; makes me angry)

The answer's **on the tip of my tongue**. (= I know it, but can't remember it at this moment)

B Pairs of idioms

These pairs are related in meaning and sometimes they are used together.

On the one hand/on the other hand (= used to contrast opposite points of view)

I'm not sure about these new apartments. **On the one hand** they provide homes for people, which is good. But **on the other hand**, we have lost the only piece of open land in the area.

In the short term/in the long term (= a short or long period of time in the future)

In the short term we can manage here, but **in the long term** we will need a bigger place.

If we do this, it will be cheaper **in the long term**. (= over a long period of time)

In theory/in practice (used to contrast a general idea with reality)

In theory your plan looks very interesting; but **in practice**, it may be too expensive for us.

C Common idioms

Some common idioms are used in everyday questions and replies.

A: Are you coming?

B: Yes, **hang on**. (= wait a minute)

A: Can I borrow your dictionary?

B: Sure, **go ahead**. (= help yourself; take it; do it)

A: **What's up?** (= What's the matter?)

B: Nothing.

A: I don't know which one to choose.

B: Well, **make up your mind**. (= make a decision)

A: I've forgotten to bring your book.

B: **Never mind**. (= it's OK, no problem)

A: What's the answer?

B: **I haven't a clue**. (= I don't know)

A: Shall we go out?

B: **Yeah, if you like**. (= I am happy to do that)

A: Would you prefer to stay in?

B: **It's up to you**. (= it's your decision)

Exercises

13.1 Replace the underlined word(s) with an idiomatic phrase from the opposite page.

- 1 A: Is Rebecca here?
B: Yes, wait a minute. I'll get her.
- 2 A: How long does it take?
B: I've no idea.
- 3 A: Could I borrow this for a minute?
B: Yes, take it.
- 4 A: I'm sorry I broke that glass.
B: That's OK. It's not important.
- 5 A: Would you like to go to the cinema?
B: Yes, I am happy to do that.
- 6 A: What's the matter?
B: Nothing. Why?
- 7 A: Could you look after my things for a minute?
B: Yeah, sure.
- 8 A: Is John coming this evening?
B: No, I'm afraid he can't come.
- 9 A: You'll have to decide soon.
B: Yes, I know, but it's very difficult.
- 10 A: What time shall we leave?
B: I don't mind. It's your decision.

13.2 Complete the idioms in these sentences.

- 1 **In the short** we don't need any help from the bank.
- 2 We **take it in** to look after the dog.
- 3 Tell the children to be quiet – they're **getting on my**
- 4 The new traffic system sounds like a good idea **in** ; but will it work?
- 5 Nowadays you can find internet cafés **all over the**
- 6 I planned to go to Greece for my holiday but I've **changed my**
- 7 I had to **get** **of** all my magazines because they were taking up too much space.
- 8 What's in the fridge? I feel something to eat.
- 9 I'm very tired this evening. I think I'll have an **night**.
- 10 The answer was **on the tip of my** but I just couldn't remember it.
- 11 It'll take us the whole day to drive to Scotland – the train is much faster. **On the other** , it'll be very convenient to have the car when we get there.
- 12 I'm **nowhere** with this crossword; I just can't do any more.
- 13 I was going to invite my cousins, but I've **my mind**.
- 14 I can't take all my furniture with me: I'll have to **rid of** some of it.

13.3 It can be difficult to guess the meaning of an idiom, especially if you do not have the full context. Look at these examples (they are not presented on the opposite page).

- 1 The exam was a piece of cake.
- 2 They've gone for good.
- 3 I can make do with a small flat.

Here is a fuller context for the above idioms. Can you guess the meaning now?

- 1 A: Was the exam difficult?
B: No, it was a piece of cake.
- 2 A: Do you think they'll ever come back to England?
B: No, they've gone for good.
- 3 A: Do you really need a large flat?
B: Well, it would be nice to have a big place, but I can probably make do with a small flat.