Contents

To the student 4

Aspects of vocabulary learning

i Strategies for learning
ii Types of meaning polysemy, synonymy, collocation, connotation, register
iii Making the most of your dictionary
iv Collocation the real thing, the genuine article
v Polysemy fair, flat, drill
vi Metaphor be on the ball, all the world’s a stage
vii Register garments, clothes, clobber
viii Connotation and cultural associations cowboys, black cats

Word formation

1 Abbreviations and acronyms ID, FAQ, o.n.o.
2 Prefixes: creating new meanings over-, cross-, e-
3 Suffixes: productive suffixes and word classes -free, -proof, -esque
4 Word-building and word-blending biodegradable, cybercafé, guessimate
5 Global contact and language enrichment loan word, roster, intelligentsia
6 Similar but different: words easily confused series/serial, moist/damp

Work and study

7 At work: colleagues and routines flexi-time, freelance, job-share
8 At work: career and promotion drive, perks, glass ceiling
9 Business 1 telemarketing, niche market, entrepreneurship
10 Business 2 submit a tender, default on a payment
11 Cramming for success: study and academic work rote-learning, assignment, deadline
12 Education: debates and issues elitism, league tables, the three Rs

People and relationships

13 Talking about yourself diligent, shrewd, sagacious
14 Relationships: positive aspects infatuated, amiable, kindred spirits
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, grimace, pout
19 Observing others: character traits impulsive, diffident, gullible
20 Birth and death: from cradle to grave Caesarean section, obituaries, 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 Homestyle, lifestyles granny flat, minimalism, 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
29 Dinner’s on me: entertaining and eating out sweet tooth, calorie-conscious, teetotal
Travel
30 On the road: traffic and driving  hit-and-run, road rage, tailback
31 Travel and accommodation  deluxe, charter, half-board
32 Tourism  back to nature, eco-tourism, discerning

The environment
33 Describing the world  paddy field, prairies, migrant
34 Weather and climate  clammy, sweltering, snowed under
35 Buildings in metaphors  glass ceiling, tower of strength, key to success
36 Trees, plants and metaphors  nip in the bud, germinate, shrivel
37 Animals and birds  rodent, herbivore, fur trade
38 Environment and conservation  endangered, fossil fuels, pristine

Society and institutions
39 Here to help: service encounters  obliging, shoddy, on hold
40 Authorities: customs and police  sniffer dog, on-the-spot fine, drug squad
41 World views: ways of thinking  bigot, assumption, tenet
42 Festivals in their cultural context  renewal, commemorate, raucous
43 Talking about languages  Germanic, syntax, pictograms
44 History  usurp power, feudal, serf
45 Poverty: the haves and the have nots  malnutrition, GDP, destitute
46 British politics  lobbyist, petition, grievance
47 The language of law  impeach, embezzle, overturn a verdict
48 War and peace  deterrent, hostilities, biological warfare
49 Economy and finance  debt, sanctions, devaluation
50 Personal finance: balancing your books  strapped for cash, broke, golden handshake

The media
51 The media: print  agony aunt, flyer, pamphlet
52 The media: Internet and e-mail  chat room, browse, cookie
53 Advertising  rock-bottom prices, state-of-the-art, trailers
54 The news: gathering and delivering  column inch, sound bite, hot off the press

Health
55 Health and illness 1  go down with, hepatitis, typhoid
56 Health and illness 2  aches and pains, nauseous, acupuncture
57 Health and illness 3  side effects, jaundiced view, prognosis
58 Diet, sport and fitness  cholesterol, cardiovascular, move the goalposts

Technology
59 Aspects of industrialisation  low-tech, subsidies, lame duck
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, flatter, 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

Key 220

List of phonemic symbols 292

Index 293

Acknowledgements 315
To the student

Why was this book written?
It was written to help you to improve your English vocabulary and to take you to an advanced level of knowledge of English words and phrases. It will help you to learn not only the meanings of words but also how they are used, how they combine with one another (collocate), and how they form longer expressions. It will help you to distinguish better among the large number of words you already know and the new ones we introduce you to.

What is special about this book?
You can use this book either with a teacher or for self-study. The book aims to build your vocabulary by helping you to learn about 2000 new words and expressions, but it also helps you to learn many collocations (combinations that are typical of English but which are difficult to predict) and longer expressions. It helps you understand the more subtle features of meaning, such as how formal or informal the words are, whether they have negative or positive connotations, how they function as metaphors, and so on. To help us make the language in the book as natural as possible, we consulted a 250 million-word database (called a corpus) of spoken and written English, taken from newspapers, novels, magazines, everyday conversations in people's homes, in shops, offices, etc. We used computers to analyse the database and tell us which words are most useful at the advanced level, what their most typical collocations are, and in what contexts they are normally used. So the language you are studying here is based on what actual native-speakers of British English have said and written. To make the language more natural, we have often included longer texts, not just sentences, so that you get a more detailed context for the key words, and can see how they form collocations. Reading and observing how words go together is a very important learning strategy at advanced level. Also at this level, you will want more and more to relate the words you learn to your own personal world and your own goals in learning English, so we have included exercises that encourage you to personalise the vocabulary you learn. We chose topics which we consider useful for students who want to use their English in the world, to be able to socialise and talk about a wide range of adult subjects related to ourselves, society, cultures and the world around us.

How is the book organised?
The book has 100 two-page units. In most units, the left-hand page explains the words and expressions to be studied in that unit. Where appropriate, it gives information about the typical contexts in which the words are used, and what the most useful collocations are, as well as their meaning. The right-hand page checks that you have understood the information on the left-hand page by giving you a series of exercises practising what you have just learnt. Occasionally the right-hand page will also teach you some more new words to challenge you and extend your vocabulary even further.

We also include, from time to time, learning tips. These consist of suggestions which will help you to organise your learning better and encourage you to think about your own strategies for learning vocabulary. Additionally, many units have a follow-up activity which will take you beyond the book, for example to a website or to other sources where you can expand your vocabulary on the topic of the unit.

There is a key at the back of the book. The key does not always give you simply one right answer. It sometimes also comments on the answers and will help you learn more about the words studied in the unit.
There is an index at the back of the book. This lists all the words and phrases covered in the book and refers you to the units where these words or phrases are discussed. It also gives pronunciation, using the International Phonetic Alphabet. The symbols you need to know are listed at the beginning of the index.

**How should I use this book?**

The book is divided into a number of sections. Complete the eight introductory units first (the section called *Aspects of vocabulary learning*). These units not only teach you some new vocabulary, but they also help you with useful techniques for vocabulary learning in general, and introduce you to some concepts about the way vocabulary is used in English. After completing those units, you might want to work straight through the book or you might prefer to do the units in any order that suits you.

**What else do I need in order to work with this book?**

You need some kind of vocabulary notebook or file where you can write down the new words, collocations and expressions you are learning. You also need to have access to a couple of good dictionaries. This book selects words that are useful for you to learn at advanced level and it gives you the most important information about those words, but you will sometimes need to refer to a dictionary as well for extra information about meaning and usage. Some exercises tell you to use a dictionary; these help to train you in getting the best out of your dictionary. Firstly, you need an English–English dictionary for foreign learners. Good ones are the *Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*, the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* and the *Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary*, for example. Secondly, you will also find a good bilingual dictionary useful. Ask a teacher to recommend a good one for you. (See Unit iii for advice on using your dictionaries.) Don’t forget that many dictionaries are available on CD-ROM. If you want more information about different types of dictionaries, visit Cambridge University Press’s website at [dictionary.cambridge.org](http://dictionary.cambridge.org).