

criticism

I Verb + criticism

Use the correct form of these verbs:

aim	resent
take	single out for

1. I'm very angry at the report on my teaching. I deeply the inspector's criticism.
2. The manager is very sensitive. He just can't criticism. I don't know how he got the job.
3. The whole team were responsible for our poor performance. I don't understand why I was criticism by the manager.
4. Criticism has been levelled at the government for the increase in hospital waiting lists. Most of the criticism has been at the Minister.

Go back and underline the verb collocations.

2 Preposition + criticism

Use these expressions in the sentences:

barrage of criticism	open to criticism
note of criticism	in response to criticism
sensitive to criticism	target for criticism

1. If you stick to your extreme political views, don't complain if you become a
2. The company has changed its working practices by government inspectors.
3. Choose your words carefully. She is very
4. People in public life must be If they're not, they simply won't survive.
5. Do I detect a? I would have thought you were the last person to dare to criticise me!
6. After the singer's appalling behaviour at the awards ceremony, she faced a in the national press.

3 Getting a lot of criticism

Underline the verbs and phrasal verbs in the sentences below:

1. The French government has received strong criticism for continuing to test nuclear weapons in the Pacific.
2. The police chief has come in for harsh criticism over his handling of the riots.

3. The government's economic policies have attracted a lot of criticism recently.
4. The controversial film 'Hooligans' has run into severe criticism for its use of strong language.
5. The new regulations on immigration have come under considerable criticism in the press.
6. The government is currently facing fierce criticism over its failure to reduce taxes.

In the 6 sentences above, which five adjectives are used to mean 'a lot of criticism'?

4 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences below with the following:

constructive	growing
mild	unjustified

1. I'm willing to accept your criticism of the way you were treated by Reception, but I think your criticism of 'the whole staff of the hotel' is wholly
2. My tutor didn't offer any criticism of my poem. He just said he didn't like it. I thought he would at least have given me some advice on how to improve it.
3. The government is coming under criticism for its failure to send food to the starving people of West Africa. More and more people are demanding action.
4. Make sure you only say positive things about her work. She can't accept even criticism of her paintings. She thinks she's the new Van Gogh!

Notes

1. In 1-4 you can also use *direct*; in 2-6 a *storm of criticism*; in 4-3 *increasing criticism* is possible.
2. Here are five main areas of adjectives:
strong: *severe, harsh, heavy, bitter, fierce, serious*
growing: *increasing, mounting*
wide: *widespread, general, fundamental, constant*
positive: *fair, constructive, legitimate, valid*
negative: *adverse, hostile, scathing, damaging*
3. Note the expression in 3-2 – *come in for criticism*. This means that someone is criticising you. It is a fairly formal usage:
Our policies have come in for a lot of criticism from the press recently.