

Topic vocabulary: Thinking

see page 224 for definitions

assess (v)	dilemma (n)	ideology (n)	plausible (adj)
assume (v)	discriminate (v)	ingenious (adj)	ponder (v)
baffle (v)	dubious (adj)	inspiration (n)	prejudiced (adj)
biased (adj)	estimate (v, n)	intuition (n)	presume (v)
concentrate (v)	faith (n)	justify (v)	query (v, n)
consider (v)	gather (v)	naïve (adj)	reckon (v)
contemplate (v)	genius (n)	notion (n)	reflect (v)
cynical (adj)	grasp (v)	optimistic (adj)	sceptical/skeptical (adj)
deduce (v)	guesswork (n)	paradox (n)	speculate (v)
deliberate (v)	hunch (n)	pessimistic (adj)	suppose (v)

Topic vocabulary: Learning

see page 225 for definitions

academic (n, adj)	graduate (v, n)	intensive (adj)	self-study (n)
conscientious (adj)	ignorant (adj)	knowledgeable (adj)	seminar (n)
cram (v)	inattentive (adj)	lecture (v, n)	special needs (n phr)
curriculum (n)	intellectual (n, adj)	mock exam (n phr)	tuition (n)
distance learning (n phr)	intelligent (adj)	plagiarise (v)	tutorial (n)

Phrasal verbs

brush up (on)	practise and improve your skills or knowledge of something	piece together	learn the truth about something by considering all the separate bits of information you have
come (a)round (to)	change your opinion or decision because someone has persuaded you to agree with them	puzzle out	solve a confusing or complicated problem by thinking carefully about it
come up with	think of something such as an idea or a plan	read up (on/about)	get information on a particular subject by reading a lot about it
face up to	accept something and try to deal with it	swot up (on)	study something very hard, especially for an examination
figure out	be able to understand something or solve a problem; understand what someone is like and why they behave in the way they do	take in	understand and remember something that you hear or read; accept something as real or true; trick someone into believing something that is not true
hit upon	suddenly have an idea; discover something by chance	think over	consider a problem or decision carefully
make out	see, hear or understand someone or something with difficulty; suggest, imply	think through	consider the facts about something in an organised and thorough way
mull over	think carefully about something over a period of time	think up	invent or imagine something, especially an excuse

Phrases, patterns and collocations

account	account for, (give) an account of, take into account, take account of, on account of, by all accounts, on sb's account	belief	express belief(s), belief in/that, contrary to popular belief, beyond belief, in the belief that, popular/widely held/widespread/firm/strong/growing belief
associate	associate sth with	brain	pick sb's brain(s), rack your brain(s), the brains behind, brainless, brainchild (of), brainstorm, brainwash, brainwave
balance	(hang) in the balance, strike a balance, upset/alter/redress the balance, balance between/of, on balance, off balance	conclusion	bring sth to a conclusion, come to / arrive at / reach a conclusion, jump/leap to conclusions, in conclusion, conclusion of, logical conclusion, foregone conclusion
basis	basis for, on a daily/temporary/etc basis, on the basis of/that		

Phrases, patterns and collocations

consideration	take into consideration, give consideration to, show consideration for, under consideration, for sb's consideration, out of consideration for	perspective	put into perspective, from another / a different / sb's / etc perspective, from the perspective of, in perspective, out of perspective, a sense of perspective
doubt	doubt that, have your doubts about, cast doubt on, raise doubts, in doubt, doubt as to / about, beyond (any) doubt, (a) reasonable doubt, without a doubt, open to doubt	principle	have principles, stand by / stick to your principles, principle of sth, principle that, in principle, a matter / an issue of principle, against sb's principles, set of principles
dream	dream of/about/that, have a dream, a dream to, beyond your wildest dreams, a dream come true, in your dreams, like a dream	question	beg the question, raise the question (of), a/no question of, in question, out of the question, without question, beyond question, some question over / as to / about, awkward question
focus	focus on, the focus of/for, in focus, out of focus, focus group, main/primary/major focus	sense	sense that, see sense, make sense (of), have the sense to, come to your senses, a sense of, in a/one sense, common sense
impression	have/give the (false) impression that, do an impression (of), create/make an impression (on sb), under the impression that, first impressions	side	side with sb, take sides, see both sides (of an argument), look on the bright side, on the plus/minus side, by sb's side, on sb's side, on either side (of)
mental	make a mental note (of/about), mental arithmetic, mental illness, mental age, mental health	straight	set/put sb straight about, set/put the record straight, get/come straight to the point, get sth straight, think/see straight, straight talking, straight answer
mind	make up your mind, cross/slip your mind, have/bear in mind, have a one-track mind, take your mind off, bring to mind, in two minds about, on your mind, state of mind, narrow/broad/open/absent-minded	view	view sth as, take the view that, take a dim/poor view of, come into view, in view of, with a view to, view on/about/that, in sb's view, viewpoint, point of view
misapprehension	under the misapprehension that		

Idioms

go to your head	if success goes to your head, it makes you think that you are better or more important than you really are
have your wits about you	be able to think quickly and make sensible decisions
in the dark (about)	not knowing very much about something, because other people are keeping it secret from you
know what's what	know the important facts about a situation
not have a leg to stand on	not have any way of proving that you are right about something
not see the wood for the trees	used for saying that someone cannot understand what is important in a situation because they are thinking too much about small details
put two and two together	guess what is happening or what something means based on what you have seen or heard
quick/slow on the uptake	taking a very short/long time to understand or realise something
ring a bell	something that rings a bell sounds familiar to you, although you cannot remember the exact details
round the bend	crazy
split hairs	argue or worry about very small details or differences that are not important
take stock (of)	spend some time thinking about the situation you are in before you decide what to do next

Word formation

assume	assumption, assuming, unassuming, assumed	judge	judg(e)ment, judiciary, judiciousness, judicious, judicial, judg(e)mental, judiciously
believe	disbelieve, belief, disbelief, (un)believer, (un)believable, disbelieving, unbelievably	logic	(il)logical(ly)
brilliant	brilliance, brilliantly	opinion	opinionated
conceive	conceptualise, concept, conception, conceptual, (in)conceivable, (in)conceivably	rational	rationalise, rationalisation, rationalist, rationalism, (ir)rationality, (ir)rational(ly)
confuse	confusion, confused, confusing(ly)	reason	reasoning, reasonableness, (un)reasonable, reasoned, (un)reasonably
convince	conviction, (un)convinced, (un)convincing(ly)	sane	(in)sanity, insane(ly)
decide	decision, decider, decisiveness, deciding, (in)decisive(ly)	sense	(de)sensitise, nonsense, sensitivity, sensibility, senseless(ness), sensible, nonsensical, sensibly, sensitive(ly)
define	definition, defined, definitive(ly), (in)definite(ly)	think	thought, thinker, thinking, thoughtfulness, thoughtlessness, (un)thinkable, thoughtful(ly), thoughtless(ly)
doubt	doubter, doubtful(ly), undoubted(ly), doubtless	wise	wisdom, (un)wise(ly)
explain	explanation, explanatory, unexplained, (in)explicable, inexplicably		
imagine	imagination, imaginings, imaginary, (un)imaginative(ly)		

Topic vocabulary: Thinking

A Circle the correct word.

- 1 Don't be so **optimistic** / **pessimistic**. Everything's going to be fine, you'll see!
- 2 Most newspapers are usually **biased** / **prejudiced** towards a certain political outlook.
- 3 I'm slightly **dubious** / **cynical** about whether Sean's idea is going to work.
- 4 To suggest that it's possible to create a society without crime is a little **naïve** / **sceptical**, isn't it?
- 5 The only **ingenious** / **plausible** explanation I can think of is that Jenna got the dates wrong.
- 6 Please don't **baffle** / **discriminate** me with loads of technical terminology. Use plain, simple English!
- 7 It's not always easy to **assume** / **assess** someone's suitability for a job just by talking to them in a short interview.
- 8 How can the government **justify** / **speculate** spending so much on the armed forces?
- 9 Looking at the damage, I would **estimate** / **deduce** that the painting will cost at least €2,000 to restore properly.
- 10 I don't think you should **reflect** / **presume** that lots of people are going to help you with this project.

B Complete using the correct form of the words in the box. More than one word might fit in each gap, but try to use all the words.

concentrate • consider • contemplate • deliberate • gather • grasp • ponder • reckon • suppose

- 1 It took me quite a long time to what the aim of the game was.
- 2 The jury are still, but they're expected to reach a verdict soon.
- 3 I from your tutor that you're thinking of changing course.
- 4 You really have to very hard when you are doing calligraphy.
- 5 I'm seriously asking for a pay rise tomorrow.
- 6 How long do you it'll take to get to Manchester?
- 7 I don't I could borrow your lecture notes this weekend, could I?
- 8 If you've ever the question 'Why does the universe bother to exist?', then this is the book for you.
- 9 Let's not even the possibility of failure.

C Each of the words in bold is in the wrong sentence. Write the correct words on the lines.

- 1 I'm in a real **hunch** because I've been invited to two parties on Saturday and I don't know which one to go to.
.....
- 2 Dave said he's got complete **guesswork** in us, and thinks we're going to do a great job.
- 3 Sarah's a/an **intuition** when it comes to astrophysics, but she's not very practical in everyday things.
.....
- 4 You often need to use a little educated **notion** when you're starting a cryptic crossword.
- 5 I've got a/an **ideology** that someone in this office is going to get promoted soon.
- 6 Communism and capitalism are very different types of **dilemma**.
- 7 Who gave you the **faith** for the main character in the book?
- 8 Detective Tacker had absolutely no evidence that Roddard was involved, but all his **paradox** told him that he was.
- 9 I've got a small **inspiration** about the exam syllabus. Should I talk to Mrs Jacobs about it?
- 10 Paying mothers a salary to raise their children is an interesting **genius**.
- 11 The fact that more people would come here if the place wasn't so crowded is a real **query**.

Topic vocabulary: Learning

D Choose the correct word.

Letter to the editor

The Prime Minister's comments yesterday on education spending miss the point, as the secondary education system also needs a major overhaul. Firstly, the system only views the weakest learners as having special (1) The brightest and most (2) students are not encouraged to develop to their full potential. Secondly, there's too much testing and not enough learning. My fifteen-year-old daughter, for example, has just spent the last month or so (3) for exams. These aren't even real, important exams, as her GCSEs will be next year. They're just (4) exams. Is the work she's been doing really going to make her more (5) about her subjects, or will she forget it all tomorrow? I suspect the latter.

Thirdly, the standard (6) doesn't give students any (7) in developing practical work-related, living and social skills, or in skills necessary for higher education. How many students entering university have the first idea what the difference is between (8) someone else's work and making good use of someone else's ideas? Shouldn't they have been taught this at school? How many of them are really able to go about (9) — a skill that's essential at university because there are no teachers to tell you what to do — in an efficient way? Indeed, how many students (10) from university totally unable to spell even simple English words correctly? The system is letting our children down.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 A requests | B desires | C needs | D wants |
| 2 A inattentive | B ignorant | C intensive | D conscientious |
| 3 A cramming | B lecturing | C reading | D practising |
| 4 A false | B mock | C fake | D artificial |
| 5 A knowledgeable | B intellectual | C academic | D intelligent |
| 6 A timetable | B lecture | C seminar | D curriculum |
| 7 A lesson | B subject | C tuition | D tutorial |
| 8 A writing | B going over | C plagiarising | D repeating |
| 9 A reviewing | B revision | C distance learning | D self-study |
| 10 A qualify | B graduate | C depart | D exit |

Phrasal verbs

E Match to make sentences.

- | | | |
|--|-------|--|
| 1 I'm going to have to mull this | | A together exactly what happened that evening. |
| 2 Detectives are still trying to piece | | B in the fact that he'd never see her again. |
| 3 It took him a very long time to take | | C up a brilliant excuse to tell Rachel. |
| 4 Tell us how you hit | | D over for a while before I make a final decision. |
| 5 It took us ages to figure | | E this through properly yet. |
| 6 I've just thought | | F out how to get everyone to the sports centre without Phil knowing. |
| 7 I'm not sure we've thought | | G upon such a great idea for a website. |

F Write one word in each gap so that each second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- I need to consider your offer very carefully before I make a decision.
I need to over your offer very carefully before I make a decision.
- Lee had the brilliant idea of booking a clown for the end-of-term party.
Lee came the brilliant idea of booking a clown for the end-of-term party.
- It's time you realised that you've got responsibilities now.
It's time you faced the fact that you've got responsibilities now.
- I'm going to have to improve my spoken German before I go to Munich.
I'm going to have to brush my spoken German before I go to Munich.
- I didn't like the idea at first but now I do.
I didn't like the idea at first but I've round it now.
- It's a general knowledge quiz so you can't do any revision for it.
There's nothing to swot as it's a general knowledge quiz.
- We were right at the back of the hall so I couldn't hear what the speaker was saying.
I was unable to out what the speaker was saying because we were right at the back of the hall.
- We finally thought of a way to get the band into the hotel without the press knowing.
We finally puzzled a way to get the band into the hotel without the press knowing.
- I've found out a lot of information about the history of English language teaching recently.
I've been up on the history of English language teaching recently.

G Phrasal verbs with out, such as puzzle out, are often connected to the idea of finding information. Which of these phrasal verbs with out are also connected to this idea?

- Did you **find out** what time the parents' meeting is?
- I've been **checking out** whether it's better to go by ferry or plane.
- Susie reckons she's **sussed out** a great way to get into the club for free.
- We all **piled out** into the playground.
- I can't **figure out** how to change my password.
- The band were completely **drowned out** by all the screaming fans.
- I'm going to **sound Bob out** about his investing in the company.
- Two essays really do **stand out** from the rest.
- Jan's good at keeping secrets, so you'll have to **worm it out** of her!
- None of us could **fathom out** why the experiment wasn't working.

Phrases, patterns and collocations

H Write one word in each gap.

- Jim seems to be the misapprehension that tomorrow's a holiday. It isn't.
- These findings cast doubt previous research done in this field.
- This photo's a little of focus, but you can still see their faces.
- Look the bright side – it's nearly the end of term.
- I'm not against animal testing principle.
- I think I'll always associate this song our holiday in Majorca.
- You have to bear mind that there'll be quite a few children there.
- Where did Susan's belief reincarnation come from?
- Dad said that my borrowing the car tonight was of the question.

- Hearing the news about Caroline put my small problems perspective.
- What's the best course of action from your point view?
- You were hired the basis that you would be able to work on Sundays.
- balance, I think the government's doing a reasonable job.
- We haven't taken Julie's thoughts account at all.
- conclusion, I'd like to thank everyone who supported me during the early years.

I For each question, write one word which can be used in all three sentences.

- I was so tired that I couldn't even think
I'll come to the point – you're fired!
It's time to set the record about what really happened that night.
- She's only eight, but she has the age of an 18-year-old.
Many illnesses can be cured these days.
I'm not very good at arithmetic.
- Philip does a very funny of Tony.
You really made an on Pete – he hasn't stopped talking about you!
Why was I under the that the exam was on Thursday?
- Carter was the behind the whole criminal operation.
Could I just pick your about good places to eat around here?
We sat there racking our trying to think of a place to take Paul and Doug in the evening.
- Someone with no of smell can't taste food well either.
I can't make of this film at all – what's going on?
Unplugging a toaster before you try to fix it is just common, isn't it?
- I thought Gordon's new invention wouldn't work at all, but in fact it worked like a
Winning a cruise on the Queen Mary was a come true for me and Albert.
I've had the same recurring for four nights in a row.
- Motorists should always show for pedestrians crossing the street at a zebra crossing.
I'll give some to your proposals and get back to you.
We stupidly didn't take changes in interest rates into when we got a mortgage for our house.

J Write one word in each gap.

I read this week that a new organisation called *Don't Trust Online Information* has been formed. The founder, Douglas Haverford-West, is quoted as saying, 'It's (1) my principles to trust anything I read on the Internet. I've started this organisation (2) the belief that there are millions like me who (3) their doubts about information presented as fact that has not gone through a thorough editorial process. There's no question (4) us shutting down the Internet – we don't want to do that – but DTOI has been set up with a (5) to raising awareness.' I sympathise with Haverford-West, but I believe he's wrong. I made up my (6) long ago not to completely trust anything I heard or read. Whether it's on the Internet or, say, in a newspaper, is irrelevant in my opinion.

K Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

- I never thought that we'd have legal problems. **crossed**
It that we'd have legal problems.
- I've decided that teaching is not the right profession for me. **conclusion**
I've that teaching is not the right profession for me.
- Could you tell me where you were last night, Mr Johnson? **account**
Could you your whereabouts last night, Mr Johnson?
- The journalist pretended that she was a parent of one of the children. **false**
The journalist that she was a parent of one of the children.
- You have to use logic and lateral thinking in equal measure in this job. **strike**
You have to logic and lateral thinking in this job.
- I didn't tell Angie because I didn't want to hurt Eddie's feelings. **consideration**
I didn't tell Angie Eddie.

Idioms

L Complete using the words in the box.

bell • bend • dark • hairs • head • leg • stock • two • uptake • what • wits • wood

- The name Alan Hickson rings a, but I can't place him.
- Stop wasting time splitting and look at the big picture.
- Ask Simon about the sales targets. He always knows what's
- You've got to have your about you to succeed in advertising.
- Don't let success go to your, will you?
- No one told us that Diana was leaving, but we all put two and together.
- I'm going to go round the if they don't turn that music down soon.
- Let's take of the situation before we make a final decision.
- How did they manage to keep me completely in the about this for so long?
- The problem with Jane is that sometimes she can't see the for the trees.
- It took Dan a long time to understand what was going on. He's usually quicker on the than that, isn't he?
- Frankly, you're completely wrong and you haven't got a to stand on.

Word formation

M Complete the sentences by changing the form of the word in capitals.

- There was quite a bit of because the examiner handed out the wrong exam papers. **CONFUSE**
- You're acting completely Just calm down and pull yourself together. **RATIONAL**
- Einstein's went unnoticed at school. **BRILLIANT**
- This is generally considered to be the guide to Australia. **DEFINE**

- It's absolutely why the council decided to close down the youth club. **EXPLAIN**
- I just stood there and listened in as Ben told me the news. **BELIEVE**
- Greg's to say the least, so I wouldn't ask him to choose a hotel. **DECIDE**
- Many children create friends to talk to. **IMAGINE**
- He was found not guilty by reason of and so was sent to a mental institution rather than prison. **SANE**
- Your argument is Just because you want me to be a doctor doesn't mean I want to be one. **LOGIC**

N The prefix *il-*, as in *illogical*, is often used to make a positive word negative. Which of the words in bold in the following sentences are negative forms of positive words?

- Doctors' handwriting is usually **illegible**.
- There's a beautiful **illustration** on page six.
- People who are **illiterate** may need some help filling in forms.
- She had an **illustrious** career as a local politician.
- It's a totally **illiberal** law that's just going to restrict our freedoms further.
- Several senior politicians have resigned over the **illegality** of the war.
- Illegitimate** children were given very little social recognition in the past.
- The magician didn't really cut his assistant in two – it was only an **illusion**.
- The lights **illuminated** the building beautifully at night.

O Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.

Rhetoric

The (1) (**CONCEIVE**) of 'rhetoric', or effective public speaking, dates back thousands of years. The underlying (2) (**ASSUME**) behind rhetoric is that how you present an argument can greatly influence whether people are persuaded by you or not. There is (3) (**DOUBT**) plenty of evidence to support this idea – it's practically (4) (**THINK**), for example, for a successful politician to be a poor communicator – but is it just a question of style winning over substance? Certainly, it is often said of politicians that they talk complete (5) (**SENSE**) but what they say they say with such (6) (**CONVINCE**) that we tend to believe them, at least when they're in opposition. On the other hand, (7) (**WISE**) and knowledge are of little value if you cannot communicate them effectively to your peers or to the next generation. It is the combination of clear (8) (**REASON**), sound (9) (**JUDGE**) and effective presentation and communication skills that defines true rhetoric. A true rhetorician should always come across as knowledgeable, and never as (10) (**OPINION**) or ignorant.

Topic vocabulary database

Unit 2 Thinking

- assess** (v) to carefully consider a situation, person or problem in order to make a judgment: *We tried to assess his suitability for the job.*
- assess** (v) to calculate what something costs or is worth: *Our agent will assess the value of your property.*
- assume** (v) to believe that something is true, even though no one has told you or even though you have no proof: *Everyone accepted she was telling the truth, although in fact this was quite a lot to assume.*
- baffle** (v) if a problem, someone's behaviour, etc baffles you, you cannot understand it or solve it: *Detectives remain baffled by these murders.*
- biased** (adj) preferring one person, thing or idea to another in a way that is unfair: *It was a biased report.*
- concentrate** (v) to give all your attention to the thing you are doing: *I was sleeping badly and finding it hard to concentrate.*
- consider** (v) to think about something carefully before making a decision or developing an opinion: *She paused and considered for a moment.*
- consider** (v) to have a particular opinion about someone or something: *They consider it inevitable that some jobs will be lost.*
- contemplate** (v) to consider doing something in the future: *I'm contemplating retirement next year.*
- contemplate** (v) to think very carefully about something for a long time: *I haven't got time to sit around contemplating the meaning of life.*
- cynical** (adj) someone who is cynical believes that people care only about themselves and are not sincere or honest, or expects things not to be successful or useful: *I know that some of you are very cynical about the proposals.*
- deduce** (v) to know something as a result of considering the information or evidence that you have: *Finding fossils far inland, he deduced that the area had once been covered by water.*
- deliberate** (v) to think about or discuss something very carefully, especially before you make an important decision: *The judges deliberated for an hour before choosing the winner.*
- dilemma** (n) a situation in which you have to make a difficult decision: *I'm in a dilemma over whether to tell him or not.*
- discriminate** (v) to treat someone unfairly because of their religion, race or other personal features: *Employers are not allowed to discriminate on the basis of gender.*
- discriminate** (v) to recognise the difference between things: *Long-range missile attacks simply cannot discriminate between military and civilian targets.*
- dubious** (adj) not completely good, safe or honest: *The story seemed a bit dubious to me.*
- dubious** (adj) not sure about the truth or quality of something, or whether you should do something: *I'm very dubious about his ability to do the job.*
- estimate** (n) an amount that you guess or calculate using the information available: *According to official estimates, over 25% of carbon emissions come from the United States.*
- estimate** (n) a statement telling a customer how much money you will charge if they employ you to do a particular piece of work: *The committee are currently getting estimates for repairs to the stonework.*
- estimate** (v) to say what you think an amount or value will be, either by guessing or by using available information to calculate it: *It's difficult to estimate the cost of making your house safe.*
- faith** (n) strong belief in or trust of someone or something: *I'm delighted to know you have such faith in me.*
- gather** (v) to believe that something is true, although no one has directly told you about it: *You're new here, I gather.*

- genius** (n) someone who is much more intelligent or skilful than other people: *She was a mathematical genius.*
- genius** (n) a very high level of skill or ability: *Baking allows you to show your creative genius.*
- grasp** (v) to understand something: *He was finding it difficult to grasp the rules of the game.*
- guesswork** (n) the process of trying to find the answer to something by guessing, or the answer found by using this method: *It was a theory based on pure guesswork.*
- hunch** (n) a feeling that something is true or will happen, although you do not know any definite facts about it: *I've got a hunch there'll be an election soon.*
- ideology** (n) a system of ideas and principles on which a political or economic theory is based: *State control is a fundamental aspect of Marxist ideology.*
- ingenious** (adj) an ingenious plan, piece of equipment, etc uses new and clever ideas: *This is an ingenious device for opening bottles.*
- inspiration** (n) a sudden feeling of enthusiasm or a new idea that helps you to do or create something: *Dreams are a rich source of inspiration for some writers.*
- intuition** (n) an ability to know or understand something through your feelings, rather than by considering facts or evidence: *Archaeologists often use their intuition to decide where to dig.*
- justify** (v) to show that there is a good reason for something, especially something that other people think is wrong: *You'll be expected to justify your actions.*
- naïve** (adj) a naïve person lacks experience of life and tends to trust other people and believe things too easily: *I was a naïve 17-year-old at the time.*
- notion** (n) an idea or understanding of something: *I haven't the faintest notion what you're talking about.*
- optimistic** (adj) someone who is optimistic is hopeful about the future and tends to expect that good things will happen: *She said that she was optimistic about the future of the company.*
- optimistic** (adj) based on beliefs that are too confident: *That's a very optimistic assessment of the overall situation.*
- paradox** (n) a person, thing or situation that is strange because they have features or qualities that do not normally exist together: *We get this apparent paradox of people migrating to an area that has very high unemployment.*
- pessimistic** (adj) someone who is pessimistic is not hopeful about the future and tends to expect that bad things will happen: *She said that she was pessimistic about the future of the company.*
- pessimistic** (adj) thinking that the worst thing will happen in every situation: *That's a very pessimistic assessment of the overall situation.*
- plausible** (adj) likely to be true, honest or suitable: *A bomb was the only plausible explanation for the crash.*
- ponder** (v) to think carefully about something for a long time before reaching a decision: *I'm still pondering whether to tell Janine or not.*
- prejudiced** (adj) someone who is prejudiced has an unreasonable opinion or feeling about someone or something, especially hatred or fear of a particular group of people: *Rafferty's reporting was clearly biased and prejudiced against the homeless.*
- presume** (v) to think something is true because it is likely, although you cannot be certain: *I presume you've already ordered lunch.*
- query** (n) a question that you ask because you want information or because you are not certain about something: *We have a number of queries regarding delivery.*
- query** (v) to ask a question about something because you have doubts about it: *It is not for us to query his decisions.*
- query** (v) to ask something: *'Who would do such a thing?' he queried.*

- reckon** (v) to believe that something is true: *I reckon there's something wrong with him.*
- reflect** (v) to think about something carefully and seriously: *Josie reflected on how easily she could have been killed.*
- sceptical/skeptical** (adj) having doubts about something that other people think is true or right: *Harrison approved the plan, but Riley remained sceptical.*
- speculate** (v) to consider or discuss why something has happened: *We can only speculate on the reasons for his sudden resignation.*
- suppose** (v) to believe that something is probably true, based on your experience, your knowledge and any other information that you have: *She was about 35, Dexter supposed.*
- ## Learning
- academic** (adj) relating to education, especially education in colleges and universities: *The book brings together several academic subjects.*
- academic** (adj) good at learning things by studying: *She's certainly bright, but she's not very academic.*
- academic** (adj) not relating to a real situation, and therefore not relevant: *Given the lack of funding, any discussion of future plans was somewhat academic.*
- academic** (n) someone who teaches or does research at a college or university: *The meeting was chaired by a leading Japanese academic.*
- conscientious** (adj) working hard and being careful to do things well: *Simon is a very conscientious worker.*
- cram** (v) to study hard in order to learn a lot in a short time, especially for an examination: *My exams are in two weeks, so I'm cramming at the moment.*
- curriculum** (n) the subjects that students study at a particular school or college: *Our mathematics curriculum is much broader now.*
- distance learning** (n phr) a system in which students work at home with the help of television and radio broadcasts and send work to their teachers by post or e-mail: *Are you doing the course by distance learning?*
- graduate** (n) someone who has a degree from a university: *There aren't many careers for history graduates.*
- graduate** (v) to complete your studies at a university or college, usually by getting a degree: *He graduated from Yale University in 1936.*
- ignorant** (adj) not knowing something that you should know or need to know: *I was ignorant of the terms used in business.*
- inattentive** (adj) not giving much attention to someone or something: *I hate speaking in front of an inattentive audience.*
- intellectual** (adj) relating to the ability to think in an intelligent way and to understand things, especially difficult or complicated ideas and subjects: *Students were asked which task represented the greatest intellectual challenge.*
- intellectual** (adj) well educated and interested in art, science, literature, etc at an advanced level: *Though not intellectual, my mother was highly intelligent.*
- intellectual** (n) someone who is well educated and interested in art, science, literature, etc at an advanced level: *Though not an intellectual, my mother was highly intelligent.*
- intelligent** (adj) good at thinking clearly and quickly, at understanding difficult ideas and subjects, and at gaining and using knowledge: *Surely an intelligent person like you can deal with this?*
- intensive** (adj) involving a lot of teaching or training in a short time: *It's an intensive language course for beginners.*
- knowledgeable** (adj) knowing a lot about many different subjects or about one particular subject: *He's extremely knowledgeable about business and finance.*
- lecture** (n) a talk to a group of people about a particular subject, especially at a college or university: *The course will be taught through a series of lectures and seminars.*
- lecture** (v) to give a lecture or a series of lectures: *She lectures on Greek Literature at the Sorbonne.*

- mock exam** (n phr) an examination you take for practice before an important examination: *We've got our mock GCSE exams next month.*
- plagiarise** (v) to take someone else's work, ideas or words, and use them as if they were your own: *They accused her of plagiarising her speech.*
- self-study** (n) work that you do without the help of a teacher: *I have to do a lot of self-study on this course.*
- seminar** (n) a class at a college or university in which a small group of students discusses a subject with a teacher: *We had a very interesting seminar on climate change.*
- special needs** (n phr) the particular needs of people who are physically or mentally disabled: *If a student has special needs, he or she will be offered additional classes.*
- tuition** (n) the work that a teacher does when they teach a particular subject, especially to one person or a small group: *He's been getting private tuition in French.*
- tutorial** (n) a lesson in which a small group of students discuss a subject with a tutor, especially at a university or college: *We had a very interesting tutorial on climate change.*

Unit 4 Change

- adapt** (v) to change your ideas or behaviour so that you can deal with a new situation: *A successful business is one that adapts to changing situations.*
- adjust** (v) to change something slightly in order to make it better, more accurate or more effective: *You can adjust the volume using this control here.*
- alternate** (v) if one thing alternates with another, it happens after it and keeps being repeated: *You go first this game, and then we'll alternate.*
- alternate** (adj) happening on one day, week, etc, but not on the day, week, etc that immediately follows: *We usually go to visit my grandma on alternate Sundays.*
- alternative** (n) something that you can choose instead of something else: *Can you suggest an alternative?*
- alternative** (adj) different from something else and able to be used instead of it: *We're going to have to find an alternative route.*
- amend** (v) to make changes to a document, law, agreement, etc, especially in order to improve it: *Could you amend the report before you send it?*
- conservative** (adj) not willing to accept much change, especially in the traditional values of society: *I grew up in a village where most of the people were quite conservative.*
- convert** (v) to change from one system, use or method to another, or to make something do this: *We're converting to a new computer system at work, so it's chaos at the moment.*
- convert** (v) to change your beliefs, especially your religious beliefs, or to persuade someone to do this: *I was rather shocked when my dad converted to Islam.*
- convert** (n) someone who has changed their beliefs in an important way: *I didn't use to like Fiat cars, but now I've become a convert.*
- decay** (v) to be gradually destroyed as a result of a natural process of change, or to destroy something in this way: *When leaves decay, chemicals are returned to the soil.*
- decay** (n) the gradual destruction of something as a result of a natural process of change: *Too much sugar in our diets is a major cause of tooth decay.*
- deteriorate** (v) to become worse: *The situation in the country has deteriorated and tourists are advised not to go there.*
- distort** (v) to change something such as information so that it is no longer true or accurate: *Journalists often distort statistics in order to tell a good story.*
- dynamic** (adj) continuously changing, growing or developing: *The world of electronics is a very dynamic area.*