

Quality

This unit is in the form of six passages, each of which deals with the **good, the bad** and the **ugly; complimentary and uncomplimentary** words, from the **unbelievably beautiful** to the **indescribably horrible**. Over 150 adjectives are included, so don't read all of them at once.

Reading 1

First, notice the contrasts in these excerpts from a letter.

Dear Helpful Hatti,
I am writing to you about my sister and all the problems I .
She has got **exquisite** features a **classic** profile a **scintillating** smile a **stunning** figure an **attractive** personality and a **marvellous** sense of humour.
I have got a very **plain** face very **ordinary** feature (according to my friends) a **rather ugly** smile a **nondescript** figure a **shallow and unappealing** character and a **coarse** sense of humour. What should I do?
She is a **sparkling** conversationalist a **fabulous** dancer a **graceful** mover **superefficient** at her **job** — a **talented** sportswoman and a **gifted** musician.
I am a very **dull** conversationalist a **clumsy** dancer an **awkward** mover an **incompetent** fool in the office **useless** at sport and **hopeless** at all musical instruments. What advice would you give me?
She is always **welldressed, smart, elegant** — extremely **ladylike** — very refined exceptionally **wellmannered** and invariably **polite** to everyone.
I always look **shabby and scruffy** — I **tend to be rough common vulgar and rude**. What can I do about it?
She is very **cultured** — **welleducated** wellread.
I was always **backward** at school **semiliterate** and am now very **ignorant**.
She is **bright intelligent witty and clever**.
I am **slow dim 'daft'**, my mother says '**thick**', says my father. Please help me.
I look forward to hearing from you.

Now read excerpts from two reviews of the same film.

an absorbing film a **fascinating** insight into — a **well thoughtout** plot **brilliant** acting **superb** photography **delicate** direction by many **dazzling** moments a **powerful** climax **thoroughly enjoyable totally satisfying a memorable** film.
an **exceptionally tedious** film — an **excessively slow and boring** look at life in a **chaotic** storyline **exceedingly poor** performance by **awful, amateurish** camerawork under the **heavyhanded** direction of **embarrassingly weak** script **horribly unnatural** dialogue — an **anticlimax** an ending that was **ludicrous absurd laughable ridiculous totally nonsensical dreadfully disappointing a waste of time absolutely worthless pointless stupid**.

What do you think these two people are disagreeing about on this and the next page?

A 'a **spectacular** occasion
exciting movements
sensational colour
thrilling speed a **gripping**
climax **tremendous** fun

B 'a senseless 'sport'
mindless violence **brutal**
primitive savage and
degrading inhuman
a **disgraceful** exhibition

an **enthalling** spectacle
a **rewarding** experience!"

a **scandalous** abuse of innocent
animals **revolting**!"

Practice 1

Choose the most suitable of the four given words to complete each of the sentences below.

- 1 He's not only tedious, he's also ...
a boring b incompetent c super efficient d brilliant
- 2 Despite its director's high reputation, the film was ...
a extraordinary b gripping c embarrassing d powerful
- 3 Can't always be elegant; sometimes I enjoy wearing ... clothes.
a scintillating b scruffy c shallow d rude
- 4 Finally at the end, things hotted up; the ending was really
a gripping b delicate c chaotic d ludicrous
- 5 Not all film stars are beautiful; some are quite
a exquisite b stunning c vulgar d plain
- 6 We need someone well educated and
a illiterate b dim c coarse d well read
- 7 He's an extremely ... pianist.
a graceful b gifted c exceptional d refined
- 8 It wasn't exactly exciting, but it was certainly
a enthralling b absorbing c thrilling d gripping

Reading 2

- 1 Read these two opinions of the same holiday resort.

Excerpts from the tour operator's brochure:

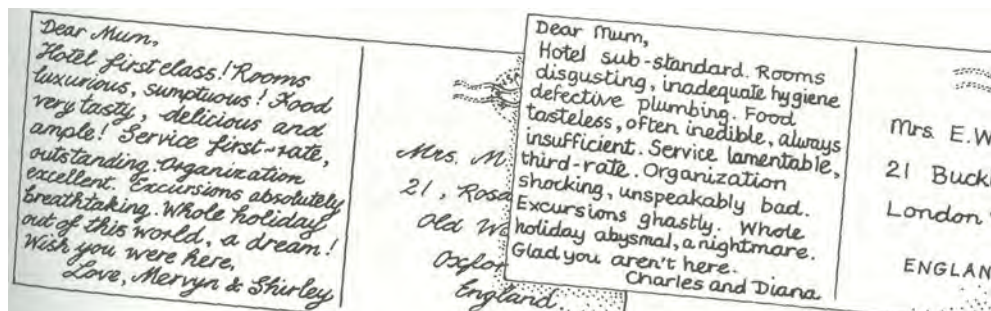
Come to sunny Sandshire ... **magnificent** views ... **unforgettable** scenery ... a **splendid** cathedral, well worth visiting ... and many other **impressive** buildings ... quaint little villages ... **picturesque** harbours ... **enchanted** bays ... **gorgeous** beaches ... **pleasant** climate ... **colourful** night life ... **stimulating** atmosphere ... **delightful** for a holiday ... **ideal** for all the family ...

What George Grumbleweed had to say:

Well, the whole area's **rather drab and unwelcoming** ... the cathedral is a **monstrosity, absolutely hideous** ... most of the other buildings are **pretty grotesque**, too ... the villages are all **colourless and characterless** ... at night they're **completely dead** ... by the sea it's **really ghastly** ... the water's **filthy** and there's a **frightful** smell ... the coastline's very **bleak** ... **it's a horrible** place ... **totally unsuitable** for holidays ...

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- 2] And now two post cards from the same resort:



Cause and effect

Reading 1

Notice some of the ways in which the following single sentence can be added to and commented on.

I'm going to continue with my English,

because	I like the language.
because of	this book.
owing to	its importance in the world of business.
on account of	what my teachers have told me.
in case	I need it one day.
in order to	take Proficiency next year.
so as not to	forget what I've learnt.
so that	<i>I</i> can work in the States one day.
whether	you think it's a good idea or not.
wherever	I go.
whatever	happens.
whichever	country I go to next.
however	difficult the next stage is.
regardless	of my slow progress so far.
even if	I have to give up all my other interests.
whenever	I can.
if	it's possible.
providing	I can find a teacher.
provided that	someone agrees to teach me.
unless	you persuade me that Chinese is more useful.
although	I know I'm not the most gifted linguist.
even though	I'm a very busy person.
in spite of	the cost of these lessons.
despite	what you've said about my slow progress.
but	I think I'll give up Russian.
whereas	everyone else in the class is giving up.
unlike	the others, who are stopping.
as opposed to	my Japanese.
so	you'll see me again next term.
which	is a bit silly, I suppose,
considering	I live on a desert island.

Practice

What do you think of English now? Which of these statements apply to you? (Notice how cause and effect are expressed.)

- 1 A lot of my problems stem from trying to translate from my language.
- 2 My hesitation in speech is caused by a lack of vocabulary.
- 3 Some basic errors can be traced back to the way I learnt English at the beginning.
- 4 My large vocabulary is a direct consequence of knowing two other European languages.
- 5 Most of my problems have their roots in grammatical uncertainty.
- 6 Studying vocabulary has led to a better understanding of how English works.
- 7 More vocabulary means more fluency.
- 8 Learning a lot of words can result in confusion.