

**Easy English!**  
By Adrian Wallwork

# ***Wordsearches***



*Widen Your Vocabulary  
in English*

 Springer

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**Series Editor**

Adrian Wallwork

English for Academics SAS

Pisa, Italy

Easy English is a series of books intended for students and teachers of English as a foreign language.

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/15586>

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# Introduction to the Student

## What Is *Easy English*?

*Easy English* is a series of books to help you learn and revise your English with minimal effort. You can improve your English by

- reading texts in English that you might well normally read in your own language e.g. jokes, personality tests, lateral thinking games, wordsearches.
- doing short exercises to improve specific areas grammar and vocabulary, i.e. the areas that tend to lead to the most mistakes - the aim is just to focus on what you really need rather than overwhelming you with a mass of rules, many of which may have no practical daily value

## What's the Point of this Book?

On the train, on the beach, on the sofa ... many people in all parts of the world enjoy doing wordsearches. This book is aimed at such people who happen to be studying English too. The idea is to turn a popular pastime into an educational tool.

But it's much more than a book on wordsearches. It is designed to help you learn and practise the vocabulary related to various topics. These topics reflect the kinds of everyday conversations that you might have both with native and non-native speakers of English.

The topics also coincide with many of the topics that you will find tested in typical examinations such as the Cambridge exams (First Certificate, Advanced), TOEFL, IELTS, Trinity etc.

## Which Is the Best Format to Buy this Book in?

Paper, without any doubt. The exercises involve you writing or circling words directly onto the page. With an e-reader this would be much more difficult.

## What Level of English Do I Need in Order to Benefit from this Book?

If your level is intermediate and above, then you should be able to do most of the exercises.

## How Should I Use the Exercises?

Each chapter, and some sections within a chapter, begins with a list of **questions**. These questions are the type of questions that you would need when having a conversation about a particular topic. Choose the questions you find the most interesting and useful, and try to learn them. You can then use them for example:

- on a social occasion with native or native speakers (e.g. a work dinner, a conference lunch, a party)
- in the classroom during an English lesson
- when chatting, either face to face or online
- during an English examination if you are required to do an oral test involving pairwork

After the list of questions, you will find a list of words (**word list**) associated with the topic. In the case of the less common words, there are exercises to test your knowledge of these words e.g. matching with definitions. If you are not sure of the meaning of the words, then use an online dictionary such as:

<http://www.learnersdictionary.com> (US English)

<http://oaadonline.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com> (British English)

<http://www.wordreference.com/> (US English)

<http://www.howjsay.com> (British English)

These sites will also tell you how to pronounce a word. If you want to see the words used in context, and to see how they would be translated into your own language, then try [context.reverso.net](http://context.reverso.net), which in my opinion is probably the most useful site for learning English vocabulary that is currently available on the web.

The words in the **word list** are then contained in the final exercise, the **wordsearch**.

## How Difficult Are the Wordsearches?

There is a huge variety of wordsearches in this book, from the very easy to the really quite difficult.

Although to some extent a wordsearch is language independent - you are looking for sequences of letters - the more English you know, the more likely you are to spot the words.

However, the main difficulty of a wordsearch depends on various factors:

- i) the size of the wordsearch - generally (but certainly not always) the bigger the wordsearch the more difficult it will be
- ii) the number of words to search for, and how densely packed they are within the wordsearch
- iii) how many words are directed north (i.e. from bottom to top, rather than top to bottom)

Some are easy, others are marked 'challenging'.

If you get stuck, then you can look at the key. The key does not give anything away, because you don't actually see where the words are located, you are just given the coordinates.

### *How Long Will it Take me to Complete a Wordsearch?*

From a minimum of a couple of minutes, to up to 15 minutes for the 'challenging' ones. In some cases you may have difficulty in completing them, particularly in finding the very short words.

### *How Do the Keys Work?*

The keys to the wordsearches look like this:

**1**  
 BELT (7, 3, SW) BIKINI (7, 8, NW) BLOUSE (8, 6, N) BRA (7, 4, NW)  
 CAP (2, 4, NE) CLOTHES (7, 1, W) COAT (5, 7, W) DRESS (1, 8, E)  
 GLOVE (3, 2, SE) HAT (6, 6, SE) JACKET (1, 7, NE) JEANS (1, 2, S)

The number in **bold** refers to the number of the wordsearch.

The WORDS in capital letters refer to the words in the wordsearch.

The numbers and letters in brackets, refer to the location of the word within the wordsearch.

BELT (7, 3, SW) means that the first letter (B) of the word 'belt' is located at the intersection the seventh column and the third row. SW = south west: this indicates the direction of the word.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	S	E	H	T	O	L	C
2	J	K	G	P	A	T	L
3	E	I	A	L	E	R	B
4	A	C	N	K	O	E	B
5	N	Y	C	I	L	V	Q
6	S	A	K	T	K	H	E
7	J	T	A	O	C	I	A

In some cases the keys look like this:

### 13

1 outlet 2 trial 3 brochure 4 range 5 campaign 6 7 share 8 line CV 9 store 10 CEO 11 PR

1 retail 2 label 3 franchise 4 buyer 5 fair 6 wrap 7 sample 8 research 9 budget 10 marketing 11 mix

BROCHURE (3, 4, E) BUDGET (2, 7, E) BUYER (10, 5, W) CAMPAIGN (2, 9, E) CEO (11, 1, 5) CV (2, 3, S) FAIR (8, 7, E) FRANCHISE (2, 8, E) LABEL (1, 6, NE) LINE (1, 10, N) MARKETING (2, 2, SE) MIX (2, 2, E) OUTLET (9, 10, W) PR (2, 10, E) RANGE (6, 3, E) RESEARCH (3, 6, E) RETAIL (10, 2, W) SAMPLE (1, 2, S) SHARE (10, 1, W) STORE (11, 4, S) TRIAL (1, 1, E) WRAP (5, 3, SW)

The parts in normal script (1 outlet, 2 trial etc) refer to the exercises that precede the wordsearches - in this particular case, they refer to the exercises on the pages immediately before Wordsearch 13.

## ***How Much Will I Learn by Doing the Wordsearches?***

The book is designed to familiarize you with vocabulary for use in particular situations. The word lists and related exercises should help you focus on the meaning of the words. The wordsearches themselves are a good way to help you focus on the correct spelling of a word. You should also have fun in English doing something you might easily otherwise have done in your own language. Personally I find doing wordsearches a relaxing way of passing the time on a train or plane, and I hope you will enjoy the ones in this book.

## ***What Are the Other Books in this Series? Which One Should I Read Next?***

Currently there are five other books in the series.

Test your personality - *have fun and learn useful phrases*

Word games, riddles and logic tests - *tax your brain and boost your English*

Jokes - *have a laugh and improve your English*

Top 50 grammar mistakes in English - *how to avoid them*

Top 50 vocabulary mistakes in English - *how to avoid them*

These books are designed to be dipped into rather than being read from the first page to the last. 'Dipped into' means that you can pick up the book and read any page you like, and for as long as you like.

You are likely to have more fun with the books if you read two, or three, at the same time. So rather than spending the next month concentrating exclusively on wordsearches you might find it more fun and stimulating to read a few jokes from the Jokes book, and do a few word games and quizzes.

# Teachers' Notes

## How Should I Use this Book in Class?

You can use the book as a source of filler exercises. Or you can combine it with an exam syllabus - the topics are designed to reflect many of those which regularly come up in English tests and examinations.

There are three main elements to each section:

- 1) topic-related questions
- 2) word list (with space for students to write translation)
- 3) wordsearch

Don't feel you have to use the three elements in the order they are presented. You could in fact do them in the opposite order. With a reasonably high level class you could begin with the wordsearch (with or without the word list). Alternatively you could start with the word list, then have a class discussion, and then do the wordsearch at the end of the lesson or set it for homework.

If you do the wordsearches in class, then set a time limit (e.g. 5, 10 minutes). Students then have to see how many words they can find within that time limit. You can get students to work together, you can also make it competitive and offer a small prize to the student or group of students who find the most words.

Some of the wordsearches are quite challenging, particularly those that have words that start towards the bottom and go up or up and diagonally. Basically you can work out the difficulty of a wordsearch by looking at the key, the more Ns (for north) you see, then the more likely the wordsearch will be difficult. But clearly the best way to assess the difficulty and the time involved, is to do the wordsearch yourself too.

The keys are deliberately given in compass coordinates (N, S, E, W), so that even if the student looks at the key they won't be able to see all the words at once. The other main reason was to save on space in the book, as it would have required an additional forty or more pages. However, if you want to provide a more visual version of the key, simply photocopy the page, do the wordsearch, and then photocopy your answers for the class.

## Where Do the Wordsearches Come from?

Just under half of the 83 wordsearches in this book were created automatically using the following website:

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>

This is a very simple-to-use website that produces the wordsearch and the key (given in the format that I have used in this book, i.e. using the compass points).

I then modified these automatic wordsearches to add more words to the spaces left in the grid.

The other wordsearches were invented by me over the course of the last 35 years, and a few appeared in books of mine that are no longer in print. My wordsearches tend to be more dense than the ones produced automatically, but also tend to use less of the north direction for the placement of the words (using north-directing words makes the wordsearch slightly more difficult).

## Why Are the Word Lists Sometimes Repeated Twice Immediately After Each Other?

Occasionally the two words lists may be slightly different. However, the main reason for repeating them was to ensure that the Word List was always on the same page as the Wordsearch, so that readers don't have to switch back and forth between pages.

## Mistakes in this Book

When I proposed this book to the publisher, Springer, I thought it would be one of those books that I could write fairly quickly. What I had not been prepared for was the massive amount of time it would take me to lay out the wordsearches. Originally I had no numbers at the side of the wordsearches. I then had to introduce them when I realised the sheer amount of space that would have been required to create the keys to the wordsearches using the traditional circling-the-word approach. This meant I had to start from scratch and re-type the wordsearches.

Wordsearches, and particularly the keys, are spectacularly difficult to proofread/check, so please if you find any mistakes do let me know (my email address is at the bottom of the next page).

You might also find a whole load of other words that appear in the Wordsearches but are not listed in the word lists. For example, just for fun I tried to find other words in Wordsearch 21 that had appeared at random. I found a total of 20 extra words, including *god*, *soul* and *son*; but I can assure you that nothing demonic is going on!

## **What Other Similar Books Might I Find Useful?**

If you teach children and young teenagers, they you might be interested in my book of word games called *Mindtwisters* (published by Scholastic).

Various games and discussion exercises for older teenagers and adults can be found in *Discussions AZ* (two volumes: intermediate and advanced, published by Cambridge University Press).

There is also a series of discussion, warm up exercises, fillers, etc published by SEFL ([sefl.co.uk](http://sefl.co.uk)).

## **Ideas for Other Books for this Series**

If you have any ideas for other books that could be part of the Easy English series then please write to me.

## **The Author**

Since 1984 Adrian Wallwork has been teaching English as a foreign language - from General English to Business English to Scientific English. Although he lives and works in Pisa (Italy), through his university work he has taught students of all nationalities. Adrian is the author of over 30 textbooks for Springer Science+Business Media, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, the BBC, and many other publishers. He can be contacted at: [adrian.wallwork@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.wallwork@gmail.com)

# Acknowledgements

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Some of the anagrams were created at: [Quickworksheets.net](http://Quickworksheets.net)

Just under half of the wordsearches were created automatically by a program available online at this site:

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>

Particular thanks to Robert Parks at Wordsmyth and Prabhav Jain at EasyDefine, who gave me permission to use the definitions that their websites enable users to automatically generate definitions. EasyDefine definitions are taken from <https://wordnet.princeton.edu/wordnet/citing-wordnet/>

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