|  |
| --- |
| **Vocabulary: Special Usage** |

**No / Not**

No is an adjective used to modify nouns.

Ex. *We found no apples at the grocery store.*

*There is no time left to discuss this matter.*

Not negates verbs, it is an adverb used before much, many, any, enough, and any article or number modifying a noun.

Ex. *They did not arrive in time to get popcorn and drinks.*

*I will not have found a job by the time I graduate.*

*There were not enough bottles of wine at the party.*

*Not a single house had a burglar alarm.*

**Too / Very**

Too means such a large degree of something, that an action is avoided.

Ex. *This car is too expensive to buy. We’ll have to find a cheaper one.*

*She is too beautiful. She’ll never go out with me.*

Very means a large degree of something.

Ex*. There were very strong winds because of the storm.*

*I want a coat that is very warm.*

**Few / A Few; Little / A little**

A few means a small quantity of countable nouns.

Ex*. I have a few dollars in my pocket.*

Few means not enough of a countable noun.

Ex. *There are few reasons to buy a big car.*

A little means a small quantity of a non-countable noun.

Ex. *There is a little space here for you to sit.*

Little means not enough of a non-countable noun.

Ex. *There is little logic in taking seven courses in one semester.*

**Despite / In spite of**

Despite and In spite of are interchangeable, they both mean that the existence of something had little or no effect.

Ex. *Despite the rain, we went for a jog.*

*In spite of my hard work, I was overlooked for the promotion.*

**Infinitives without To**

After the verbs let, make, hear, see, watch and feel.

Ex. *I see her dance at the club every Saturday*

*I should make her pay for the damage she did to my computer.*

*I saw him enter the building, but I didn’t hear him call her name.*

**Singular and Plural Forms in Measurements**

We use the singular form of such words as foot, dollar, year, etc., when such words are used as adjectives; we use the plural form when such words are used alone as nouns.

Ex. *He bought a thousand-dollar engagement ring for his girlfriend.*

*The ring cost one thousand dollars.*

**Negative Openings**

We often begin a sentence with a negative word followed by an auxiliary verb and the subject to emphasize a negative declaration.

Ex. *Never have I seen such a beautiful apartment!*

*Nowhere will you find a better deal.*

**Hyphenated Adjectives**

If two or more words are combined to form an adjective, hyphens are

required. Adjectives are never plural, so none of the words in a hyphenated adjective

is in plural form.

Ex. *She bought a forty-foot yacht*

*I went on a three-hour tour.*

*Julie has a seven-year-old daughter.*

No hyphens are needed if the modifier is placed after the noun.

Ex. *Her yacht is forty feet.*

*The tour was three hours.*

*She is seven years old.*

**Farther/ Further**

Farther means additional distance.

Ex. *The museum is not located here, it’s farther away.*

Further means more.

Ex. *I need further assistance if you want me to complete this project on time.*

*Do you have any further questions?*

**In/Into**

In is a preposition meaning to be within certain boundaries of a place or idea.

Ex. *I sat in her office for an hour.*

*You are in trouble!*

*I saw her through the window while I was in the bookstore.*

Into is a preposition establishing a movement from outside certain boundaries to inside.

Ex. *I’ll go into the store to buy wine and cheese.*

*She needs a tourist visa to get into the U.S.*

**Beside/Besides**

Beside is a preposition meaning next to.

Ex. *I will buy the house beside the park.*

*“Hi! George, sit beside me,” said Marianne.*

Besides means in addition to, or as well as.

Ex. *Besides soccer, Janice plays tennis and handball.*

**Used to/ To Be Used to/ To Get Used to**

Used to is a modal verb—followed by a base verb—meaning a habitual action that

took place in the past—but not anymore.

Ex. *I used to love John. Now I love Rick.*

*I didn’t use to smoke cigars, but now I do.*

To be used to + noun means to be accustomed to or familiar with that noun.

Ex*: Sherry is not used to his French accent*.

*At first I didn’t like living in a big city, but I am used to it now*.

To get used to means to become accustomed to or familiar with a noun.

Ex. *I am slowly getting used to the cold weather here.*

*I got used to having Paul as a partner after a few days.*

**Some/Somewhat**

Some is a unit of measurement meaning a small quantity.

Ex. *I need some cash to buy presents for my daughter.*

Somewhat is an adverb meaning fairly or a little bit.

Ex. *I was somewhat nervous when I walked onto the stage.*

**Set/Sit**

To set means to organize objects on a surface.

Ex. *I set the table with my mother’s best silverware.*

To sit means to rest on a chair.

Ex. *I sat next to Julie at the coffee shop.*

**Such/Such a**

Such a/an is placed before singular countable nouns*.*

Ex. *Andrea has such a charming smile.*

Such is placed before non-countable nouns or plural countable nouns.

Ex. *She has such wisdom. That couple has such adorable children.*

|  |
| --- |
| *Choose the correct word or phrase. Be sure to conjugate the verbs.* |

1. Have you heard her (sing, to sing) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
2. It’s your turn (do, to do) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the dishes.
3. It’s not my fault; they made me (do, to do) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it.
4. Please, (set, sit) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ down.
5. My kids are so helpful. They (set, sit) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the table every night.
6. She (be used to – used to) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ getting up early. She has little kids.
7. Before she had the kids, she (be used to – used to) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sleep in.
8. (Despite – In spite) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the snowstorm, they went to work.
9. (Despite – In spite) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the snowstorm, they went to work.
10. Never (have I seen – I have seen) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ such a great sculpture.
11. (have I seen – I have seen) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ such a beautiful sculpture.
12. (A little – Little) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was given to the problem; and that made it worse.
13. Do you have (a little – little) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ money that I could borrow?
14. She asked me how (I could say – could I say) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ such a thing.
15. (I could say – Could I say) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ something here please?
16. He’s (such a – such)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ good actor.
17. She speaks (such a – such) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ good Japanese.
18. (Never have we – Never we have) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enjoyed a meal so much.

|  |
| --- |
| *Select the appropriate answer.* |

1. Go (as far as – until) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State St. and turn left.
2. We will be here (as far as – until) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ five o’clock.
3. I opened the door and walked (in – into) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the room.
4. I stayed (in – into) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there for over an hour.
5. (Beside – Besides) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I think you need to come in a bit earlier.
6. Here, come and sit (beside – besides) ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me.
7. Very (few – little) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people really care, you know.
8. They spent very (few – little) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ time in Regina.
9. This is (no – not) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ time to panic.
10. This is (no – not) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a good time to panic.
11. It’s only 16ºC. It’s (too – very) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cold to go swimming.
12. The water in Maine was (too – very) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cold, but we swam anyway.
13. Soon, her thirty-five (year – years) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ career will end.
14. She’s worked here for thirty-five (year-years) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. I had wanted to build a six (foot – feet) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fence, but later I decided that 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would be enough.
16. Napoleon was only about five (foot – feet) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tall.
17. There were so many bouquets in the florist shop that I couldn’t choose (among – between) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them.
18. Just (among – between) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you and me, I think he is wrong.