

Common Things

Vocabulary Lesson, Examples & Practice Questions

Common Things Around Us

Every day, we use and see many common things. A **bag**, a **chair**, a **clock** — these objects are part of our daily life. In this lesson, you will learn the English names for common things you see at home, at school, and in everyday situations. Learning these words will help you talk about the world around you!

A Simple Situation

Meet **Sara**. It is Monday morning. Sara is in her kitchen. She has a **cup** of tea on the **table**. Her **phone** is next to her **bag**. She picks up her **keys** and goes to work. On the way, she buys a **newspaper** from a small shop. These are all very **common things** in everyday life!

Key Vocabulary & Meaning Breakdown

1. Things at Home

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Notes
table	<i>noun</i> — a flat piece of furniture with legs, used for eating or working	The books are on the table .	We say "at the table" when sitting to eat.
chair	<i>noun</i> — a piece of furniture you sit on	Please sit on the chair .	A <i>sofa</i> is a big, soft chair for more than one person.
cup	<i>noun</i> — a small container for hot drinks like tea or coffee	She has a cup of tea.	A <i>glass</i> is for cold drinks like water or juice.
bed	<i>noun</i> — the furniture you sleep on	I go to bed at ten o'clock.	We say "in bed" (not "on the bed") when sleeping.
door	<i>noun</i> — the part of a room or building you open to go in or out	Please close the door .	You <i>open</i> and <i>close</i> a door.
window	<i>noun</i> — a glass opening in a wall that lets in light and air	She looks out of the window .	You <i>open</i> or <i>close</i> a window.
clock	<i>noun</i> — a device on a wall or shelf that shows the time	The clock on the wall says eight o'clock.	A <i>watch</i> is a small clock you wear on your wrist.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Notes
lamp	<i>noun</i> — a light you use indoors, often on a table or the floor	He turns on the lamp to read.	We <i>turn on</i> and <i>turn off</i> a lamp.

2. Things You Carry or Use Every Day

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Notes
bag	<i>noun</i> — a container you carry things in	My books are in my bag .	A <i>handbag</i> is a small bag. A <i>backpack</i> is worn on your back.
keys	<i>noun (plural)</i> — small metal objects used to open locks	I can't find my keys !	Usually used in the plural: "my keys," not "my key."
phone	<i>noun</i> — a device used to call people or use the internet	She looks at her phone every morning.	Also called a <i>mobile phone</i> or <i>smartphone</i> .
wallet	<i>noun</i> — a small flat case for money and cards	His wallet is in his pocket.	Women often use a <i>purse</i> .
umbrella	<i>noun</i> — a device you open above your head to stay dry in the rain	Don't forget your umbrella — it's raining!	You <i>open</i> or <i>put up</i> an umbrella.
pen	<i>noun</i> — a tool used for writing with ink	Can I borrow your pen , please?	A <i>pencil</i> uses graphite and can be erased.
notebook	<i>noun</i> — a small book with blank or lined pages for writing	She writes new words in her notebook .	Also called an <i>exercise book</i> in British English.

3. Common Things Outside & in Shops

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Notes
newspaper	<i>noun</i> — large printed sheets of paper with news and stories	My dad reads the newspaper every morning.	You <i>read</i> a newspaper.
ticket	<i>noun</i> — a small card or paper that lets you travel or enter somewhere	She buys a ticket for the bus.	You <i>buy</i> or <i>get</i> a ticket.
bottle	<i>noun</i> — a glass or plastic container for liquids	He drinks a bottle of water.	Common: a <i>bottle of water</i> , a <i>bottle of juice</i> .

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Notes
box	<i>noun</i> — a square or rectangular container, usually with a lid	The chocolates are in a box .	We say "a box of chocolates" or "a box of cereal."
map	<i>noun</i> — a drawing that shows streets, towns, or countries	She uses a map to find the street.	You <i>read</i> a map or <i>look at</i> a map.
sign	<i>noun</i> — a board or notice that gives information	The sign says "No parking."	Signs give directions, warnings, or information.

Collocations & Useful Expressions

A **collocation** is two or more words that go together naturally. Here are some useful collocations with common things:

open + the door / the window

Please open the door — it's very hot in here!

close + the door / the window

Can you close the window? It's cold.

turn on + the lamp / the TV

He turns on the lamp because the room is dark.

turn off + the lamp / the TV

Please turn off the lamp when you leave.

put + something + in + the bag

She puts her phone and wallet in the bag.

buy + a ticket / a newspaper / a bottle

I buy a bottle of water at the shop.

look at + the map / the sign / the clock

He looks at the map to find the hotel.

write + in + the notebook

She writes new vocabulary in her notebook.

a cup of + tea / coffee

Would you like a cup of tea or coffee?

a bottle of + water / juice / milk

He drinks a bottle of water every morning.

Important Differences & Confusing Words

Cup vs Glass

Both a **cup** and a **glass** are containers for drinks, but they are different:

- A **cup** is usually made of ceramic or plastic and is used for *hot* drinks like tea or coffee.
- A **glass** is made of glass and is used for *cold* drinks like water, juice, or milk.

She has a **cup** of tea. ✓

She has a **glass** of water. ✓

She has a cup of water. ✗ (unusual — water is a cold drink)

Clock vs Watch

- A **clock** is big and stays in one place — on a wall or a shelf.
- A **watch** is small and you wear it on your wrist.

There is a **clock** on the wall in the classroom.

She wears a **watch** on her left hand.

Pen vs Pencil

- A **pen** uses ink. You cannot erase it easily.
- A **pencil** uses graphite (a grey material). You can erase it with a rubber.

Please write your name with a **pen** on the form.

Children often draw with a **pencil** because they can erase mistakes.

Bag vs Box

- A **bag** is soft and you usually carry it.
- A **box** is hard with straight sides and often has a lid.

I carry my lunch in a **bag**.

The shoes are in a **box**.

Common Mistakes

✗ I am in the bed.

✓ **I am in bed.** — We do not use "the" when we say "in bed" (sleeping).

✗ She looks at her keys every day but she lose it.

✓ **She looks at her keys every day but she loses them.** — "Keys" is plural, so use "them."

✗ He has a glass of tea.

✓ **He has a cup of tea.** — Tea is a hot drink, so we use "cup," not "glass."

✗ I read the map with my eyes open the door.

✓ **I look at the map.** and **I open the door.** — Use "look at" with a map, and "open" with a door as separate ideas.

✗ The clock on my hand says three o'clock.

✓ **The watch on my wrist says three o'clock.** — A small clock you wear is a "watch," not a "clock."

✗ She writes her homework with a pen on her notebook.

✓ **She writes her homework in her notebook.** — We write *in* a notebook, not *on* it.

Common Things: Quick Summary & Review

In this lesson, you learned the names of many **common things** in everyday life. Here is a quick review of the main points:

- Things at home include a **table, chair, bed, clock, lamp, door,** and **window.**
- Things you carry every day include a **bag, phone, keys, wallet, pen, notebook,** and **umbrella.**
- Common things outside include a **newspaper, ticket, bottle, box, map,** and **sign.**
- Use **cup** for hot drinks and **glass** for cold drinks.
- A **clock** is on a wall; a **watch** is on your wrist.
- Write **in** a notebook, and write **with** a pen or pencil.
- Common collocations: *open the door, turn on the lamp, buy a ticket, look at the map.*

Now practise **Common Things** vocabulary in the exercises below.

Common Things – Practice Test

A1 | Practice Exercises: Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Gap, Fill-in-the-Blank, Matrix Matching & Sorting

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 Which word means the thing you use to tell the time?

- A** mirror
- B** clock
- C** lamp
- D** key

2 What do you use to write on paper?

- A** spoon
- B** brush
- C** pen
- D** plate

3 Which word means a piece of furniture where you sleep?

- A** chair
- B** table
- C** door
- D** bed

4 What do you use to open a door?

- A** cup
- B** key
- C** book
- D** bag

5 Which word means a thing you use to eat soup?

- A** fork
- B** knife
- C** spoon
- D** cup

6 What is the word for a small electronic device you use to call people?

- A** television
- B** phone
- C** computer
- D** lamp

7 Which word means a thing you sit on?

- A** window
- B** chair
- C** shelf
- D** door

8 What do you use to carry things when you go shopping?

- A** pillow
- B** towel
- C** bag
- D** mirror

9 Which word means the thing you use to see yourself?

- A** window
- B** picture
- C** mirror
- D** screen

10 What is the word for a thing that gives light in a room?

- A** fan
- B** lamp
- C** clock
- D** rug

Part 2: Fill in the Gap (Questions 11–20)

11 I write my homework with a ____.

- A** pencil
- B** pillow
- C** bottle

12 I drink water from a ____.

- A** glass
- B** clock
- C** chair

13 I look at the ____ to know what time it is.

- A** clock
- B** table
- C** bag

14 I put my books in my ____ and go to school.

- A** bag
- B** lamp
- C** window

15 I sit on a ____ at the kitchen table.

- A** chair
- B** mirror
- C** key

16 I turn on the ____ because the room is dark.

- A** lamp
- B** door
- C** cup

17 I use a ____ to open the front door of my house.

- A** key
- B** plate
- C** book

18 I eat my dinner on a ____.

- A** plate
- B** pencil
- C** clock

19 I look at my ____ to see my face.

- A** mirror
- B** chair
- C** glass

20 I read a ____ before I go to sleep at night.

- A** book
- B** lamp
- C** key

Part 3: Fill in the Blank (Questions 21–30)

21 I drink water from a glass _____ every morning.

22 I use a _____ to write my name on the paper.

23 She puts her books and notebooks in her _____ before going to school.

24 We sit on _____ around the table to eat dinner.

25 I look at the _____ on the wall to know what time it is.

26 She opens the _____ to let fresh air into the room.

27 I use my _____ to call my mother every day.

28 There is a big _____ in the kitchen where we eat our meals.

29 She reads a _____ before she goes to sleep at night.

30 I turn on the _____ in the room because it is dark.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values (Questions 31–40)

31 Match each common object on the left with its correct meaning on the right.

Item / Phrase	Match
Chair	[]
Bed	[]
Table	[]
Lamp	[]

32 Match each word on the left with the correct place where you usually find it.

Item / Phrase	Match
Toothbrush	[]
Fridge	[]
Pillow	[]
Sofa	[]

33 Match each word on the left with its correct synonym or description on the right.

Item / Phrase	Match
Bag	[]
Key	[]
Wallet	[]

34 Match each word on the left with the action most closely connected to it.

Item / Phrase	Match
Pen	[]
Scissors	[]
Eraser	[]
Ruler	[]

35 Match each word on the left with the correct material it is usually made of.

Item / Phrase	Match
Window	[]
T-shirt	[]
Spoon	[]
Book	[]

36 Match each word on the left with the correct description of what it looks like or its size.

Item / Phrase	Match
Cup	[]
Plate	[]
Bowl	[]

37 Match each word on the left with the correct word group it belongs to.

Item / Phrase	Match
Apple	[]
Carrot	[]
Milk	[]
Bread	[]

38 Match each word on the left with the correct verb that goes with it (collocation).

Item / Phrase	Match
Door	[]
Light	[]
Phone	[]
Book	[]

39 Match each word on the left with its correct opposite on the right.

Item / Phrase	Match
New	[]
Big	[]
Heavy	[]

40 Match each word on the left with the correct sentence that uses it correctly.

Item / Phrase	Match
Clock	[]
Mirror	[]
Calendar	[]
Map	[]

Part 5: Sort the Values (Questions 41–50)

41 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

book. This is a

42 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

pencil. have pen and I a a

43 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

chair room. The the is in

44 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

phone every uses day. She a

45 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

kitchen.

There

table

the

is

in

a

46 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

red.

bag

big

and

My

is

47 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

notebook.

needs

new

He

a

48 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

desk.

keys

The

are

the

on

49 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

clock

wall.

can

see

the

on

I

a

50 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

These

shoes

very

old.

are

Answer Key & Explanations

Common Things | A1

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** Correct Answer: clock ✓ Explanation: A clock is a thing that shows the time. There is a clock on the wall in the kitchen.
2. **C** Correct Answer: pen ✓ Explanation: A pen is a small tool you use to write. She used a pen to write her name.
3. **D** Correct Answer: bed ✓ Explanation: A bed is the furniture you sleep on at night. He goes to bed at ten o'clock.
4. **B** Correct Answer: key ✓ Explanation: A key is a small metal object you use to open a door. She put her key in the door and opened it.
5. **C** Correct Answer: spoon ✓ Explanation: A spoon is a small tool with a round end used for eating soup or cereal. He used a spoon to eat his soup.
6. **B** Correct Answer: phone ✓ Explanation: A phone is a small device you use to talk to people or send messages. She called her mother on her phone.
7. **B** Correct Answer: chair ✓ Explanation: A chair is a piece of furniture with a seat and a back that one person sits on. Please sit on the chair next to the table.
8. **C** Correct Answer: bag ✓ Explanation: A bag is a container made of cloth or plastic used to carry things. She put the food in her bag at the supermarket.
9. **C** Correct Answer: mirror ✓ Explanation: A mirror is a flat glass object that shows your face or body when you look at it. She looked in the mirror before going out.
10. **B** Correct Answer: lamp ✓ Explanation: A lamp is a device that gives light, often placed on a table or desk. He turned on the lamp to read his book at night.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** Correct Answer: pencil ✓ Explanation: A pencil is a tool we use to write or draw. She used a pencil to write her name.
12. **A** Correct Answer: glass ✓ Explanation: A glass is a container we use to drink liquids like water. Can I have a glass of water, please?
13. **A** Correct Answer: clock ✓ Explanation: A clock shows us the time. The clock on the wall says it is three o'clock.

14. **A** Correct Answer: bag ✓ Explanation: A bag is used to carry things like books. She put her books in her bag.
15. **A** Correct Answer: chair ✓ Explanation: A chair is a piece of furniture we sit on. Please sit on the chair near the window.
16. **A** Correct Answer: lamp ✓ Explanation: A lamp gives us light when a room is dark. He turned on the lamp to read his book.
17. **A** Correct Answer: key ✓ Explanation: A key is a small object used to open a lock or door. She lost her key and cannot open the door.
18. **A** Correct Answer: plate ✓ Explanation: A plate is a flat dish we use to eat food. He put rice and vegetables on his plate.
19. **A** Correct Answer: mirror ✓ Explanation: A mirror is a surface that lets you see your face or reflection. She looked in the mirror before leaving the house.
20. **A** Correct Answer: book ✓ Explanation: A book has pages with words or pictures that we read. He reads a book every night before sleeping.

Part 3: Fill in the Blank

21. **cup** Correct Answer: cup ✓ Explanation: A cup is a small container used for drinking. She holds a cup of tea in her hand.
22. **pen** Correct Answer: pen ✓ Explanation: A pen is a common tool used for writing with ink. Can I borrow your pen to sign this?
23. **bag** Correct Answer: bag ✓ Explanation: A bag is used to carry things like books and other items. He has a big bag on his back.
24. **chairs** Correct Answer: chairs ✓ Explanation: Chairs are pieces of furniture that people sit on. There are four chairs at the kitchen table.
25. **clock** Correct Answer: clock ✓ Explanation: A clock is a device that shows the time, often hung on a wall. The clock says it is three o'clock.
26. **window** Correct Answer: window ✓ Explanation: A window is an opening in a wall with glass that lets in light and air. Please close the window — it is cold outside.
27. **phone** Correct Answer: phone ✓ Explanation: A phone is a common device used to make calls and send messages. He checks his phone in the morning.
28. **table** Correct Answer: table ✓ Explanation: A table is a piece of furniture with a flat top used for eating or working. Put the plates on the table, please.

29. **book** Correct Answer: book ✓ Explanation: A book is a common object with pages and words used for reading. He has a book about animals.
30. **light** Correct Answer: light ✓ Explanation: A light is a common thing in a room that makes it bright when it is dark. Please turn off the light when you leave.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values

31. Correct Matches: • Chair → A piece of furniture you sit on • Bed → A piece of furniture you sleep on • Table → A flat surface used for eating or working • Lamp → An object that gives light in a room ✓ Explanation: These are all common household items. A chair and a bed are both furniture, but they are used differently. A lamp is used when the room is dark.
32. Correct Matches: • Toothbrush → Bathroom • Fridge → Kitchen • Pillow → Bedroom • Sofa → Living room ✓ Explanation: Each object belongs in a specific room. A toothbrush is used to clean your teeth in the bathroom. A fridge keeps food cold in the kitchen.
33. Correct Matches: • Bag → A container you carry things in • Key → A small metal object used to open a lock • Wallet → A small flat case for money and cards ✓ Explanation: These are all things people carry every day. A key is used to open doors, while a wallet holds money and cards.
34. Correct Matches: • Pen → Write • Scissors → Cut • Eraser → Remove a mistake • Ruler → Measure a line ✓ Explanation: These are common school or office supplies. You use a pen to write and an eraser to fix mistakes on paper.
35. Correct Matches: • Window → Glass • T-shirt → Cotton • Spoon → Metal • Book → Paper ✓ Explanation: Each object is commonly made from a specific material. A window is made of glass so you can see through it, and a book is made of paper with printed words.
36. Correct Matches: • Cup → A small round container for hot drinks • Plate → A flat round object used to hold food • Bowl → A round deep container for soup or cereal ✓ Explanation: These are all kitchen items used for eating and drinking. A cup is used for tea or coffee, while a bowl is deeper than a plate and used for liquid foods.
37. Correct Matches: • Apple → Fruit • Carrot → Vegetable • Milk → Drink • Bread → Food made from flour ✓ Explanation: These are all common food and drink items. An apple grows on a tree and is a fruit, while a carrot grows in the ground and is a vegetable.
38. Correct Matches: • Door → Open or close • Light → Turn on or turn off • Phone → Answer or call • Book → Read or open ✓ Explanation: These are common verb-noun collocations. We say turn on the light and answer the phone. You open or close a door, not 'turn' it.
39. Correct Matches: • New → Old • Big → Small • Heavy → Light ✓ Explanation: These are common adjective antonyms used to describe everyday objects. For example, a new phone is the opposite of an old phone, and a big bag is the opposite of a small bag.

40. Correct Matches: • Clock → I look at it to know the time. • Mirror → I look at it to see my face. • Calendar → I look at it to know the date. • Map → I look at it to find a place. ✅ Explanation: All four items are things we look at, but for different purposes. A clock shows time, a calendar shows dates, a mirror shows your reflection, and a map shows locations.

Part 5: Sort the Values

41. Correct Answer: This is a book. ✅ Explanation: In simple identification sentences, we use This + is + a/an + noun. The demonstrative pronoun This comes first, followed by the verb is, the article a, and the noun book.

42. Correct Answer: I have a pen and a pencil. ✅ Explanation: When listing two things, we use the structure Subject + have + a + noun + and + a + noun. The subject I comes first, then the verb have, followed by the two objects joined by and.

43. Correct Answer: The chair is in the room. ✅ Explanation: To describe where something is, we use Subject + is + preposition + place. The noun phrase The chair is the subject, is is the verb, and in the room shows location.

44. Correct Answer: She uses a phone every day. ✅ Explanation: In simple present sentences, the structure is Subject + verb + object + time expression. The subject She comes first, then the verb uses (with -s for third person), the object a phone, and the frequency phrase every day.

45. Correct Answer: There is a table in the kitchen. ✅ Explanation: To say something exists in a place, we use the structure There + is + a/an + noun + place. There is introduces the sentence, followed by the object a table and the location in the kitchen.

46. Correct Answer: My bag is big and red. ✅ Explanation: To describe something with two adjectives, we use Subject + is + adjective + and + adjective. The possessive My comes before the noun bag, then the verb is, followed by the two adjectives big and red joined by and.

47. Correct Answer: He needs a new notebook. ✅ Explanation: In a simple present sentence, adjectives come before the noun they describe. The structure is Subject + verb + article + adjective + noun. Here, new comes directly before the noun notebook.

48. Correct Answer: The keys are on the desk. ✅ Explanation: For plural subjects, we use are instead of is. The structure is Subject + are + preposition + place. The keys is a plural subject, so we use are, and on the desk shows the location.

49. Correct Answer: I can see a clock on the wall. ✅ Explanation: With modal verbs, we use Subject + modal + base verb + object + place. The modal can comes after the subject I and before the base verb see. The object a clock is followed by the location on the wall.

50. Correct Answer: These shoes are very old. ✅ Explanation: To describe plural things, we use These + noun + are + adverb + adjective. The demonstrative These is used for plural nouns, are matches the plural subject shoes, and very is an adverb that strengthens the adjective old.

Score Guide

27–30 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
23–26 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
18–22 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–17 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.