



Nouns - Plurals


rat	90	rats
church	55	churches
city	52	cities
kiss	59	kisses
monkey	80	monkeys
dish	52	dishes

We asked 100 people to write the plurals of these nouns. 


child	56	children
tooth	45	teeth
foot	43	feet
mouse	40	mice
deer	28	deer
louse	12	lice

We asked 100 people to write the plurals of these nouns. 


calf	35	calves
roof	8	roofs
wife	39	wives
loaf	32	loaves
cliff	42	cliffs
chief	4	chiefs

We asked 100 people to write the plurals of these nouns. 


antenna	5	antennae
sheep	24	sheep
woman	33	women
person	13	people
tax	48	taxes
life	28	lives

We asked 100 people to write the plurals of these nouns. 

casino	56	casinos
potato	32	potatoes
formula	3	formulae
fungus	8	fungi
yoyo	48	yoyos
volcano	25	volcanoes

We asked 100 people to write the plurals of these nouns. 


trousers	0	no singular
scarves	33	scarf
mangoes	27	mango
scissors	1	no singular
bacteria	7	bacterium
cacti	9	cactus

We asked 100 people to write the singular of these nouns. 

Nouns – types, collectives


jealousy, palace, Mr Bean	59	Mr Bean
book, Wales, manners	63	Wales
bed, Big Mac, beef burger	56	Big Mac
Long Rd, town, Little Snoring	48	Long Rd, Little Snoring
Smith's, shop, road	50	Smith's
swan, computer, iPad	52	iPad

We asked 100 people to pick out the proper noun(s) from each list.




stone	55	concrete
swarm	30	collective
flower	46	concrete
anger	25	abstract
flock	33	collective
dreams	16	abstract

We asked 100 people to say what type of noun these common nouns are.




walrus	69	concrete
memory	17	abstract
pack	47	collective
love	43	abstract
childhood	9	abstract
herd	32	collective

We asked 100 people to say what type of noun these common nouns are.




sheep	60	flock
fish	51	school or shoal
geese	31	gaggle or flock
lions	37	pride
bees	28	swarm or hive
bananas	43	bunch

We asked 100 people to name the collective for a group of these animals / objects.




keys	48	bunch
cards	62	pack
puppies	38	litter
gnats	2	cloud or swarm
crows	0	murder
lies	29	pack

We asked 100 people to name the collective for a group of these animals / objects.




cow	63	calf
goose	11	gosling
swan	1	cygnet
sheep	69	lamb
dragonfly	0	nymph
frog	42	tadpole

We asked 100 people to name the young of these animals.




Verbs - past tense


eat	52	ate
carry	68	carried
grab	65	grabbed
begin	69	began
meet	54	met
sweep	56	swept

We asked 100 people to change these verbs to the past tense. 


find	57	found
swim	62	swam
run	70	ran
think	43	thought
take	58	took
tell	53	told

We asked 100 people to change these verbs to the past tense. 


wear	54	wore
buy	39	bought
shake	47	shook
rise	43	rose
write	51	wrote
see	61	saw

We asked 100 people to change these verbs to the past tense. 


bend	58	bent
hide	60	hid
fight	42	fought
shoot	55	shot
does	52	did
go	39	went

We asked 100 people to change these verbs to the past tense. 

forbid	12	forbade
is	59	was
does	61	did
hear	53	heard
fly	48	flew
dig	57	dug

We asked 100 people to change these verbs to the past tense. 

break	64	broke
are	62	were
drive	53	drove
sit	49	sat
teach	32	taught
let	15	let

We asked 100 people to change these verbs to the past tense. 

Identifying nouns, verbs etc

Sarah hit her brother. (86) hit

Molly was late for dance. (72) was

He wanted to believe her. (44) wanted, believe

She said, "It's true, I ate it." (2) said, is (from it's), ate

He could see all the bushes. (35) could, see

He was observed by all as he walked past. (28) was observed, walked

We asked 100 people to identify the verbs in these sentences. 

Mum gave her lunch. (64) Mum, lunch


Jane felt admiration for her brother. (31) Jane, admiration, brother

It was time for Judo. (37) time, Judo

Mrs Jones arrived later in the evening. (42) Mrs Jones, evening

The cats need lots of love. (39) cats, love

Silence is golden. (49) silence

We asked 100 people to identify the nouns, but not the pronouns, in these sentences. 

He quickly put on his old, grey coat. (57) old, grey


Unwisely, the young woman left her car unlocked. (39) young, unlocked

The tall, fat elephant turned around. (68) tall, fat

The silly girl sat smirking outside the smelly toilet. (44) silly, smelly

The horizontal rain lashed the windows repeatedly. (46) horizontal

The delicious smell wafted through the tiny kitchen. (42) delicious, tiny

We asked 100 people to identify the adjectives in these sentences. 

He spoke beautifully. (83) beautifully


Unkindly, he called him silly Billy. (42) unkindly

Sleepily, she opened her eyes. (79) sleepily

Unfortunately, because he was late, his boss fired him. (9) unfortunately, late

Happily, I will be leaving soon. (14) happily, soon

Slowly walking upstairs, she looked wearily at the clock. (0) slowly, upstairs, wearily

We asked 100 people to identify the adverbs in these sentences. 

The chocolate was found hidden under the bed. (76) under


He worked on Saturday. (28) on

He went to his house by train. (32) to, by

Between his parents, sat Joe. (61) between

"Below the stairs," I bellow. (52) below

He put Smarties next to the cake. (3) next to

We asked 100 people to identify the prepositions in these sentences. 

He was late again. (87) he


She told him off. (59) she, him

Don't touch mine, I will give you his. (33) mine, I, you, his

They saw the dog turn itself round to face her. (16) they, itself, her

"I've had mine; it's time for the cat to eat have its," she said. (23) I, its, she


She gave Fred's sweets back to him. (37) she, him

We asked 100 people to identify the pronouns in these sentences. 

prefixes


behave	64	misbehave
sense	52	nonsense
clockwise	43	anti-clockwise
respect	48	disrespect
count	29	miscount
realistic	38	unrealistic

We asked 100 people to add the correct prefix to give a word with the opposite meaning.




possible	53	impossible
relevant	15	irrelevant
legal	36	illegal
considerate	25	inconsiderate
moral	18	immoral
responsible	28	irresponsible

We asked 100 people to add the correct prefix to give a word with the opposite meaning.




fair	57	unfair
jointed	36	disjointed
regular	24	irregular
legible	19	illegible
proper	33	improper
correct	46	incorrect

We asked 100 people to add the correct prefix to give a word with the opposite meaning.




explode	12	implode
ascend	29	descend
absent	47	present
forwards	68	backwards
encourage	19	discourage
include	17	exclude

We asked 100 people to change the prefix to give a word with the opposite meaning.




interior	39	exterior
increase	43	decrease
maximum	33	minimum
optimist	9	pessimist
upstairs	76	downstairs
superior	7	inferior

We asked 100 people to change the prefix to give a word with the opposite meaning.




proper	43	improper
formation	59	information
movable	54	immovable
mortal	57	immortal
efficient	62	inefficient
valuable	63	invaluable

We asked 100 people to use either im- or in- as a prefix with these words.




suffixes


hate	42	hating
turn	97	turning
spit	44	spitting
spy	75	spying
tap	48	tapping
tape	39	taping

We asked 100 people to add the suffix -ing to these verbs. 


carry	51	carried
hug	44	hugged
love	63	loved
destroy	72	destroyed
fry	49	fried
stop	43	stopped

We asked 100 people to add the suffix -ed to these verbs. 


child	72	childhood
mother	68	motherhood
champion	67	championship
knight	71	knighthood
partner	64	partnership
member	62	membership

We asked 100 people to add the suffixes ship or hood to these words. 


rely	43	reliable
reverse	56	reversible
forgive	52	forgivable
horrid	63	horrible
envy	59	envious
response	61	responsible

We asked 100 people to add the suffixes ible or able to these words. 

inflate	58	inflation
extend	48	extension
pronounce	9	pronunciation
collide	45	collision
create	53	creation
divide	64	division


We asked 100 people to add the correct suffix to give a word ending with a shun sound. 

explode	40	explosion
Venice	0	Venetian
qualify	15	qualification
reduce	8	reduction
Asia	28	Asian
magic	37	magician


We asked 100 people to add the correct suffix to give a word ending with a shun sound. 

Adjectives


good	17	better
cold	86	colder
tricky	36	trickier
horrible	28	more horrible
sad	43	sadder
nice	72	nicer

We asked 100 people to write the comparatives for these adjectives. 


wonderful	35	more wonderful
bad	17	worse
cool	74	cooler
crazy	35	crazier
far	39	farther or further
silly	38	sillier

We asked 100 people to write the comparatives for these adjectives. 


white	76	whiter
grumpy	33	grumpier
mad	49	madder
large	79	larger
much	6	more
generous	43	more generous

We asked 100 people to write the comparatives for these adjectives. 


sad	37	saddest
good	19	best
nice	83	nicest
enormous	41	most enormous
tricky	53	trickiest
tall	91	tallest

We asked 100 people to write the superlatives for these adjectives. 

strange	90	strangest
dry	50	driest
bad	15	worst
thin	37	thinnest
far	45	farthest or furthest
exciting	48	most exciting


We asked 100 people to write the superlatives for these adjectives. 

special	37	most special
fat	43	fattest
delicious	40	most delicious
grumpy	48	grumpiest
some	7	most
wise	83	wisest


We asked 100 people to write the superlatives for these adjectives. 

Antonyms


cruel	29	kind
dawn	19	dusk
optimist	14	pessimist
transparent	0	opaque
full	49	empty
permanent	1	temporary

We asked 100 people to write the antonyms for these words. 


horizontal	18	vertical
maximum	23	minimum
victory	30	defeat
East	70	West
expand	0	contract
success	16	failure

We asked 100 people to write the antonyms for these words. 


borrow	28	lend or loan
better	35	worse
conductor	5	insulator
advance	9	retreat
forget	21	remember
include	18	exclude

We asked 100 people to write the antonyms for these words. 


entrance	8	exit
blunt	37	sharp
tame	33	wild
question	56	answer
guilty	11	innocent
singular	18	plural

We asked 100 people to write one word antonyms for these words. 

tight	36	loose
noisy	78	quiet or silent
admit	9	deny
harmful	26	harmless
mature	21	immature
conceal	7	reveal

We asked 100 people to write the antonyms for these words. 

left	84	right or arrived
foolish	29	wise
asleep	36	awake
bright	49	dull or dim
external	26	internal
polite	27	rude or impolite

We asked 100 people to write the antonyms for these words. 

Spellings

One person is an ind__ (30) individual ind__


Keen to succeed (38) determined det__d

Not passive. (34) aggressive ag__ve

A car or bus. (21) vehicle ve_____

We use the English lan__ to communicate. (37) language lan__

The P in PE. (26) physical __cal

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

A type of plant or fruit. (29) variety v__ty


eg cat, hat and sat all r__ (32) rhyme r__

Where an arm joins your body. (41) shoulder sh__

Found with thunder (59) lightning l__g

A chance to do something (36) opportunity op__ty

Music has a r___. (17) rhythm r__m

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

Go with someone. (22) accompany ac__


Eastenders is a TV pr_ (26) programme pr_____

A book of words and meanings. (36) dictionary d_____y

enough (22) sufficient suf_____

talk (24) communicate com__

We must protect the env_ (20) environment env__t

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

2 x 20 (54) forty f__


Well known to you. (24) familiar fam__

Opinion not based on facts or experience. (5) prejudice pre_____

Sitting on the benches during assembly is a pri___. (16) privilege pri_____

Butt into a conversation (27) interrupt int__

Meddle with (21) interfere int__

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

Share an opinion about something. (28) criticise crit__


Which cat__ would you put this book into? (17) category cat__y

An annoyance, a pest (19) nuisance nu_____

happen (32) occur oc__

Potatoes, leeks and beans. (43) vegetables veg__s

To give something up. (12) sacrifice sac__

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

She won the diving ___. (38) competition com__


Something to discuss and argue about. (3) controversy con__

The noun from explain. (22) explanation ex_____

Live in. (27) occupy oc__

+ - x ÷ ° © are all (13) symbols __ls

Thank you. I really ap__ what you did. (19) appreciate ap__

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

More spellings

A line of people waiting. (38) queue q__


It is needed. (22) necessary n__s_y

A book of words and meanings. (41) dictionary d____y

At once. (25) immediately im____y

Measured in °C. (36) temperature t__m__

Large sailing boat. (26) yacht y__

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

House of Commons and the House of Lords. (38) parliament pa__


How something is said. (15) pronunciation pro____n

Certain. (19) definite def__

Often. (40) frequently fre____y

Make someone feel uncomfortable. (28) embarrass emb__s

From another country. (31) foreign for__

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

Not professional. (36) amateur ama__


Extremely old. (34) ancient a__t

An assistant. (29) secretary sec____y

End a letter with yours __. (40) sincerely sin____y

This will trouble you if you do bad deeds. (14) conscience con____

Where you find graves. (12) cemetery cem____

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

The TV came with a 5 year g__. (27) guarantee g____e


Not particularly good or bad. (47) average av____

A group formed to discuss and make decisions. (21) committee com____e

It was not a help – it was a h__. (24) hindrance hin____

Wonderful. (28) marvellous mar____

A bit naughty. (24) mischievous misc____

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

A place to eat out. (39) restaurant rest__


She needed the loo. She was d__. (34) desperate desp__

Annoy and pester continually. (26) harass ha__s

Free time. (18) leisure l__s__

Opposite to successful. (43) disastrous disa__s

It was cheap – a b__. (54) bargain bar__

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

12th (18) twelfth twe__


Clear to see. (32) apparent ap__t

Awake – not asleep. (21) conscious con____s

Person living next door. (28) neighbour n____r

Make it sound better than it was. (37) exaggerate exa____


Give someone a place to stay. (10) accommodate ac__m__e

We asked 100 people to identify and spell these words. 

Letter strings


blow	42	though, dough
pickup	12	hiccough
how	9	plough, bough
blue	22	through
stuff	47	enough, tough, rough
toff	15	cough, trough

We asked 100 people to find words ending in ough which rhyme with the words above.




fr--nd, th--r, c--ling	23	friend, their, ceiling
h--r, pr--st, --ght	19	heir, priest, eight
prot--n, n--ce, for--gn	11	protein, niece, foreign
w--rd, anc--nt, rec--pt	5	weird, ancient, receipt
h--ght, rec--ve, sc--nce	14	height, receive, science
l--, d--, p--ce	75	lie, die, piece

We asked 100 people to complete the words by putting in either ei or ie. You need to get all 3 correct to score.




beard	42	weird
pealing	3	ceiling
air	11	their, heir
tale	0	veil
tight	15	height
hay	23	weigh neigh

We asked 100 people to find words containing ei which rhyme with the words above.




good	24	could, would, should
law	16	four, pour, your, tour
loot	3	route
tower	19	our, hour, sour
lawn	7	mourn
cause	9	yours, fours, tours, pours

We asked 100 people to find words containing ou which rhyme with the words above.




twirl	7	pearl
peer	86	ear, year, dear, tear, gear, fear, hear, rear, appear, clear
turn	9	earn, learn, yearn
care	53	bear, wear, tear, pear
path	1	hearth
girth	3	earth

We asked 100 people to find words containing ear which rhyme with the words above.



bed	29	said
tame	21	aim, maim
bear	52	air, fair, lair, hair, pair
late	47	gait, bait, wait, straight, trait
wary	43	fairy, dairy, airy, prairie, hairy
scaly	8	daily, bailey

We asked 100 people to find words containing ai which rhyme with the words above.



Homonyms & Homophones

They agreed a date for the wedding. (41) date – fruit

He put a plaster over the graze on his knee. (0) Plaster – in walls, graze – cows do this

She leaves the house. (48) Leaves – green on trees.

He put his pants on. (29) Pants – dog breathes heavily.

He cut the stalk of the plant. (8) Stalk – follow secretly

If you don't hurry, you will be late. (0) Will – as in write a will, late - dead

We asked 100 people to identify and give another meaning for the homonym(s) in each of these sentences.



Slightly mad – the pattern with many dots. (2) dotty

You would be mad to pull these cheese biscuits. (0) crackers

Draw a circle to find where north is. (43) compass

The young cow below your knee. (29) calf

Past tense of break has no money. (34) broke

What is left when this tree is burnt. (21) ash

We asked 100 people to identify and spell the homonyms from the clues.



This parent is wrapped in bandages. (57) mummy

Past tense of leave is not right. (46) left

Nip between finger and thumb to steal. (39) pinch

The fake doctor sounds like a duck. (32) quack

Put your car with the trees and grass. (12) park

The keen supporter turns round to cool you. (22) fan

We asked 100 people to identify and spell the homonyms from the clues.



She was wearing a fir coat too. (35) fur

There going to their parents' house. (41) They're replaces There

Were are the clothes you are going to wear? (48) Where replaces were

Would you like me to pore the juice into the bowl? (27) pour

He was find for leeking the secret recipe four the martial's new breakfast serial. (0) fined, leaking, for, marshall's, cereal

He has groan into a big buoy! (12) grown, boy

We asked 100 people to correct the misspelt homophone(s) in each sentence.



listen but not there (19) hear, here

It's dark in shining armour. (52) night, knight

Escape from the jumping insect (21) flee, flea

the tree by the sea. (14) beech, beach

Make a line to use this at the snooker table. (11) queue, cue

gobbled the number (5) ate, eight

We asked 100 people to identify and spell the homophones from the clues.



The colour as the wind moved (21) blue, blew

Look carefully again as you write one to pay out money. (0) check, cheque

Used to make bread, it grows in the garden. (34) flour, flower

Not out, a place to stay. (25) in, inn

Use needles to make a scarf for the unwelcome egg in your hair. (9) knit, nit

Did not hit the thin fog. (4) missed, mist

We asked 100 people to identify and spell the homophones from the clues.



Active & Passive

John closed the door. (58) The door was closed by John.

I ate the sweets. (15) The sweets were eaten by me.

Susan pushed Sarah. (52) Sarah was pushed by Susan.

Jack wrote a letter. (55) A letter was written by Jack.

Mrs Jones told off Caitlin. (49) Caitlin was told off by Mrs Jones.

Sue cut the paper. (60) The paper was cut by Sue.

We asked 100 people to change these sentences from active to passive.



James will clean the car. (26) The car will be cleaned by James.

Alfie is munching celery. (27) Celery is being munched by Alfie.

Mavis had been following Tom. (24) Tom had been followed by Mavis.

Jenny is going to kiss him. (21) He is going to be kissed by Jenny.

Gavin starts the car. (56) The car is started by Gavin.

Mum used to make pasta for Mia. (2) Pasta used to be made by Mum for Mia.

We asked 100 people to change these sentences from active to passive.



John has been stirring the soup with a spoon. (15) The soup had been stirred by John with a spoon.

Kayleigh is going to be writing stories. (19) Stories are going to be written by Kayleigh.

The fox had killed the chicken. (21) The chicken had been killed by the fox.

Connor had been telling lies to his Mum. (1) Lies had been told by Connor to his Mum.

Who ate my cheese? (0) By whom has my cheese been eaten.

Fred will be flipping the pancakes on Tuesday. (16) The pancakes will be flipped by Fred on Tuesday.

We asked 100 people to change these sentences from active to passive.



Sweets were eaten by the girls. (58) The girls ate sweets.

The house was blown down by the wolf. (43) The wolf blew the house down.

The baby is being watched by Sarah. (49) Sarah is watching the baby.

The page was turned by Gregory. (60) Gregory turned the page.

The car was crashed by Lola. (62) Lola crashed the car.

The pots and pans were washed by Dave. (52) Dave washed the pots and pans.

We asked 100 people to change these sentences from passive to active.



The dinner will be cooked by Sarah. (47) Sarah will cook the dinner.

The game Monopoly is being played by them. (22) They are playing the game Monopoly.

Every Tuesday the bin is emptied by Sam. (34) Every Tuesday Sam empties the bin.

The house is going to be painted by Tuesday. (13) They are going to paint the house by Tuesday.

The mouse used to be chased by the cat. (25) The cat used to chase the mouse.

The plums would always be picked by Dad. (31) Dad would always pick the plums.

We asked 100 people to change these sentences from passive to active.



She will be sent away to school by her parents. (27) Her parents will send her away to school.

The meeting was called off. (9) They called off the meeting.

By whom was the mistake made? (7) Who made the mistake?

A lie was told by Jake to his mum. (12) Jake told a lie to his mum.

Why were the sweets eaten by Joe? (18) Why did Joe eat the sweets?

Tomorrow, the computer will be mended by Felix. (33) Tomorrow Felix will mend the computer.

We asked 100 people to change these sentences from passive to active.



Determiners & Clauses

The grey cat ate five mice. (19) The, five

My toilet is blocked again. (43) my

Those poisonous spiders are going to be real trouble. (24) those

An owl will always return to its nest. (13) An, its

Every cloud has a silver lining. (4) Every, a

That is a truly awful smell. (9) a

We asked 100 people to identify the determiners in these sentences.



These five sausage have a taste of garlic. (9) These, five, a

Some people have all the luck. (3) Some, all, the

There goes my boy! (41) my

Which spider laid its eggs in the bath? (0) Which, its, bath

Less salt would make the chips healthier. (2) Less, the

My one great hope is that her phone is mended before Christmas. (12) My, one, her

We asked 100 people to identify the determiners in these sentences.



I worked hard at the allotment whilst my wife lay in bed. (32) whilst my wife lay in bed.

As the wind blew, he ran faster. (24) As the wind blew.

I put on three jumpers because there was a hard frost. (37) because there was a hard frost.

Whenever she visited, there was an argument. (26) Whenever she visited

Tom was driving even though he hadn't passed his test. (39) even though he hadn't passed his test.

He stuffed his pockets with sweets so that he could eat them later. (42) so that he could eat them later.

We asked 100 people to identify the subordinate clauses in these sentences.



He ate until he burped. (48) until he burped.

After she got up, she broke her phone. (21) After she got up

Once the fire was out, they went to bed. (24) Once the fire was out

While the cat's away, the mice will play. (22) While the cat's away

She decided to watch TV rather than do her homework. (32) rather than do her homework.

You can go for a sleepover provided you have cleaned your room. (28) provided you have cleaned your room.

We asked 100 people to identify the subordinate clauses in these sentences.



He ate from the blue bowl which he later broke. (45) which he later broke.

He gave it to his friend who had done his homework for him. (41) who had done his homework for him.

They sneaked into the library where the sweets were hidden. (42) where the sweets were hidden.

He turned on the TV which promptly fused the whole house. (34) which promptly fused the whole house.

The dogs which barked the most were taken away. (29) which barked the most

Jane, who was late again, missed the bus. (35) who was late again

We asked 100 people to identify the relative clauses in these sentences.



Do you know the boy who broke the window? (36) who broke the window.

I like the photo which he showed first. (42) which he showed first.

This the café where we first met. (37) where we first met.

Debbie, who liked gardening, grew sunflowers and roses. (45) who liked gardening

The girls, whom Mr Jones had told off, carried on chatting. (32) whom Mr Jones had told off

The cake that Mum had baked tasted delicious. (26) that Mum had baked

We asked 100 people to identify the relative clauses in these sentences.



Types of Phrases

She gobbled the extremely delicious cereal. (63) extremely delicious


The girl with the orange bag walked out of the blue door. (18) with the orange bag

The woman from Glasgow won the race. (26) from Glasgow

The tight-lipped teacher ordered him out. (38) tight-lipped

The pig, covered in mud, rolled around on the carpet. (34) covered in mud

The rain became heavier and heavier. (21) heavier and heavier

We asked 100 people to identify the adjectival phrases in these sentences. 

The snoring was irritatingly loud. (58) irritatingly loud


The box in the corner started to collapse. (21) in the corner

Sam was an intelligent, brave and considerate pupil. (38) intelligent, brave and considerate

She painted her room buttermilk yellow. (59) buttermilk yellow

Fans coming from the match fought the police. (14) coming from the match

The sun, which was setting quickly, lit up the horizon. (25) which was setting quickly

We asked 100 people to identify the adjectival phrases in these sentences. 

She ate her breakfast in the kitchen. (32) in the kitchen


He ran the race at the speed of light! (37) at the speed of light

On Monday we will have a spelling test. (29) On Monday

The aircraft fell like a stone. (33) like a stone

All at once the toilet overflowed. (21) All at once

At 6.30 you must report for duty. (19) At 6.30

We asked 100 people to identify the adverbial phrases in these sentences. 

They walked across the roof. (34) across the roof


Without much thought, they trampled through the flowers. (8) Without much thought; through the flowers

Rebekah went for a sleepover at the week-end. (38) at the week-end

You will work in silence! (40) in silence

In the wood the owls hooted. (29) In the wood

She slammed the door in a fit of rage. (23) in a fit of rage

We asked 100 people to identify the adjectival phrases in these sentences. 

I like the food you cook. (29) the food you cook


She chased the fat lazy cat. (58) the fat lazy cat

Both of my sisters are nurses. (19) Both of my sisters

She blew a kiss at the man with the dog. (4) a kiss; the man with the dog

All our books were given away. (18) All our books

The boy from Sheffield won easily. (27) The boy from Sheffield

We asked 100 people to identify the noun phrases in these sentences. 

He was woken by the hiss of the steam engine. (11) the hiss of the steam engine


A warm glow spread through her arms. (7) A warm glow; her arms

True love always wins through. (43) true love

He was struck by the powerful scent of the roses. (34) the powerful scent of the roses

A weak shaft of light shone through the temple. (9) A weak shaft of light; the temple

The vibrant red leaves lit fell one by one. (29) The vibrant red leaves

We asked 100 people to identify the noun phrases in these sentences. 

Other punctuation

Honestly he is a twit. (53) Honestly, he is a twit.

I ate bread plums and figs. (59) I ate bread, plums and figs.

The girl who had mousey hair shouted. (39) The girl, who had mousey hair, shouted.

Would you like green blue orange or mauve? (45) Would you like green, blue, orange or mauve?

She eats a lot but she is not fat. (47) She eats a lot, but she is not fat.

Freddy said "Get lost!" (40) Freddy said, "Get lost!"

We asked 100 people to insert commas in these sentences.



Sarah What do you want? (28) Sarah: What do you want?

He fell asleep it was had been a long day. (22) He fell asleep; it had been a long day.

She ate these foods crisps, peas, beans and melon. (34) She ate these foods: crisps, peas, beans and melon.

Sue ate five pears Jenny ate six. (15) Sue ate five pears; Jenny ate six.

These are the animals he saw rats, mice and slugs. (31) These are the animals he saw: rats, mice and slugs.

He arrived late he missed the bus. (18) He arrived late; he missed the bus.

We asked 100 people to insert either a colon or a semicolon into each of these sentences.



Why did he do it (84) Why did he do it?

He's mad (76) He's mad!

She ate it raw (72) She ate it raw!

How old is that (83) How old is that?

What is that (90) What is that?

I threw it in the rubbish bin (79) I threw it in the rubbish bin!

We asked 100 people to insert either a question mark or an exclamation mark into each of these sentences.



The old man who lived next door was bald. (38) The old man (who lived next door) was bald.

I hated the new car pink and yellow. (29) I hated the new car (pink and yellow).

The prize was given by Mrs Bug wearing a blue dress. (22) The prize was given by Mrs Bug (wearing a blue dress).

Add the butter which you weighed earlier to the sugar. (37) Add the butter (which you weighed earlier) to the sugar.

Sally aged 9 won the race. (23) Sally (aged 9) won the race.

She had five mice all from the same shop in her room. (28) She had five mice (all from the same shop) in her room.

We asked 100 people to insert brackets in these sentences.



Remember this I saved you. (32) Remember this – I saved you.

The cat curled up in its basket was watching intently. (19) The cat – curled up in its basket – was watching intently.

I had a choice to starve or to eat the mouldy bread. (27) I had a choice – to starve or to eat the mouldy bread.

Mr Jones standing on the desk looked down at the class. (23) Mr Jones – standing on the desk – looked down at the class.

There were two things she could do laugh or cry. (15) There were two things she could do – laugh or cry.

Philip late again made his way to the classroom. (11) Philip – late again – made his way to the classroom.

We asked 100 people to insert dashes in these sentences.



She picked the sweet smelling rose. (43) She picked the sweet-smelling rose.

Oliver was old and tight fisted. (34) Oliver was old and tight-fisted.

His house was custom built. (48) His house was custom-built.

She was fit and sports mad. (31) She was fit and sports-mad.

There was a build up of dirt around the hot tap. (17) There was a build-up of dirt around the hot tap.


The green sweets are sugar free. (19) The green sweets are sugar-free.

We asked 100 people to insert hyphens in these sentences.




Speech marks


She said, It's on fire!	76	She said, "It's on fire!"
How many spiders? asked Jo.	72	"How many spiders?" asked Jo.
It's not fair, grumbled Mary, I'm never allowed out.	42	"It's not fair," grumbled Mary, "I'm never allowed out."
I'm ill, declared Ben. It will rain tomorrow.	35	"I'm ill," declared Ben. "It will rain tomorrow."
Pointless SPaG, asserted Zara, is great fun!	45	"Pointless SPaG," asserted Zara, "is great fun!"
Why's that? asked Bill. She's not here.	37	"Why's that?" asked Bill. "She's not here."

We asked 100 people to put speech marks into these sentences. 


spiders have eight legs retorted sue	53	"Spiders have eight legs," retorted Sue.
sue asked what time is it now	42	Sue asked, "What time is it now?"
sit down shouted mr smith	37	"Sit down!" shouted Mr Smith.
what's that demanded miss pickles	46	"What's that?" demanded Miss Pickles.
who has eaten the chocolate asked mum	48	"Who has eaten the chocolate?" asked Mum.
hide now yelled the policeman	32	"Hide now!" yelled the policeman.

We asked 100 people to punctuate these sentences. 

i scored four goals boasted tom four more than bill	22	"I scored four goals," boasted Tom, "four more than Bill."
janet said i am not cleaning that toilet	46	Janet said, "I am not cleaning that toilet."
come here ordered mum i need to go shopping	0	"Come here!" ordered Mum. "I need to go shopping."
how come asked fred shes usually on time	5	"How come?" asked Fred. "She's usually on time."
its Saturday remarked sue and it is raining again	14	"It's Saturday," remarked Sue, "and it is raining again."
sprouts are yummy said dad as is broccoli	13	"Sprouts are yummy," said Dad, "as is broccoli."


We asked 100 people to punctuate these sentences. 

"I love dogs," said Tom.	46	Tom said that he loves dogs.
Jane said, "I eat eggs."	42	Jane said that she eats eggs.
"I always wake up early," said Joe.	35	Joe said that he always wakes up early.
"How long is there left?" asked Bert.	24	Bert asked how long there was left.
Sarah said, "I will tidy my room."	15	Sarah said that she would tidy her room.
Mark said, "I ran last Sunday."	19	Mark said that he ran last Sunday.

We asked 100 people to change these sentences to indirect speech. 


Some variation on these answers is allowed.

John said, "I am going fishing."	49	John said that he was going fishing.
"I have head lice again," observed Mary.	46	Mary observed that she had head lice again.
"For breakfast," boasted Simon, "I ate three shredded wheat."	27	Simon boasted that he had eaten three shredded wheat for breakfast.
"Get up Simon!" yelled Dave.	6	Dave told Simon to get up.
"How old are you Mary?" asked Sue.	11	Sue asked Mary how old she was.
"I will be going to town," announced Fred.	2	Fred announced that he would be going to town.

We asked 100 people to change these sentences to indirect speech. 

Some variation on these answers is allowed.

John said that he had had enough.	43	"I have had enough," said John.
Mary said that she would like to go out.	45	"I would like to go out," said Mary.
Tom told Joe to get his act together.	12	"Get your act together Joe!" ordered Tom.
Sue said she would kill the spider.	8	"I will kill the spider," said Sue.
Sarah asked if she could go as well.	31	"Can I come as well?" asked Sarah.
The weather forecaster predicted heavy rain tomorrow.	2	"Tomorrow there will be heavy rain," predicted the weather forecaster.

We asked 100 people to change these sentences to direct speech. 

Apostrophes

the cat belonging to Jane	73	Jane's cat
the dog of Mr Jones	47	Mr Jones's dog or Mr Jones' dog
the cake belonging to the children	31	the children's cake
the fingers belonging to it	37	its fingers
the legs of the boy	59	the boy's legs
the legs of the boys	43	the boys' legs

We asked 100 people rewrite the phrases using an apostrophe where necessary.



the pen of my brother-in-law	43	my brother-in-law's pen
the coats of the women	38	the women's coats
the leaves of the tree	67	the tree's leaves
the house of Mr & Mrs Smith	29	Mr & Mrs Smith's house
the nose of Sarah	78	Sarah's nose
the house belonging to Mary and me	2	Mary's and my house

We asked 100 people rewrite the phrases using an apostrophe where necessary.



It is a lovely day.	69	It's a lovely day.
She cannot come.	62	She can't come.
It did not rain.	72	It didn't rain.
You shall not pass.	41	You shan't pass.
Whose cake will not rise?	17	Whose cake won't rise?
They have spots.	59	They've spots.

We asked 100 people shorten these sentences using an apostrophe where necessary.



We will eat it.	69	We'll eat it.
Who is ready? I am not.	14	Who's ready. I'm not.
He would eat it – he is greedy.	31	He'd eat it – he's greedy.
We could not believe it.	62	We couldn't believe it.
You have cracked it.	65	You've cracked it.
They would not because they are daft.	27	They wouldn't because they're daft.

We asked 100 people shorten these sentences using an apostrophe where necessary.



childrens toilet	39	children's toilet
apple's and pear's half price!	53	Apples and pears half price!
Dunkin Donut's	4	Dunkin' Donuts
It's mine and not your's.	35	It's mine and not yours.
Stop using apostrophe's wrongly!	57	Stop using apostrophes wrongly!
Now open on Sunday's.	60	Now open on Sundays.

We asked 100 people to correct these phrases/ sentences.



Its time for chip's.	32	It's time for chips.
Second hand book's £1	52	Second hand books £1
Tuesday is Ladie's night.	42	Tuesday is Ladies' night.
I have'nt a clue.	38	I haven't a clue.
Boys trouser's	0	Boys' trousers
Lets go banana's!	28	Let's go bananas!

We asked 100 people to correct these phrases/ sentences.

