

## 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.*

## Advanced 3 – Exercise 37 – Vocabulary: Special Usage

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 16°C. 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.