

# VOCABULARY WORKBOOK

CHECK YOUR ENGLISH  
VOCABULARY FOR

# LIVING IN THE UK

Rawdon Wyatt

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All you need to improve your English vocabulary

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# Introduction

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This book has been written for anyone coming to live and / or work in the United Kingdom, and who wants to:

- test and develop their knowledge of the key words and expressions that they might need or encounter on a day-to-day basis.
- learn about different aspects of the United Kingdom, including its history, politics, laws, rules, institutions and way of life.

The book contains exercises that present the vocabulary and information in a lively and interesting way. Crosswords, quizzes, gap-fills and other tasks mean that you will test and develop your knowledge in an active way.

When you use the book, you should not go through the exercises 'mechanically'. It is better to choose areas that are of particular interest, or areas that you feel would be particularly relevant to your needs.

The exercises are accompanied by a full key at the back. This not only gives you all the answers, but also provides you with a lot of other information that might be useful.

It is important to record new words and expressions that you learn. Try to develop your own personal vocabulary 'bank' in a notebook or file. Review the words and expressions on a regular basis so that they become a part of your 'productive' vocabulary.

You will find it very helpful to use a dictionary when you do the exercises. A good dictionary will give a clear definition of words and expressions, show you how they are pronounced, and give sample sentences that show how they are used in context. The Macmillan English Dictionary (ISBN 978-0333-964828) is particularly recommended, as it also provides a lot of background information on the United Kingdom and its various institutions.

Many of exercises and questions in this book are based on the things you will need to know if you are going to take the Home Office Life in the UK Test. The UK Home Office produces a very useful book called *Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship* (ISBN 978-0113-413027), which we recommend as a reference source. You might also like to consider the *British Citizenship Test Study Guide*, published by Red Squirrel Publishing (ISBN 978-0955-215919), which contains typical Citizenship Test questions.

One further resource, and one that would be particularly helpful when using this book, would be a detailed large-scale map of the United Kingdom. These are usually available from the travel section of any well-stocked bookshop.

While you are using this book, you should note that national rules and laws are constantly changing and evolving, and while the information in this book was correct when it went to print, there may have been changes since then. You can keep up to date by checking the website [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk), which provides public service information from the UK government, and includes useful directories and links to on-line services.

This book is not an official text relating to the Home Office Life in the UK Test. For further information about all aspects of British Citizenship and the Life in the UK Test, visit [www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk](http://www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk).

Please also note that this book is not intended to provide advice of a statutory or regulatory nature, nor is it a statement of the law. For advice and assistance regarding employment, health and social welfare, legal and other matters, contact should be made with an appropriate body, such as Citizens' Advice.

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## Abbreviations

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Exercise 1: Complete these sentences with an appropriate abbreviation from the box. The meanings of these abbreviations are explained in the answer key.

AA	ASBO	BA	BBC	C of E	GCSE	GMT	MP	NHS
		NSPCC	PIN	RAF	RSPCA	VAT		

1. If you feel strongly about problems in the area you live in, you should write to your local \_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_ produces and broadcasts a wide range of television and radio programmes.
3. During the war, he flew transport aircraft for the \_\_\_\_.
4. If you want to book a flight to Mumbai, you could try the \_\_\_\_ website to see if there are any good deals or special offers available.
5. When you use a credit or debit card in a shop, you will need to know your \_\_\_\_.
6. When they are 15 or 16 years old, children in England and Wales sit their \_\_\_\_ exams.
7. If you think your neighbour is treating his dog badly, you should call the \_\_\_\_.
8. And if you think he is being cruel to his children, you should call the police or the \_\_\_\_.
9. Our neighbour caused us so much trouble that eventually we asked the police to apply for a / an \_\_\_\_.
10. It's eight o'clock in the evening in Singapore, which means that it's midday \_\_\_\_.
11. The \_\_\_\_ is always short of doctors, nurses, beds, equipment and just about everything else they need.
12. Religious leaders say that there has been a sharp drop in attendance at \_\_\_\_ services.
13. The printer costs £100, plus \_\_\_\_ at 17.5%.
14. If you own a car, membership of an organisation such as the \_\_\_\_ is recommended.

Exercise 2: Instructions as above.

A and E	BA	BT	CAB	DVLA	ESOL	FCO
FE	GP	ID	MOT	NI	PG	TUC

1. You've had that cough for a long time. You should really go and see your \_\_\_\_.
2. The majority of telephone lines in the UK are provided by \_\_\_\_.
3. If you have a legal problem, it sometimes helps to talk to the \_\_\_\_, who might be able to give you some useful advice.
4. Before you start work, your employer will usually ask you for your \_\_\_\_ number.
5. A lot of workers' organisations in Britain are represented by the \_\_\_\_.
6. Some form of \_\_\_\_, such as a passport or driving licence, is often required in places such as banks, airports, etc.
7. All vehicles over three years old must have a valid \_\_\_\_ certificate to remain on the road.
8. If you come from outside the European Union and want to drive a car in Britain, you will need a driving licence that is recognised by the \_\_\_\_.

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9. This film has a \_\_\_\_\_ rating, so some people may not want their children to watch it.
  10. A lot of people who work also do an evening course at a / an \_\_\_\_\_ college.
  11. British \_\_\_\_\_ certificates that are recognised around the world include PET, FCE, CPE and IELTS.
  12. If you travel abroad, you can find lots of useful information on the \_\_\_\_\_ website.
  13. If you have an accident or suddenly become ill and you require urgent medical treatment, you should try to get to the \_\_\_\_\_ department at your nearest hospital.
  14. She left university after three years with a \_\_\_\_\_ in Modern Languages.

Exercise 3: Abbreviations are often used in small advertisements (called *classifieds* or *small ads*) in newspapers, especially when someone is renting / letting property, or selling a car. Look at the advertisements in the boxes, then complete the longer descriptions with words or expressions formed from the abbreviations in **bold**.

ATTRACTIVE furnished and **s/c one-bdrm** flat **nr** Woodstock. **CH**. All **mod cons**. **N/s** preferred. No pets. £700 **pcm inc** bills. **Dep** required. **Min 6 mth** let.

We have an attractive furnished and \_\_\_\_\_ one-\_\_\_\_\_ flat to rent \_\_\_\_\_ the town of Woodstock. The flat benefits from \_\_\_\_\_ and has all the \_\_\_\_\_ that you would expect in a property of this class. We would prefer you to be a \_\_\_\_\_. We will not allow pets in our property. The rent is £700 \_\_\_\_\_, which \_\_\_\_\_ bills. You will also need to pay a \_\_\_\_\_ when you move in. You will need to rent the flat for a \_\_\_\_\_ of six \_\_\_\_\_.

MAZDA MX5 1.8. Metallic black. 2002. **Exc** condition. **A/C, P/S**. Recently serviced. **FSH**. MOT until **e/o** year. £9500 **ono**.

I am selling my metallic black 2002 model Mazda MX5 1.8. It is in \_\_\_\_\_ condition. It has \_\_\_\_\_ to keep you cool in summer, and \_\_\_\_\_ which makes it easy to turn the car around. It has been serviced recently, and it has a \_\_\_\_\_ so that you know it has been well-maintained. The MOT is valid until the \_\_\_\_\_ the year. I am selling it for £9500, \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Cultural do's and don'ts

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This exercise looks at some of the things that you should or should not do in the UK. In many cases, these will be the same in your country, but you might find some differences. Match the first part of each sentence on the left with its most appropriate second part on the right, then decide if each situation is **acceptable** or **unacceptable**. In some cases, this will depend on the nature of the situation. The first one has been done for you.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Arrive at someone's house empty-handed...          | ...they are.   |
| 2. Ask someone about...                               | ...they earn.  |
| 3. Ask someone how much...                            | ...in front of other people.   |
| 4. Ask someone how old...                             | ...at a bus stop, in a shop, etc.                                    |
| 5. Belch after a meal...                              | ...walking along the street.   |
| 6. Blow your nose...                                  | ...for an informal party.  |
| 7. Compliment someone...                              | ...when they have invited you for drinks, dinner, etc.               |
| 8. Drive a car without showing courtesy...            | ...without asking them for their permission first.                   |
| 9. Drop litter or spit...                             | ...their politics.   |
| 10. Eat or drink while...                             | ...are talking to you.   |
| 11. Eat with your...                                  | ...you do not hear or understand them.                               |
| 12. Forget to say...                                  | ...in front of the person who has bought it for you.                 |
| 13. Greet someone without...                          | ... "Please" or "Thank you".   |
| 14. Hold hands or show gentle affection with...       | ...on the ground.  |
| 15. Interrupt someone when they...                    | ...about someone's skin colour, religion, culture, sexuality, etc.   |
| 16. Leave a party or other social occasion without... | ... shaking hands or kissing them.                                   |
| 17. Make jokes...                                     | ...a meal in a restaurant.   |
| 18. Offer to split the bill at the end of...          | ...fingers.  |
| 19. Only buy drinks for yourself...                   | ...speaking with people you don't know very well.                    |
| 20. Open a present...                                 | ...invited to an informal party.                                     |
| 21. Point or stare...                                 | ...on their clothes or possessions.                                  |
| 22. Contradict or disagree...                         | ...with your shoes on.   |
| 23. Push into the queue...                            | ...with someone during a discussion.                                 |
| 24. Refusing to eat food...                           | ...to get someone's attention in a pub, restaurant, shop, etc.       |
| 25. Say "Eh?" or "What?" to someone if...             | ...at people.  |
| 26. Smoke in someone's house...                       | ...to other road users.  |
| 27. Try to bring the price down...                    | ...when you are in the pub with friends.                             |
| 28. Use humour and gentle irony when...               | ...when you are buying something in a shop.                          |
| 29. Use the toilet...                                 | ...to show your appreciation for the food.                           |
| 30. Walk into someone's house...                      | ...your boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife, etc, in public places. |
| 31. Whistle, click your fingers or shout...           | ...in a pub or restaurant if you are 'caught short' in the street.   |
| 32. Arrive slightly late when you are...              | ...thanking your host for his / her hospitality.                     |
|   | ...that is given to you, at a dinner party for example.              |

# Education

**Exercise 1:** Complete sentences 1 – 18 with a word or words, and write these into the grid below. Some of the letters are already in the grid. If you do this correctly, you will reveal a two-word expression in the shaded vertical strip that can be used to complete sentence 19. Note that where an answer requires two words, you do not need to leave a space in the grid.

1.									U		S			
2.					S					E				
3.	C			D						O			L	
4.						R						Y		
5.					E				N					
6.						U					O			
7.			L	U						Y				
8.						B								

9.				M					H					
10.		E		I					S					
11.									E	E				
12.						U					E			
13.									G	H				
14.						G								
15.					N	G						S		
16.						A							S	
17.	P	R							T					
18.					C					U			O	

- Many children begin their educational development at a \_\_\_\_\_ school (also called a *kindergarten*) from the age of 3.
- Most schools in the UK are \_\_\_\_\_ schools: they are supported with money from the government and provide free education for children.
- Most schools in the UK are \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_, which means that girls and boys are educated together.
- Between the ages of 5 and 11, children go to \_\_\_\_\_ school.
- Between the ages of 11 and 16, 17 or 18, children go to \_\_\_\_\_ school.
- Although education is free, parents are expected to pay for their child's school \_\_\_\_\_ and sports wear.
- Schools often ask parents to make \_\_\_\_\_ contributions for school activities, but children will not be excluded from these activities if the parents cannot or will not make these payments.
- Independent schools are privately run, but are often confusingly called \_\_\_\_\_ schools.
- All schools ask parents to sign a 'contract' known as a \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ agreement, in which both parents and the school promise to do everything they can to help children with their education.
- All schools have to run \_\_\_\_\_ education classes, but parents can withdraw their children from these classes if they want.
- All children receive \_\_\_\_\_ advice from their schools from the age of 14.
- When they are 16 or 17, many young people go to their local college to continue with their education or learn a skill. This is known as \_\_\_\_\_ education, and is free for people up to the age of 19.