Chapter 20 Talking it over

**talk something ↔ over** *phrasal verb*to discuss a problem with someone before deciding what to do  **talk something ↔ over with** *Talk over any worries with your GP.*

speak, talk

When one person is saying things, you can use talk or speak, but talk is more usual and speak slightly literary *•* She talked about her job. *•* He spoke longingly of his home country. *•* Don't interrupt me when I'm talking/speaking.

If people are having a conversation, always use talk *•* We talked about our relationship. *•* They talked for hours.

If you say that two people are not speaking, you mean they are not willing to talk to each other *•* They've had a row and they're not speaking.

Someone who can talk has learned to use language *•* She could talk before she was two.

If you can speak, you are able to say something on a particular occasion *•* I was too scared to speak.!!

When you mention what language someone uses, always use speak *• She speaks* (=knows how to use) *French and Spanish.* *•* We spoke in German at first, then English.!!

When you ask for someone on the telephone, use speak *•* Can I speak to Clare?!!

You can speak words. Do not use talk *•* I spoke the words as clearly as I could.!!

You can talk sense or talk nonsense. Do not use speak *•* I think she talks a lot of sense.

**bottle**2 [transitive]

**1**DFD to put a liquid, especially wine or beer, into a bottle after you have made it:

*The whisky is bottled here before being sent abroad.*

**2**DFC *British English* to put vegetables or fruit into special glass containers in order to preserve them [= **can** *American English*]

**bottle out** *phrasal verb*

*also* **bottle it** to suddenly decide not to do something because you are frightened [= cop out]:

*'Did you tell him?' 'No, I bottled out at the last minute.'*

**bottle something ↔ up** *phrasal verb*

**1** to deliberately not allow yourself to show a strong feeling or emotion:

*It is far better to cry than to bottle up your feelings.*

**2** to cause problems by delaying something:

*The bill has been bottled up in Congress.*

**catch up** *phrasal verb*

**1** to improve and reach the same standard as other people in your class, group etc:

*If you miss a lot of classes, it's very difficult to catch up.*

**catch up with**

*At the moment our technology is more advanced, but other countries are catching up with us.*

**2** to come from behind and reach someone in front of you by going faster

**catch up with** *Drive faster - they're catching up with us.*

**delay**1 S2 W3

**1** [countable ] when someone or something has to wait, or the length of the waiting time:

*Sorry for the delay, Mr Weaver.*

**delay in** *Why was there a delay in warning the public?*

**delay of** *a delay of about an hour*

**long/considerable/slight etc delay** *Long delays are expected on the motorways.*

**2** [uncountable] when something does not happen or start when it should do

**without delay** *They must restore normal services without delay.*

**delay**2 S3

**1** [intransitive and transitive] to wait until a later time to do something:

*Don't delay - send off for the information now.*

**delay something until something**

*The opening of this section of the road is delayed until September.*

**delay something for something** *Our meeting was delayed for ten minutes.*

**delay doing something** *Big companies often delay paying their bills.*

**2** [transitive] to make someone or something late

**seriously/badly/slightly etc delayed** *The flight was badly delayed because of fog.*

**check on somebody/something** *phrasal verb*

**1** to make sure that someone or something is safe, is in a satisfactory state, or is doing what they should be doing: *Honey, can you go upstairs and check on the kids?*

**2** to try to find out if something is true or correct: *He wanted to check on the girl's story.*

**add up** *phrasal verb*

**1**HMN to calculate the total of several numbers: *I can add up in my head quite easily.*

**add something ↔ up** *Specialized software adds up the statistics.*

**2** **not add up**

**a)** if a set of facts does not add up, it does not provide a reasonable explanation for a situation:

*He was troubled by a feeling that things just didn't add up.*

**b)** if sums, numbers etc do not add up, there is a mistake in them:

*These figures don't add up.*

**3** **it all adds up**

*informal* used to say that lots of small amounts gradually make a large total:

*There are five of us using the phone so it all adds up.*

**stick in somebody's mind**

if something sticks in your mind, you remember it well because it is unusual or interesting:

*It's the kind of name that sticks in your mind.*

**shadowy**

**1** mysterious and difficult to know anything about:

*the* ***shadowy figures*** *who control international terrorist organizations*

**2** full of shadows, or difficult to see because of shadows: *a shadowy room*

**high-up** [countable] *British English informal*

someone who has a high rank in an organization [= higher-up]

**convenient** S3

**1** useful to you because it saves you time, or does not spoil your plans or cause you problems:

*Mail-order catalogs are a convenient way to shop.*

**convenient for** *Is three o'clock convenient for you?*

**convenient to do something** *It is simple and convenient to use.*

**2** close and easy to reach: *The bus stop around the corner is probably the most convenient.*

**convenient for** *British English* **convenient to** *American English*

*restaurants convenient for shops and theatres*