

1 NOUN PHRASES

a Read the sentences and definitions, and complete the **bold** binomial phrases with a word from the list.

butts egg ends error gloom needles
parcel times

- This new book describes the **life and times** of Charles Dickens in 19th-century London.
(= the life and what it was like in that period)
- We're almost ready for the party, but there are a few **odds and** _____ still to be done.
(= small, unimportant things)
- I told her to finish her homework by 9 p.m., **no ifs or** _____.
(= no excuses)
- After driving for four hours, I got terrible **pins and** _____ in my leg. (= an uncomfortable feeling after sitting or lying in an awkward position)
- Taking notes in meetings is **part and** _____ of my job. (= an essential part of)
- Despite losing three matches in a row, it's not all **doom and** _____ for the team – they'll almost certainly have an easy win against the Faroe Islands.
(= a feeling that everything will go badly)
- There were no instructions, but we managed to put the shelves together by **trial and** _____.
(= trying various methods until you are successful)
- People don't use the train because it's expensive, but it's expensive because not many people use it. It's a **chicken and** _____ situation, unfortunately.
(= difficult to tell which one of two things was the cause of the other)

b 4.4 Listen and check.

2 ADJECTIVAL OR ADVERBIAL PHRASES

a Complete the binomials with a word from the list.

cheap cut far first hit out rough skin

- decide in a way that cannot be changed or argued about
cut and dried
All decisions have been taken. Everything is ~.
- not done in a careful, planned way
_____ **and miss**
The conference was a bit ~. Some great talks, but some awful ones, too.
- travelling around talking to people
_____ **and about**
I'm exhausted. I've been ~ all morning.
- simple and prepared quickly, but good enough
_____ **and ready**
The hostel was a bit ~, but at least it was cheap and it was a bed for the night.

- prioritized above anything else
_____ **and foremost**
~, the main advantage of foreign travel is that you get to know other cultures.
- over a large area
_____ **and wide**
The singer's fans had come from ~ to see their idol.
- of reasonable quality, enjoyable, despite being inexpensive
_____ **and cheerful**
Our local restaurant is ~, but the food is pretty good.
- very thin
_____ **and bone**
Simon has got really thin – he's just ~.

b 4.5 Listen and check.

3 PHRASES WITH REPETITION

a Match the **bold** binomials in sentences 1–9 to their meanings A–I.

- In the end, we had a **heart-to-heart** and she told me why she was so upset.
- I've told you **again and again** not to be late for school, and here you are still in bed at 8.00!
- My nephew put a frog in my bed – he's a little **so-and-so**.
- My niece adores living in London. She's a city girl **through and through**.
- We'd spoken many times on the phone, but we'd never met **face to face**.
- The puppy was very timid at first, but **little by little** we persuaded him to trust us.
- I know it's difficult, but if you just take things **step by step**, you'll get through it.
- Sadly, poverty and obesity often go **hand in hand**, as healthy food is more expensive.
- Scott and Johnson were **neck and neck** until the last 50 yards, when Scott pulled ahead.

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A together in real life | F completely |
| B closely connected | G an honest and personal conversation |
| C level in a race or competition | H an annoying or unpleasant person |
| D many times | I (deal with sth) one stage at a time |
| E gradually | |

b 4.6 Listen and check.

ACTIVATION Practise saying the binomials in all three sections. Make sure you link the words where appropriate and use the weak form of *and* where necessary.

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