

This is the **basic** vocabulary you have to learn as it is most useful for your ESSAYS, ORAL ACCOUNTS, SURVEYS and so on... Learn the **whole pattern** (intransitive or transitive? + Gerund or not? + Preposition?...)

NB: **adverbs** and **compound-words** are most useful when you have to write a summary, a survey or answer a written comprehension question in very few words.

A **clause** → une proposition (= S + VB. conjugué + complément/s éventuel/s).

**U** = **uncountable noun**, which means that it is always in the **singular** and can be used with the determiners ∅, "the", "(too) much", "little" + U (*peu de...*), "**too** little" (*trop peu de...*), "**very** little" (*très peu de...*), "**a** little" (*un peu de...*).

### How to INTRODUCE a topic or a burning issue:

Such issues **are crying out for attention**. / We have so many problems crying out for attention (that ...)

These days **the spotlight is on** multinational companies whose tax avoidance infuriates governments and tax-payers alike. (*De nos jours / actuellement / les projecteurs sont braqués sur les multinationales dont l'évitement fiscal rend ... furieux / met en colère les gouvernements au même titre que les contribuables*).

The findings (*conclusions*) of that investigation **have turned the spotlight on** Apple whose tax-reduction strategies **come in** for much criticism these days / infuriate the public.

**Much ink has been spilled** (in the past few weeks / in recent months) **over** the terrorist attacks in .... (Verb "to spill" (pt. & p.p.: "spilt") → *verser*; noun "ink" → *encre*.) → *Ces attaques .... ont fait couler beaucoup d'encre*.

AIDS, the world-wide disease which is the biggest killer in Africa, is **the focus of** ...

The leader **from** *The Economist*, ... / This opinion column **from** *The Guardian*, / **focuses on** rampant poverty in Africa...

**The question whether to raise** the price of cigarettes (or not) is (**currently**) one of the **much-debated issues** in Britain.

Fighting against antisocial behaviour / obesity / seems to have become **one of** the (British) government's / the (American) administration's **top / leading / major** (domestic) **priorities**.

It is now **top of the agenda** ...

Global warming **is** (still / once again) **on the agenda / on today's agenda** → *Le réchauffement de la planète est (encore / une fois de plus ...) à l'ordre du jour*.

This is **a follow-up survey** ("*enquête complémentaire*") of ... / N. : a follow-up to ... ("*la suite de ...*").

☞ See below: "how to **CONTEXTUALISE**", **TRENDS**, **EMPHASIS**...

You can also start with a question:

**What should be done** curb today's inflation? (*Que devrait-on faire pour réfréner / juguler / diminuer... ?*)

What (welfare / economic) **policy** should be **implemented** (*Quelle politique (sociale / économique) devrait être mise en œuvre pour...*) **to**

- **put a curb on** teenagers' smoking? (*mettre un frein à / restreindre*)
- **prevent** teenagers **from** eating junk food? (*empêcher les adolescents de manger des cochonneries?*)

Would an increase **in** food quality cure the disease? / remedy it .... ?

Would rising prices be a **disincentive**? ≠ An **incentive to** do sth. (*encouragement à faire*)

*The Guardian / The Washington Post / The Economist / comes up with* several answers / solutions **to** sth.

NB. to **come up with** sth. → *proposer, fournir, suggérer...*

**More often than not, the topic that has to be dealt with is not new, but the approach to it may be unusual or refreshing** / ... , and the solutions / ideas someone / a body (whether it be a scientist, a politician, a famous philosopher, a government, a paper, a society ... ) comes up with

- may be **worth discussing**. (*être digne de... / valoir la peine / d'être débattues*)
- may **give us food for thought**. (*donner matière à penser*)

(At long last,) we **are presented with** an **enlightening outlook on** + N / PN .

This **novel** [new] **approach to** a hackneyed subject is obviously **refreshing** . / BM's **challenging** opinion on **an all too familiar subject** is obviously **refreshing**.

Adj. **hackneyed** [ /haeknid ] : "réchauffé, rebattu". Other similar adjectives : **trite**, **commonplace** (≈ *banal...*).

The columnist **debunks** quite a few **stereotypes** (*Le chroniqueur bat en brèche...*).

In a **humorous** way, depending on the topic, of course. **Literary references** are welcome too!

Ex 1 : slimming methods, diets : Here they come : fat-fighters are back ! .... / Ghost-busters are out, fat-fighters (or fat-busters) are in.

Ex 2 : the dating business / match-making services on the Internet : A woman might kiss quite a few frogs before meeting her prince ... / In the 19 century most matches were made / arranged by ...; now a new fairy has appeared ... / Heartache is well taken care of by online match-making businesses.

💣💣💣 **Avoid commonplaces and such vague terms as 'problems' (or 'issues' if used alone).**

Instead, **identify the nature** of these "problems": drugs, obesity, smoking, garbage collection, the environmental damage caused by tankers or traffic..., feminism, city congestion, etc. You can also use generic words to introduce the topic, or to dress up your ideas differently: a harrowing / worrying **public-health issue**, an old-time **social scourge** , **the animal cause**, the **recurring preoccupation** / **timeless obsession** / **with** appearance, and so on .

🚫 **BAN such trite adjectives** as 'nice', 'good', 'bad', 'interesting', 'important' and suchlike.

⇒ Refer to the list of phrases (*expressions*) and words which can help you to express an OPINION and to CRITICISE sb. or sth.

To **CONTEXTUALISE** an event / a trend / reform; to **refer** to sth.:

(Seen) **Against the backdrop of one of** the toughest financial **crises** since 1929, ... (NB: singular → a crisis) (*Avec ... en toile de fond*)

**In the wake of** the food crisis in 2008, decisions were made so that no one would starve to death ever again in that area (*Dans le sillage de...*). A green **campaign** has been **launched in the wake of** ... (*Une campagne écologique a été lancée suite à ... / suite aux...* ).

**In response to** hasty and irrational fear [panic, doubt...], too much caution is counterproductive.

**In response to** the **inquiry carried out** by ... / the **poll conducted** by ..., the American government has decided to beef up its quake-proof facilities.

He was recruited [he was taken on] **on the strength of / thanks to** / his outstanding record (*Il a été recruté en vertu de / grâce à / ses antécédents remarquables*). Unfortunately, they were convicted **on the strength of** the flimsiest evidence (*Ils ont été condamnés sur la foi de preuves extrêmement minces / ténues*). (On the strength of... → *En vertu de / Sur la foi de...*)

Many mistakes have been made **for the sake of** progress (*par amour / au nom / du progrès*).

**Assuming that / On the assumption that /** he has never heard of that scheme before, ... (*En admettant / En supposant / que...*)

**In theory, / On paper, / ...** Yet, **in practice,**...

This proposal / idea / is not **palatable on** ethical **grounds**, **though**. (*Cette proposition / idée / n'est toutefois pas acceptable pour des motifs / raisons éthiques*).

In a **technology-driven** world (*monde dominé par / mu par...*), more and more tasks are **automated** (*automatisés*), which has some **doomsayers** [pessimists] claim that our society has become **dehumanised**.

Ours is a **consumer society where ever more elaborate** [≈ sophisticated] devices are marketed (*mis sur le marché / sont commercialisés*)...

**Ours** is a **digital age** / a **time when** more and more services are **going on line** and...  
It is little wonder that in **this safety-obsessed society** people should ask for ever more precautionary measures...

🔴 Note the **prepositions**: "**on** political / economic / religious **grounds**;" 🔴 **for** moral **reasons**. / **On the basis of** what they were told (*D'après ce qu'on leur a dit*), ... .

**Judging from** people's reaction to these new measures,... / **Judging from** what he claimed, ... / **Judging from** the French scientist's frightening **findings**, one can only be suspicious of GMOs. (*A en juger par les conclusions effrayantes de ce scientifique français*,...)

His theory / Her allegation / **is substantiated by** ... / To **substantiate** this..., + clause → *Pour apporter ou fournir des preuves à l'appui de... / confirmer*).

I am afraid his hypothesis **is not borne out by** his results... VB. to **bear sth out** → *corroborer / confirmer* ...

🔴 To **bear** – preterit: **bore** – past participle: **borne**.

🔴 **From** an economic / political / moral / **point of view**, .... (*D'un point de vue + adj. / Sous l'angle de + N.*)

**Politically speaking**, .... / **Statistically**, ...

This device **ushers in a new era** (*Ce procédé inaugure une nouvelle ère*).

A new age of personal technology **is dawning**... (To dawn → *naître*)

As **the time is ripe for** change / reform ... (≈ The time has come ...). Adj. **ripe** → (pour un fruit) *mûr, à point; (fig.) prêt; mûr*.

**It is high time** E.U. governments **realised it**. (*Il est grand temps que les gouvernements de l'U.E. s'en rendent compte*.) NB: « **It is high time** » + **S** + **modal past**.

**Measures are afoot to** curb Ø waste as well as Ø urban pollution./ There is **a scheme afoot to** boost our economy. (*Il se prépare un projet pour ... / On envisage de stimuler notre économie*.)

The British government **contemplates** trimming down the defence budget **by** 10 % (*Le gouvernement britannique envisage de réduire ... de 10 % / tailler dans le budget de la défense*.)

There is no shortage of water / There are no austerity measures / **in the offing**. → *Il n'y a pas de*

*pénurie d'eau / de mesures d'austérité / en perspective / dans l'air (= sens figuré)*.

That option **is plainly not on the table**, though. (*Toutefois, ....*)

The U.S. **is heading for** fiscal trouble. → *Les Etats Unis vont droit à / courir vers les ennuis...*

The **impending** crisis / threat (*menace*) / has **to be addressed** –the sooner, the better.

Adj. **impending / pending** → *imminent / en attente / en instance / en cours /*

An economic recession **is looming ahead / is looming large**. → ... *se profile (à l'horizon) / est imminente / menace /*

That **idea** / Such a **plan** / is **floated** by the Prime Minister (*Cette idée / Ce projet a été lancé/e ou proposé/é par...*). A few proposals have been **floated** to improve cost-efficiency.

Local authorities have just **come up with** an **attractive** scheme or offer / a **bright** idea / ... (*Les autorités locales viennent de suggérer / proposer / trouver...*)

CPGE / Mme CASIES.

To refer to **current TRENDS or phenomena** (🔴 SING = **phenomenon**):

Such a trend **has been gathering pace** (a) over the past **few** months / (b) since last summer /,

**at the expense of** ... (*au détriment de ...*) ≠ **for the benefit of** ... (*en faveur de ...*)

It **is gaining ground**. ≠ It **is losing ground**. (*Gagner ≠ perdre du terrain*.)

Such a phenomenon **has been gaining momentum since** early September (≈ *Pareil phénomène / Un tel phénomène prend de la vitesse / s'accélère / depuis le début du mois de septembre*).

This scourge (*fléau*) is **rife / widespread** (*répandu*) there.

Discrimination **is rampant** in ...(*sévir; faire des ravages* → to **wreak havoc**; être effréné / *déchaîné* → unrestrained).

This phenomenon / The fire / The epidemic / has **spread to** rural areas / the countryside → (*se*) *propager jusque dans les zones rurales / s'étendre aux campagnes; (se) répandre; déployer...*). 🔴 **Irregular** verb: preterite and past participle = **spread**.

To develop (🔴 *se développer*) **by leaps and bounds** (à pas de géant); to work **by fits and starts** (par à-coups).

More and more people **tend to** phone their friends, instead of e-mailing them. / They **are** now **used to** now e-mailing ... (être habitué à ...) / They **are accustomed to** ... (être accoutumé à)

This product is very **popular with** / is **increasingly** popular with / ∅ young people [the young] / ∅ old people. (Ce produit est très populaire **auprès** des ... / Les jeunes ou les personnes âgées ... *apprécient beaucoup ce produit.*)

Teenagers **are** quite **familiar with** the new media. (Les adolescents *connaissent bien ... / sont au fait de / sont au courant de...*)

**More often than not**, + clause... (Il n'est pas rare que ...)

Major develop**ments** (in digital technologies / in the field of ...) might **reverse this trend**, though.

**Ours is a consumer society** where people tend to **be regarded as** potential consumers / customers / rather than citizens!

**Ours is a media-obsessed society** which (a) **values** appearances more than morals. / (b) **focuses on** image more than on quintessential principles...

In a **media-obsessed** society politicians worry about their image **as if** they **were** celebrities... Most of them (a) take on [hire] spin doctors... / (b) have P.R. consultants work for them. (P.R. = public relations.)

In ∅ today's **technology-oriented** world ... / **With the advent of newfangled** telecommunications devices (*dernier cri*) / The use of **state-of-the-art** technology... (... *de pointe*). A **technology-intensive** workplace...

In a **market-driven** economy ...

**To introduce EXAMPLES, to quote sb.** (*citer qqn.*), to **refer to** sb. / sth.:

**Such** trends **as** social entrepreneurship are gathering pace... / Large companies **such as** Apple...

**For instance, / For example, / ...**

**As** social entrepreneurship **testifies to** it, ... (*Comme en témoigne ... / Comme l'atteste ...*)

**Infinitive** : to testify.

**As ∅ can be seen in** A's movie « ... », ...

**To quote but a few**, J. Novogratz, Bill Gates, and A.B. are trying to ... (*Pour n'en citer que quelques-uns...*)

Adam Smith **has led the way** ...

**Under the impetus of** ... (impetus → *impulsion*)

That **illustrates** + DO

Just **take the example of** ... / **Just think of** A.C. or ..., who ....

Mark Zuckerberg, Steve Jobs and **the likes of** them ... (≈ *people like them*).

Those born in the U.S. in the 1980s **-dubbed** [≈ called] "the me-generation" – were self-centred...

Some **refer to** that blameworthy practice **as** "gendercide".

What **is regarded as** (a) useless (tool) should be done away with. (NB: to do away with sth. ≈ to abolish sth.; to get rid of sth.)

**In the name of** safety / security / individual freedoms have been trimmed ∇. (*Au nom de...*)

**On the strength of** the precautionary principle, disasters have been amplified due to panicky, disproportionate steps [moves] and a lack of risk-assessment and foresight [≈ anticipation].

**According to** the British Prime Minister, the time is ripe for reform.

**Going by** the terms of that deal... (*D'après ... / Sur...*).

The business executive **described as** "... " has just been awarded a prize. → *On vient de décerner un prix au cadre commercial que l'on décrit comme « ... » / Celui que l'on décrit comme « ... » vient de se voir décerner / remettre / un prix.*

To put [lay] **EMPHASIS on** sth.:

**Above all**, ... (*Avant tout*)

That holds true for ... , and **not least** ... (🔴 *notamment*)

..., and **specifically / especially / ...**

Note these adverbial phrases: **in particular** ≈ **particularly**.

Much **emphasis is laid on** + N / PN.

The columnist **insists on** the harm done by genetically modified maize (U.S.) ≈ corn (in GB).

Straight-backed Methodists **value** temperance **over** emotion.

They have **chosen** quality (of life) **over** quantity... (↪ The pattern of this verb obviously varies with its meaning. Ex: We were offered **a broad range to choose from**. N. range → *gamme*.)  
To **stress** / to **highlight** / to **emphasise** / + **D.O.** (= direct object).  
To **put a premium on** sth. (*accorder beaucoup d'importance à.../ mettre l'accent sur...*).  
To **heed** sth. (pay attention to sth.).

CPGE / Mme CASIES.

## CRITICISM, DISAPPROVAL

Such a measure is likely to **make a dent in** our purchasing power (*entamer, faire un trou dans...*).

Most citizens **frown on** / **object to** / **disapprove of** / this batch of measures believed to **benefit** employers more than employees.

I am afraid the author does not **have a good grip of** the subject. → *Je crains que l'auteur ne maîtrise pas ce sujet*.

Those scientists thought, **and wrongly so**, that they had **found a chink in the armour of** Einstein's relativity → *trouver un point faible ou sensible*.

And now they **have got egg on their face**. → *Se couvrir de ridicule / avoir l'air ridicule*.

What **flies in the face of** their theory is ... → *contrecarrer / défier...*

**That is where the shoe pinches**. → *C'est là que la bât blesse*.

They **resent** + **N**: government interference. / + **gerund**: my **doing** this. → *Ils n'apprécient pas + N / pas que + S + VB. conjugué. / Ils nous en veulent pour ...*

To some people, businesspeople **are to blame for** (a) today's **sluggish** growth / (b) the **current economic downturn**. → *Aux yeux de certains, les hommes d'affaires sont responsables (a) de la croissance lente / molle / au ralenti / (b) du ralentissement actuel de l'économie...*

**Not** every scourge can **be blamed on** them, though. (A scourge → *un fléau*.)

The P.M. **is accused of** doing sth.

**Much criticism was levelled at** him. 🗨️ A **critic** is a **person**.

To **criticise** sb. or sth. **harshly**.

To **open fire on** sb. / sth.

It is a **damning indictment** of our government / of A's foreign policy... (*C'est une mise en cause accablante de...*)

The leader of this (political) party accused the press of **demonising** him (*Le dirigeant ... a accusé ... de le diaboliser*).

He **has been vilified**. To **vilify** sb. or sth. (*diffamer, calomnier*) ≈ to **slander**.

**There is no point in** whining (about it) → *Cela ne sert à rien de / Ce n'est pas la peine de / geindre ou pleurnicher...*

**The trouble with** unpaid internship **is that** drawbacks seem to **outweigh** benefits. → ... *les inconvénients semblent l'emporter sur les avantages*.

**On the downside**, devolution of all powers to local authorities may

- **spell disaster** / **spell trouble** (*signifier / être synonyme de / ...*).
- **leave the door wide open for** abuses.

There is a **downside to** everything (*Toute médaille a son revers*) ≈ **There is a flipside to** this measure → *Comme toute médaille, cette mesure comporte son revers*.

That plan would be a severe **setback for** us if it failed. → *Ce projet constituerait un grave revers / échec / pour nous s'il échouait*. To **suffer a setback in** one's plan (to do sth.) → *Voir son projet... compromis*.

**Other useful nouns**: a **blessing** (*une bénédiction; un don du ciel*), a **boon** (*une aubaine*) ≠ a **scourge** (*fléau*), **the bane of** local government (*le fléau / la bête noire / des collectivités locales*), a **curse** (*une malédiction*).

This policy is a **mixed blessing** → *Cette politique a du bon et du mauvais*.

As he **put it bluntly**, ... / To be quite **blunt about it**, + clause... → *Comme il le formule franchement / sans détour ; s'exprimer / dire q.chs. / sans mâcher ses mots*.

Some scientists dismiss GMOs as **harmful to** health ≠ **beneficial to** farmers. VERBS: to **harm sb. / sth.** ≠ to **benefit sb. / sth.**

Actually, John Smith **is barking up the wrong tree!** → *En vérité, J. Smith fait fausse route!*

☞ Even more subtle, you can also use **derogatory terms** to criticise sth. or sb.: for example, genetic **tinkering** (*bricolage*), **tampering with** the sanctity of life, a **botched** experiment (*bâclé/e*), to behave **recklessly / foolishly**...

This politician's **flip-flopping** (*fait de changer sans cesse d'avis / propension à retourner sa veste...*) and **prevarication** (*tergiversations*) **could not but make a dent in his credibility** (... *ne firent qu'entamer sa crédibilité*).

## OBSTACLES

Verbs: **to hinder, to hamper, to hamstring** ≈ be an obstacle to sth.

☛ **To hamstring is an irregular verb: preterite and past participle = hamstrung.**

Nowadays most western countries plan to **stem / curb /** the flow of immigrants → *endiguer, réfréner, freiner*...

That policy could **cripple** the car industry (*paralyser*).

**OPINIONS:** to convey an **OPINION**, you can resort to (a) phrases (*expressions*), adjectives or (b) adverbs...

a) **Phrases** such as:

**It is only right and proper for** parents **to** further their children's interests and welfare. (*Il est tout-à-fait naturel que les parents servent / favorisent / promeuvent / les intérêts et le bien-être de ...*)

∅ **Public opinion has it that** + clause (= *S + VB. conjugué*) ≈ It is generally believed that ...

**It is generally agreed that** + clause (*Il est communément admis que... ≈ On s'accorde généralement à penser...*)

**It is argued that** + clause...

**As ∅ is argued in** the leader **from** the *Guardian*, + clause / **As ∅ is claimed by** the journalist, + clause.

→ *Comme il est soutenu / affirmé / dans l'éditorial du Guardian / par le journaliste, ...*).

**To my mind**, ... (*A mon avis / A mon sens...*)

**To** them, the cost of living is (far) too high.

**According to** him / her / them, ... (☛ « According to... » = expression à ne PAS employer à la 1ère pers., en général.)

**The odds are that** + clause... (*Il y a de fortes chances pour que... / Il y a fort à parier que...*)

I believe, **at the bottom of my heart**, that + clause → *Je crois, au fond de moi-même, que...*

The leader **oversteps the line** → *Cet éditorialiste dépasse la mesure.*

**The trouble with** D. Cameron's scheme is that + clause.

**The only snag is that / The trouble is that** / + clause.

**There is a flip side to** this policy... (*revers de la médaille / face cachée...*) / **The flip side of** ... is ... / Unemployment is the other side of the coin.

You can use all the verbs conveying an **opinion** or a **feeling**:

**As is argued / As is claimed /** + in the leader / in the opinion column / by the columnist / , autonomous machines will be increasingly grappling with ethical choices.

**As can be inferred from** the poll, at least 20% of young people are unemployed in Spain.

This trend is gaining ground in the U.S., **as evidenced** by the recent report on... (*comme en témoigne...*).

I **believe / think /** that...; I **have the feeling that** .... , I **am under the impression that** ...; to **endorse sb.'s views**. (*adhérer à ...*); such **views** are not **embraced** by ...; to **share** sb.'s opinions / fears ..., insofar as / in that / + clause. (*partager*), and so on.

Such **views are not embraced** by Republicans **insofar as / in that /** + clause (*dans la mesure où / en ce sens que...*).

Think of equally useful **result-oriented** verb **patterns**:

The paper **shames** us / them / British political leaders / **into (re)acting** ... (*faire honte à qqn. pour qu'il (ré)agisse*)

The car dealer **coaxed** us **into** buying the most expensive vehicle! → *C'est par la flatterie que ce concessionnaire automobile nous a amenés [nous amena] à acheter...*

The author is actually trying to **talk / argue /** his readers **into** believing that + *clause*.

→ *L'auteur cherche, en réalité / en fait / à convaincre son lectorat de croire que ... /*

*C'est avec force arguments que l'auteur essaie de persuader ses lecteurs de ...*

≠ To **talk / argue /** someone **out of** doing sth. (**Dissuader** qqn. **de** faire... / *Convaincre qqn. de ne pas faire...*).

Examples of **adjectives** conveying (personal) bias:

A **risk-averse** regime is likely to **implement the precautionary principle**. Conversely, a **risk-taking** nation is **bound to**

- **object to** it.
- **overlook / brush aside / ignore /** possible health hazards  
(☛ to ignore → *ne pas tenir compte de...*; ☛ **hazards** ≈ risks)...

Adjectives: (**be**) **right** ≠ **wrong** + **about sth.** → **avoir** raison ≠ tort...

She is **right in** thinking that the current policy is counterproductive.

It would **be wrong** to accuse all employers of disregarding labour laws.

A **biased approach to** an issue (*une façon partielle d'aborder un problème / une question*). ≠

An **unbiased** approach (*impartiale / sans parti pris*). ☛ N = **bias**.

This leader is **biased in favour of** sb. / sth. ≠ **against** sb. / sth.

To be **prejudiced against** sb. / sth. (*avoir des préjugés contre... / des idées préconçues sur...*)

b) Such **adverbs** as:

**Undeniably, ... / Unquestionably, / ...** (≈ **Needless to say,...**) + *clause*.

Quite **understandably, + clause**.

**Oddly enough, ... / Surprisingly, ...** (*Etonnamment, ... / Chose étonnante, ...*) /

**Unsurprisingly, ... / + clause ...**

**Expectedly, ... ≠ Unexpectedly, ...** (*De manière inattendue / ≈ contre toute attente* → **"against all the odds,..."**)

**Paradoxically, ...** (≈ *Chose paradoxale, ...*)

**Conversely, ...** (*Inversement / Réciproquement*)

(*At the end of a clause*) ..., **instead.** (*au lieu de cela / à la place*)

☛ Refer to the heads "criticism" and "how to qualify sth." as well.

CPGE / Mme CASIES.

To **QUALIFY** a statement (*nuancer*) and thus ☛ **avoid** untrue or unwelcome sweeping generalisations:

a) **Quantifiers:**

**Quite a few** people, who frowned on [objected to] the current austerity measures, took to the streets.

**Most** men turned up (*apparaître / se présenter*), whereas **very few** women did.

**Too few** people / **Too few** citizens / attended the meeting (≠ **too many** members skipped or missed it).

(☛ "few", "many" + a **countable** noun in the **plural**.)

Actually, (far) **too little** money is spent on education in inner-city districts.

(☛ "little", "much" + **Uncountable N. = SING.**)

b) Vocabulary: **adverbs or adverbial phrases** (*locutions adverbiales*), **adjectives, verbs...**

**By and large**, the high-tech sector has weathered today's economic downturn. (*De manière générale, ... / Dans l'ensemble, ...*). / The high-tech sector **seems to** have ridden out the current slump.

**As a rule, + clause** (*En règle générale, ...*)

**More often than not**, employers **resort to** unpaid interns. (*Il n'est pas rare que les employeurs aient recours aux stagiaires non rémunérés...*)

Such is often the case, but **there is no hard and fast rule** (*Tel est souvent le cas mais il n'y a pas de règle absolue*)

That **mostly** **applies to / holds true for /** Silicon Fen. **Mostly** ≈ **mainly**.

**Almost everybody** turned up at the meeting (staged by ...) → *Presque tout le monde est apparu / s'est présenté à...*

They **partly** agree on the idea floated by the mayoress. (≠ **thoroughly**).

The **overall** situation **is shaping up** (*prendre (une bonne) tournure / pour un projet → bien fonctionner ...*).

Economic circumstances **are looking up** [ $\approx$  are improving], / Prospects **are brightening up**, / **at least** in the high-tech sector ... (*du moins*).

**As he points out subtly** (*Comme il le fait remarquer subtilement*)  $\neq$  **grossly** (*grossièrement*); **bluntly** (*sans ménagement / sans mâcher ses mots*), + clause.

Other adverbs: **especially** / **specifically** / **generally** ...

**With the benefit [wisdom] of hindsight**, ... (*Avec le recul / après coup*, ...)

They **tend to further** their customers' **interests** rather than **yours**. (*Ils ont tendance à promouvoir les intérêts des clients plutôt que les vôtres.*)

Programmes designed to help the needy take up a **substantial** amount of local resources.

The **bulk** of our budget is **earmarked for**  $\emptyset$  research. (*La majeure ou plus grosse partie de ... est affectée à ...*).

As the proverb goes, "every cloud has a silver lining" (*à quelque chose malheur est bon.*)

**The bottom line is** ... → *Le fait est que...* / *Le résultat final, c'est que...*

**To settle** a case / a quarrel / an issue / ... (*régler / trancher*).

**After weighing up the pros and cons** (of sth.), one can truly assert that... → *Après avoir pesé le pour et le contre*, ...

**A balance has to be struck between** reality **and** utopia (*trouver un juste milieu entre... et...*).

↪ **To strike** - pret. & p.p. = **struck**.

A **consensus-seeker** = a person who tries to embrace a **consensus-seeking** policy / strategy / .

**N. a trade-off between... and...** (*un compromis entre... et...*). **VB. to trade off** freedom **against** security (*troquer sa liberté contre sa sécurité / laisser passer la sécurité devant la liberté / faire primer la sécurité sur la liberté*).

Europeans and Americans need to **find common ground** (*trouver un terrain d'entente*).

☞ Refer to words conveying "**probability**" (be **likely**  $\neq$  **unlikely to** do sth.; the odds are..., be bound to do, modal auxiliaries, translation of "devoir" and "pouvoir"...)

And so on and so forth...

## CONSEQUENCE

People took to the streets / demonstrated / **in the wake of** drought... (*dans le sillage de...*)

(Generally used for a scourge or a natural disaster) the **aftermath** (*séquences / répercussions*); **in the aftermath of** the military coup ( $\approx$  *à la suite du coup d'Etat militaire*).

**As a result**, / **Therefore...** / **The bottom line is** / + clause...

(NB: bottom line also means *résultat financier / solde*).

## Verbs:

That step is bound to **breed** discontent. (☞ To breed - **bred** - **bred** → engendrer.)

That movement **spawned** quite a few offshoots → *Ce mouvement a donné / engendré / bon nombre de ramifications.*

The **shortage** of maize and water **sparked off** food riots (*La pénurie de maïs et d'eau a déclenché des émeutes ...*).

Riots and demonstrations **ignited** the situation (*fig. enflammer; embraser*). To **ignite a debate...** [ig / nait]

Growing **demand for** maize and rice **causes** their prices **to** rise (*augmenter*). To **soar** or **skyrocket** (*monter en flèche*).

Decreasing demand **caused** the market **to plummet** (*a entraîné l'effondrement du marché*).

To **bring about** (*provoquer, entraîner*) a rise [increase / hike] **in** wages / a drop **in** demand....

More often than not, strikes **resulted from** drastic social reform or stringent measures. ("From" + **origine**.)

Drastic reform often **results in** strikes. (« In » + **résultat** / *ce sur quoi l'action aboutit.*)



## ☺ and ☹ INFLUENCES

3D printers are bound to **spur** ∅ innovation (*Les imprimantes en ... ne manqueront pas d'aiguillonner / d'éperonner / de favoriser...*). Business developments **have been spurred on** by the I.T. (information technology).

🔴 Mind the patterns of the verb 'benefit' as they alter its meaning:

- Diversity **benefits** everyone (*bénéficier à qq., avantager + COD*).
- Everyone **benefits from** diversity (*bénéficier de.../ profiter de ...*).

To **take** ∅ **advantage of** something (*profiter de; tirer avantage de...*).

Populist politicians **capitalise on** people's fears (*tirer profit ou parti de... / exploiter / monnayer...*).

To **pander to** people's vile or base instincts → *verbe connoté ☹ = encourager basement / faire appel à / se prêter à...* (NB. A panderer → *un entremetteur / proxénète.*)

Xenophobic [Racist] political leaders **whip up** resentment against foreign-born citizens (*attiser/ galvaniser... + la rancune / le ressentiment / à l'encontre de/s...*).

Those devices will **boost / foster** / ∅ competitiveness and ∅ economic growth (*stimuler, encourager*).

To **fuel** the growth of a country (*alimenter, nourrir*).

To **harness** natural resources / energy (*exploiter des ressources naturelles ; maîtriser l'énergie*).

## EFFORTS - difficulties

To **struggle to** do sth (*peiner à faire... / avoir du mal de...*).

To **have difficulty in / have trouble / doing** sth. (*Avoir du mal / des difficultés à faire.*)

Many **efforts have been made** so far. People **have tried hard** ... (≈ *s'échiner*)

To **strive to do** sth. 🔴 To strive – **strove** – **striven** → *s'évertuer à faire / s'acharner à ... / s'efforcer de faire.*

To **step up one's efforts** (*intensifier*) ≈ to **bolster** efforts.

**They have trouble [have difficulty]** combining professional duties with family responsibilities.

To **go to great lengths to** do sth. → *se donner beaucoup de mal pour faire ...*

To **pluck up (one's) courage**... (≈ to screw up one's courage) → *prendre son courage à deux mains.*

It is sometimes **difficult / hard / for** working parents **to** balance family life against professional responsibilities.

Let's **brace up** and face the situation! → *Ressaisissons-nous et faisons face.*

CPGE / Mme CASIES.

**INTERDEPENDENCE** (How to **CORRELATE** things and thus 🔴 avoid using "link words" over and over again!)

More often than not, food choices **depend on / correlate with / pertain to** (*avoir un rapport avec*) / one's social status or rank.

These two trends **are closely correlated** (*être en rapport étroit*).

Lifestyle choices **vary with** people's education and occupation, as well as the country they live in.

Your attitude (to sth.) is likely to **result from / be conditioned by** / your family background

...

Behaviour is **inherent in** the environment one grew up in.

That is **part and parcel of** sth. (*faire partie intégrante de...*)

To most Americans, food is **a matter of** personal freedom.

To the Americans health is a choice **whereas** it is a right to the French.

To **insist on the TWO facets** of an issue / of a debate ... (when, for example, you want to underline the **DISCREPANCY** between fact and fiction / between myth and reality..., to **weigh up the pros and cons** of a device... (≈ advantages and drawbacks), to **contrast or compare** two things / people...)

<b>On the one hand, .....</b>	<b>On the other hand, ....</b> ( <i>En revanche, ...</i> )
<b>Admittedly, / Assuredly, /</b>	<b>Yet, / However, ...</b>
<b>For one thing, .....</b>	<b>For another, .....</b> ( <i>D'autre part...</i> )
<b>It is alleged that</b> such telecommunications devices <b>bring</b> people <b>together</b> and distance has become irrelevant. ≈ Such devices <b>allegedly</b> bring people together.  <b>It can be argued that</b> such devices enable people to keep in touch ... ≈ Such devices <b>arguably</b> bring ... ..	<b>And yet,</b> they can <b>draw</b> them <b>apart</b> as well! <b>Actually,</b> + clause (= S + VB. + cplts...). <b>However,</b> + clause. ...
Such devices <b>are said / are believed / to</b> save time... <b>You are supposed to ...</b> (≈ The PN. "you" here → the French PN "on".) Users <b>can</b> do ...	<b>Actually, / In fact, / As a matter of fact, /</b> + clause. ( <i>En réalité / En fait / A vrai dire, ...</i> )
...	...

As regards **COMPARISON or CONTRAST**, you can also use the following terms:  
Papers used to lecture their readers **whereas** news websites [online papers] get internet surfers to interact with one another, if they feel like it.  
(≈ "whereas" is a **conjunction** ⇒ **+ clause** = S + VB. conjugué.)

**UNLIKE** traditional media [**UNLIKE** them], social networking sites enable internet users *to* react instantly. → *Contrairement aux medias traditionnels, les réseaux sociaux permettent aux internautes de réagir instantanément.*  
≈ "Unlike" is a **preposition** ⇒ **+ N, including the gerund (-ing) / + PRONOUN.**  
Refer to **file 19**.

☞ Of course, you can use **COMPARATIVE forms** too, when you **compare two** items / two people.  
Ex: It is **the more** effective device **of the two** but also **the cheaper. / the less** expensive. /

Rappel du COMPARATIF:

- ✚ « **PLUS** » + ADJ. + « **que...** » =  
 « **-ER** » **pour les adjectifs "courts"** (= ceux qui comportent moins de 3 syllabes, ainsi que quelques autres  
 ☞ cf. livre de grammaire) ☞ **mais** « **MORE** » + **adj.** « **LONG** »  
 + « **THAN** ».
- ✚ « **MOINS** » + ADJ. + « **que...** » = "**LESS + adj.**", quelle que soit sa longueur, + « **THAN** ».

NB: use the **SUPERLATIVE forms** when you compare **three or more** people / items:  
 ✚ **the** + a so-called **short** adj. + **-est** (ex: the prettiest house around here);  
 ✚ **the most** + a so-called **long** adjective (ex: the most sophisticated device I have ever seen);  
 ✚ **the least + any** adj. (*le / la / moins + adj.*).

🔴 Note a few **irregular forms**:

Adj.	comparative	superlative
Good	better	the best
Bad	worse	the worst
far	farther ( <i>sens littéral / distance</i> )	the farthest
far	further (information, for ex.)	the furthest
...	...	...

NB. Easy → eas**i**er → the eas**i**est; pretty → prett**i**er → the prett**i**est...  
 For other comparative patterns ☞ file "Réflexes pour le thème".

Sketchy LAYOUT of arguments:

Possible **STARTERS**. / To **INTRODUCE** an argument:

**To begin with**, ...

**First and foremost**, ... (*D'abord et surtout, ... ≈ Avant toute chose.*)

**More often than not**, people turn away from ... (*Il n'est pas rare que les individus se détournent de...*)

**By and large**, ... (*De manière générale, ... / Dans l'ensemble, ...*)

**In the first place**, ... (*D'abord, ... / En premier lieu, ...*)

NB: To **put first things first** → *Commencer par le commencement*. **First things first!** → *Prenons les choses dans l'ordre.*)

**At first glance**, / **At first sight**, / **At first blush** (GB.) (*De prime abord / A première vue,...*)

☞ To introduce a topic, you can also refer to the **background**: see the part above, entitled "**how to contextualise**..." as well as

∅ **Public opinion has it that**... / ∅ **Common wisdom has it that** ... ☞ See phrases conveying **OPINIONS**.

To **ADD** sth. and **CONCLUDE**:

**Besides** (*en outre*), ...

**Equally significant is / No less meaningful is** ...

(*For a detail*) **Incidentally**, ...

**Add in** the fact that + clause.

**Last but not least**, ...

**To conclude**, ...

To **SUM UP** or conclude:

**In a nutshell**, ... ≈ **In brief**, ...

**All in all**, ... (*Tout compte fait*) [taken all round ... (*tout bien considéré*)]

**Altogether**, ... (*Somme toute, ... / Tout compte fait*)

...