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Commonly confused verbs: *join/attend, give/provide*

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Some people can't afford to join private language courses.
b Some people can't afford to attend private language courses.
- 2 a The university library provides free internet access for students.
b The university library gives free internet access for students.

We use *join* to talk about becoming a member of something, such as a club:

*I try to stay healthy, so I've **joined** a gym.*

We use *attend* to talk about going regularly to a class, course, school or university:

*We had the chance to **attend** a presentation skills workshop. (not ~~join~~)*

We also *attend* an organised event, such as a conference, meeting or church service:

*The Prime Minister **attended** a memorial service for the victims.*

We usually use *go to* instead of *attend* in more informal writing and speech:

*Are you **going to** this afternoon's lecture? (not ~~attending~~)*

We use *provide* to talk about making something available for people to use. We use it especially about services supplied by the government, a company or other organisation:

*One of the roles of the state is to **provide** a basic education.*

*We need to **provide** better facilities **for** visitors.*

*The tourist office **provides** visitors **with** helpful information.*

Give is usually used in more informal contexts or when one person physically gives something to someone else:

*The Red Cross **gave** the most malnourished children high-energy drinks.*

2 Correct the mistake below.



All team members are expected

3 Underline the best verb to complete the sentences.

- 1 All employees have the opportunity to *join/attend* IT training courses.
- 2 The council should *give/provide* better public services for local residents.
- 3 He is due to *go/attend* a meeting in Munich tomorrow.
- 4 You will be *given/provided* a coloured wristband when you arrive.
- 5 She encouraged workers to *join/attend* the trade union.
- 6 The university website *gives/provides* information for overseas students.
- 7 I *went to/attended* a great party on Saturday night.
- 8 Can you *give/provide* me any information about tourist attractions in the area?