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To the student 4

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v Polysemy  fair, flat, drill
vi Metaphor  be on the ball, all the world’s a stage
vii Register  garments, clothes, clobber
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12 Education: debates and issues  elitism, league tables, the three Rs

People and relationships
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15 Relationships: problems  disloyal, unsupportive, family feud
16 Passions: reactions and emotions  conciliate, rapture, blissful
17 Feelings: antipathies and aversions  abhorrence, loathing, fickle
18 Observing others: appearance and mannerisms  lanky, grime, pout
19 Observing others: character traits  impulsive, diffident, gullible
20 Birth and death: from cradle to grave  Caesarean section, obituary, mourning

Leisure and lifestyle
21 Free time: relaxation and leisure  time-consuming, dabbler, shopaholic
22 All the rage: clothes and fashion  frumpy, dressed to kill, without frills
23 Homestyles, lifestyles  granny flat, minimalist, household word
24 Socialising and networking  housewarming, hobnob, clique
25 The performance arts: reviews and critiques  hackneyed, typecast, rendition
26 The plastic arts  philistinism, impenetrable, tongue-in-cheek
27 Talking about books  chronicle, memoirs, compulsive reading
28 We are what we eat  wholesome, GM, unsavoury
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46 British politics  
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47 The language of law  
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49 Economy and finance  
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50 Personal finance: balancing your books  
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51 The media: print  
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52 The media: Internet and e-mail  
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54 The news: gathering and delivering  
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55 Health and illness 1  
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56 Health and illness 2  
  aches and pains, nauseous, acupuncture
57 Health and illness 3  
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58 Diet, sport and fitness  
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59 Aspects of industrialisation  
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60 Technology and its impact  
  PDA, biotechnology, ergonomics
61 Future visions  
  virtual reality, e-commerce, gene therapy

Basic concepts
62 Space: expanse and confinement  
  rambling, poky, labyrinth
63 Time: sequence and duration  
  donkey's years, over the hill, fleeting
64 Motion: nuances of pace and movement  
  hobble, trudge, stream
65 Manner: behaviour and body language  
  mind your Ps and Qs, etiquette, twitch
66 Sound: from noise to silence  noiseless, deafening, wail
67 Weight and density  unwieldy, congeal, impervious
68 Colour: range and intensity  ginger, pastel, grey cells
69 Speed  pop, scuttle, rocket
70 Cause and effect  generate, spark off, bring about
71 Comparison and contrast  affinity, disparate, discrete
72 Difficulties, dilemmas and hitches  glitch, gruelling, in a fix
73 Modality: expressing facts, opinions, desires  the odds are, expedient, compulsory
74 Number: statistics and assessing quantity  IQ, aggregate, round down

**Functional vocabulary**

75 Permission and prohibition  acquiesce, veto, outlaw
76 Complaining and protesting  grouse, whinge, find fault
77 Apologising, forgiving and reconciliation  alibi, remorse, exonerate
78 Complimenting and praising  laud, obsequious
79 Promises and bets  vow, pledge, have a flutter
80 Reminiscences and regrets  the good old days, look back, lament
81 Agreement, disagreement and compromise  tally, rift, concession
82 Academic writing 1  infer, distort, append
83 Academic writing 2  reiterate, epitomise, allude
84 Writing: style and format  doodle, block capitals, bullet
85 Lexical strategies for speaking  thingummy, umpteen, a touch of
86 Speech: style and articulation  shriek, lisp, slur
87 Vague language expressions  smattering, more or less, or whatever

**Idioms and phrasal verbs**

88 Types of idiom  have second thoughts, in the dark, stumbling block
89 Idioms for situations  up and running, a complete shambles, as clear as mud
90 Idioms that comment on people 1  soft spot, the brains behind, on cloud nine
91 Idioms that comment on people 2  a rough diamond, a dark horse, at loggerheads
92 Idioms that comment on stories and reports  out of the blue, famous last words, small world
93 Phrasal verbs 1  stand back from, stand in for, stand up for
94 Phrasal verbs 2  slog away, pelt down, bottle out
95 Phrasal verbs 3  miss out on, branch out, bubble over with

**Aspects of variation**

96 Divided by a common language: American and British English  kitty-corner, deplane, faucet
97 Other Englishes: diversity and variety  craic, beaut, shroff
98 Language and gender  spokesperson, butch, effeminate
99 Language of age and social class  oik, wireless, luncheon
100 Newspaper headline language  crackdown, louts, besiege

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Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviations are simply the shortening of words and expressions. Some common abbreviations come from Latin:

- e.g. for example, from exempli gratia
- i.e. that is, from id est
- NB note well, from nota bene
- AD the year of Our Lord, used to count years since the birth of Christ, from Anno Domini

Some come from shortened words:
- bedsit: one room which is a bedroom and a sitting room
- sitcom: short for situational comedy (a kind of TV programme)
- sci-fi: science fiction

Some are pronounced as individual letters:
- EU European Union
- ID identity document
- BC Before Christ, used to count years
- ASAP as soon as possible

Some abbreviations are acronyms, i.e. they are formed from the first letters (or occasionally syllables) of a word or series of words and are pronounced as a word:
- AIDS /aɪdɪs/ acquired immune deficiency syndrome
- NATO /'neɪtəʊ/ North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Some can be pronounced both as an acronym and as individual letters:
- VAT value-added tax, pronounced /væt/ or /v et tiː/
- UFO unidentified flying object, pronounced /juːfoʊ/ or /ju; ef 'oʊ/

Sometimes abbreviations can have more than one meaning.
- AA Alcoholics Anonymous [an organisation helping people with alcohol-related problems] and the AA the Automobile Association [a UK motorists’ club]
- PC personal computer or Police Constable [the lowest rank of police officer in the UK] or politically correct [avoiding expressions which may suggest prejudice and cause offence]
- m metre, mile, million, male, married
- p per, pence, page

Some abbreviations are particularly common in writing.
- RSVP reply please [used on invitations, from French, répondez s’il vous plaît]
- PTO please turn over
- FAQ frequently asked question [found mainly on websites]
- FYI for your information
- AFK away from keyboard
- LOL laughing out loud
- BTW by the way
- R are C see U you
- EZ easy
- 4 for 2 to, too, two

Abbreviations are often used in newspaper small ads for accommodation.
- £300 pcm excl: rent is £300 per calendar month excluding payment for gas, electricity, etc.
- £60 pw inc: rent is £60 per week including gas, electricity, etc.
- f/f fully furnished
- s/c self-contained [has all it needs within itself]
- suit n/s prof female: would suit a non-smoking woman in a professional job
- all mod cons: all modern conveniences, e.g. washing machine
- ch: central heating
- d/g: double garage
- o.n.o.: or nearest offer

Note that you may see different punctuation for these expressions – c/h, c.h. and ch
Exercises

1.1 Insert the correct Latin abbreviations from A into the gaps.
1 This antique vase dates from 1500 ................. .
2 Fruit, ................. the usually sweet part of a tree or bush which contains seeds, is normally
delicious to eat.
3 ................. fruit cannot be taken across the border into the USA.
4 Fruits, ................. lemons, pears and grapes, are sometimes added when cooking poultry.

1.2 How are the abbreviations in these sentences pronounced? What do they stand for?
1 If he can't kick the habit on his own, he should try joining AA.
2 Read pp.10–22 for homework.
3 Cars must not exceed 30 mph in a built-up area.
4 The film gives a convincing depiction of life BC despite some curious anachronisms.
5 Do you believe in UFOs?
6 Write back asap.

1.3 What do these abbreviations stand for? Choose from the words in the box. Use each word
once only.
1 WHO 2 UNESCO 3 IMF 4 OBE 5 GMT 6 IOC 7 RSPCA 8 EST

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1.4 Translate this mobile phone text message into standard English.

c u 4 t at 3, OK? BTW K's going 2 b here 2.

1.5 As requested in the note below, write an advert to appear in the small ads column of the
local newspaper. Use D opposite to help you and be as brief as possible.

Could you prepare an advert for a girl to rent the third bedroom in our flat? We want
someone who doesn't smoke and it would be nice to have a teacher or a nurse, or someone
in a reasonably reliable job. The advert had better mention that the flat is fully furnished
and centrally heated and has all the kitchen appliances she might need. Don't, of course,
forget to say that she would have to pay £220 a month, not including bills.

1.6 Write an advert for someone to rent your own house or flat.

1.7 Sometimes the exact name of an organisation is chosen so that its acronym has a
humorous or memorable effect. For example, ASH stands for Action on Smoking and
Health. Here are some more examples. What do you think the other letters stand for?

1 DUMP Disposal of ................................................... Medicines and ...................................................
2 NOW National ................................................... of Women
3 UNITE ................................................... of National Income Tax Employees
4 CALL Computer Assisted ................................................... Learning
5 AAAAA American ................................................... for the ................................................... of Abbreviations
   and Acronyms