

Lesson 87

stuff

Stuff is an informal word that means ‘things’. We often use the word **things** or **stuff** instead of naming the objects, material or idea that we’re referring to. **Things** is plural while **stuff** is singular. (“Whose are all these things?” or “Whose is all this stuff?” both mean the same.)

a) “We left all our **stuff** in the car while we went to look for a hotel room.”

Stuff means ‘personal possessions’ or ‘luggage’ in this example.

b) “Let’s go to an English restaurant - I hate all this foreign **stuff!**”

Stuff means ‘food’ in this example.

Ron: Can’t we go home now, Alan? It’s getting late.

Alan: Forget it. We’ve still got loads of stuff left to do. This job has to be ready for tomorrow morning.

Kim: What’s Craig doing?

Dan: He’s upstairs watching a Rambo video.

Kim: Don’t you think he’s a bit too young to watch that kind of stuff?

Mary: Whose is all this stuff lying on the floor?

Ted: It’s Ron’s. You know he’s too lazy to put things away properly.

Ron: Where’s all the stuff I left here?

Ted: In your filing-cabinet. The boss asked me to file it away.

What do you call the stuff you -

a) put on a bicycle chain

b) clean your teeth with

c) use when you have dry skin

Do you take much stuff with you when you go on holiday? -

Too much stuff?

Have you got much stuff at home that could be thrown out?

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*How much of the stuff on TV do you find interesting? -
How much stuff on TV do you think is absolutely lousy?*

beard bearded moustache

The hair that grows between the nose and the top lip is called a **moustache**. The hair that grows on a man's chin or cheeks is called a **beard**. If a man has a beard we can say he is **bearded**: if he doesn't have a moustache or beard we say he is **clean-shaven**.

Can you think of any famous bearded men?

How long do you think it takes to grow a moustache?

Are there any jobs where male employees have to be clean-shaven?

on the way on your way

The word **way** can be used with the idea of a journey. **On the way** means during a journey.

Felipe: Do you want a lift home, Veronika?

Ver: You're sure it's not inconvenient for you?

Felipe: Not at all. I'm going to the Sports Centre and it's on my way.

If you are **on your way** somewhere it means that you are already going there.

Jill: Good afternoon - Allbright Architects. This is Jill, how can I help you?

Ann: Jill, it's Ann Tansley here. We're all waiting for Kate. We've got a meeting with her.

Sue: Kate just called me, Mrs Tansley. Her other appointment ran late but she's on her way now. She told me to tell you that she left ten minutes ago and she would be there by 3.15.

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Do you usually go straight home after the lesson or do you stop somewhere on your way?

What's the longest flight you've ever made? - Did you stop on the way?

tip n. v.

To show our thanks to waiters, cab-drivers, porters, or staff in a hotel, we can leave an amount of cash called a **tip**.

Sue: Aren't you going to leave the waitress a tip, Bob?

Bob: No I'm not. She kept us waiting far too long.

Sue: Yes, you're right. She wasn't very helpful, was she?

● “Guests often ask us what to do about tipping and to make things easier we have set up a special account for this purpose. Money received into this account is shared equally and distributed to staff twice yearly. Please ask at reception for details.”

Do you normally tip?-

When would you or wouldn't you leave a tip?

What advice would you give a visitor to your country about tipping? -

Have you ever been to a country where things were different?

range n. v. **product range** **age-range** **price-range**

The word **range** means different things that belong to the same group. It's often used to mean a choice. If there is a lot of choice we can say there is a **wide range**. If we can't choose between many things we can say there is a **narrow range** or a **limited range**.

● “The college teaches a very large range of subjects.”

● “The Windsor House catalogue offers a very wide range of top-class household items.”

● “If we don't believe we can increase our market share we have to increase our product range. Otherwise we have no way to grow.”

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Sometimes we use the word **range** with the idea of area between a minimum and maximum limit. If you want to buy a car, for example, you have to decide what **price range** you're interested in; for example between £12,000 and £15,000 or between £25,000 and £35,000.

An **age range** describes what the minimum age and maximum age for something is.

● “The age range on our music courses is huge. We’ve got school-kids and retirees.”

*Do schools offer pupils a range of foreign languages to choose from?
Do you think they ought to?*

Do you have a wide range of interests? - Like what?

What’s the price range for restaurants in your town? - And hotels?

Is there a good range of hotels in this town? - In all price ranges?

What do you think is the age range for?

a) Squash b) Yoga c) Fishing

to be supposed to be

If we say that something **is supposed to be** true it means that other people say it’s true but we don’t have personal experience of it.

● “The new Quentin Tarantino movie is supposed to be really amazing.” This means that I haven’t seen it myself but this is what I’ve heard or read.

● “I’ve never actually eaten there but it’s supposed to be excellent.” This means that people say that it’s an excellent restaurant.

● “Hang on, Margaret. If Paul is bringing his ex-wife that means there will be thirteen of us for dinner. That’s supposed to be unlucky. We’ll have to invite someone else.”

We can also use **supposed to** with other verbs:

● “Try some of these Ecuadorian berries. They’re supposed to give you loads of energy.”

● “You wouldn’t think so by looking at him but he’s supposed to have millions of pounds locked away in the bank.”

We can also use **to be supposed to** for the past. When we use **was / were supposed to**, we often mean that what we were told about something was not actually true.

● “We stayed at the Hilton because it was supposed to be much quieter than the other airport hotels.”

● “I took the computer-based test because it was supposed to be easier than the pen and paper version.”

What can we say instead of:

- a) *I've heard that that play is very funny.*
- b) *They say that baker's is the best in town.*
- c) *I've heard that green tea is very good for your health.*
- d) *That restaurant has a very good reputation.*

Who's one of your favourite actors or actresses? -

Do you know much about them as a person?

Which is supposed to be the best hotel in your town? -

Do you know anyone who has stayed there?

Do you know of anything that is supposed to improve your memory?

Which countries are supposed to be very safe to travel around? -

Do you know of any that are supposed to be dangerous?

Exercise 1) Put in the right preposition:

- 1) I've never been very interested science.
- 2) Have you thought how you're going to pay for it?
- 3) If it depended me, I would send them all to prison.
- 4) I think I'd go mad if I was married him.
- 5) Several customers were dissatisfied the service.
- 6) Have you heard your brother-in-law recently?
- 7) I can hear you fine. There's no need to shout me.
- 8) Aren't you tired living in that horrible flat?
- 9) He wasn't very sure which one to choose.
- 10) I dreamt you last night.