matter

1 Verb + matter

Use the correct form of these verbs:

be *discuss* *get*
look into *bring* *settle*

1. Have you ..... this matter with anyone else?
2. This kind of damage to the environment should ..... a matter of concern to us all.
3. We took the matter up with the manager and he promised to ..... it.
4. I said I'm sorry, so why can't you let the matter drop?
   > Okay. I promise not to ..... the matter up again.
5. Let's ..... this matter once and for all. We've been trying to resolve it for months now.
6. We've no time to deal with that just now, so let's ..... on with the matter in hand and try to finish what we've started.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these adjectives:

easy *urgent* *delicate* *different*
serious *trivial* *complex* *personal*

1. Look, this is a rather ..... matter. Wendy can't afford to go on the trip and I'd like to offer to pay for her, but I'm worried that she might be offended.
2. It might seem funny to you, but setting fire to a wastepaper bin is no laughing matter – it is a very ..... matter indeed!
3. I don't mind bees, wasps, flies and things like that, but spiders are a ..... matter entirely!
4. OK, have it your way. The colour of the paper is such a ..... matter that it's not worth fighting about.
5. Please try to find him. There is an extremely ..... matter I need to talk to him about. Tell him that it can't wait till tomorrow.
6. Excuse me, Mr Thompson, could I talk to you in private? It's a ..... matter.
7. It should have been a simple matter, but getting through to the helpline was no ..... matter!
8. Collocation can be a very ..... matter!

3 Noun + of + matter

Match the two halves of the following:

1. He denies any knowledge of the matter.
2. A holiday would be wonderful,
3. We need to get to
4. This is by no means the end of the matter –

a. but the fact of the matter is that we can't afford one.
b. I won't give up the fight that easily.
c. He says he wasn't involved.
d. the heart of the matter before we can help.

4 On the matter

Complete the sentences with the following:

advice *discussion* *light*
nothing *word*

1. My bag is missing and I was hoping you might be able to shed some ..... on the matter.
2. Of course I'll take ..... on this matter, but I already know what I'm going to do.
3. When asked about his reasons for resigning, he had ..... to say on the matter.
4. You can't go to the concert. And that's my last ..... on the matter. Don't bring the subject up again! You're too young.
5. You won't get anywhere, I'm afraid. They refuse to enter into any ..... on the matter.

Notes

1. Note this common question:
   What's the matter? You look like you've seen a ghost!
2. Note this common expression:
   Well, if there's no choice in the matter, I suppose I'll have to go to the meeting.
3. Note these expressions using *matter + of + noun:*
   Can't we do this tomorrow? It's hardly a matter of life or death, is it?
   Safety standards in the industry have been a matter of concern for many years.
   Which is the best cheese? It's a matter of personal taste.
   It can only be a matter of time before war breaks out.
4. One way of disagreeing with someone is to say:
   Well, I think it's a matter of opinion.
5. Notice this expression:
   Don't get involved, Clare. This is a family matter.

LIVEWORKSHEETS