23 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?

LIVEWORKSHEETS