

# standard

## 1 Verb + standard

Use the correct form of these verbs:

|       |          |       |
|-------|----------|-------|
| fall  | maintain | raise |
| enjoy | reach    | set   |

1. Our job is not just to ..... standards – our job is to make sure they improve!
2. He failed to ..... the required standard, and did not qualify for the race.
3. Do you think that reducing class sizes would ..... standards in our primary schools?
4. It's hard for others to come up to the standards our head of department ..... for herself.
5. The standard of service has ..... steadily since the company was taken over a year ago. It's now so bad, something will have to be done.
6. Today most people in this country ..... a standard of living which their parents could only dream about.

## 2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these adjectives:

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| approved | falling |
| high     | low     |
| minimum  | modern  |
| same     | usual   |

1. My boss demands extremely ..... standards from the people that work for him. In fact some people think he is unrealistic.
2. I was disappointed when I took some friends to my favourite restaurant and neither the food nor the service were up to the ..... standard.
3. Not everyone judges success by the ..... standards. Unlike you, I think that happiness is more important than the size of your car.
4. Parents are always complaining about ..... standards in schools.
5. A number of Britain's beaches fail to meet the ..... standards laid down by the EU.
6. This special mark shows that the product conforms to an ..... industry standard.
7. We decided that it would be our first and last trip to the island. The hotels and restaurants were all of a very ..... standard.
8. By ..... standards, the plumbing in our hotel was totally inadequate!

## 3 Standard + of + noun

Complete the sentences below with these nouns:

|           |        |             |
|-----------|--------|-------------|
| behaviour | care   | hygiene     |
| singing   | living | workmanship |

1. Some countries simply don't provide proper standards of ..... for the elderly.
2. Inspectors criticised the kitchen staff for poor standards of .....
3. I had my windows replaced, but I'm not very pleased with the standard of .....
4. There's been a progressive increase in the standard of ..... over the last five years. People are now much better off.
5. The school insists on strict standards of ..... on school trips.
6. Although it was an amateur production, the standard of ..... was excellent.

## 4 Expressions with prepositions

Use these prepositions in the sentences:

of to up below by in

1. The work has been done ..... a professional standard.
2. Students will be sent home if their behaviour falls ..... an acceptable standard.
3. The first computers were very slow ..... today's standards.
4. Universities deny that there has been a decline ..... academic standards.
5. The report is highly critical ..... safety standards at the factory.
6. The teacher said that my essay was not ..... to standard and that I would have to do it again.

### Notes

1. In 2-8 you can also say 'by today's standards':  
*By today's standards, Shakespeare was a rich man.*
2. Note the use of *safety standards* and *moral standards*:  
*The airline's maintenance programme did not conform to the high safety standards set by the industry.*  
*The Minister did not live up to the high moral standards expected of him.*
3. If someone has 'double standards', they are guilty of condemning something, while doing it themselves.