

three **distinct** meanings.

The preposition **unlike** is often used to compare people or things that are very different from each other: *Dan's actually quite nice, unlike his father.* • *The furniture was unlike anything she had ever seen.*

**D** ◦ **different** /ˈdɪfərənt/ *adjective* **1** not the same as someone or something else *Jo's very different from her sister, isn't she?* ◦ *UK The house is different to how I expected it to be.* **2** [always before noun] used to talk about separate things or people of the same type *I had to go to three different shops to find the book she wanted.* • **differently** *adverb* ◻ See also: a whole new ball game.

**COMMON LEARNER ERROR**

**different**

**Different** is usually followed by the preposition **from**. In British English people also use **to**.

*Anne is very different to her younger sister.*

In American English people also use **than**, but teachers prefer students to use **from**.

**differential** /ˌdɪfərənʃəl/ *noun* [C] a difference between amounts of things *differentials in pay/wealth*

**differentiate** /ˌdɪfərənʃiət/ *verb* **1** [I, T] to understand or notice how two things or people are different from each other *He can't differentiate between blue and green.* **2** [T] to make someone or something different *We need to differentiate ourselves from the competition.* • **differentiation** /ˌdɪfərənʃiˈeɪʃən/ *noun* [U]

**OTHER WAYS OF SAYING difficult**

**Hard** is very often used instead of **difficult** and means exactly the same: *The exam was really hard.* • *It must be hard to study with all this noise.*

If something is difficult to understand or do because it has a lot of different parts or stages, you can say that it is **complicated**: *The instructions were so complicated I just couldn't follow them.*

**Tricky** describes something difficult that needs skill or needs you to be very careful: *It's quite tricky getting the bits to fit together.* • *It's a tricky situation - I don't want to upset anyone.*

**Fiddly** (UK) describes something that you do with your hands which is difficult because the parts involved are so small: *Repairing a watch is very fiddly.*

**Awkward** describes something or someone that is difficult to deal with and could cause problems: *Dealing with awkward customers is just part of the job.* • *Luckily, she didn't ask any awkward questions.*

**Demanding** means 'needing a lot of your time, attention, or effort': *She has a very demanding job.* • *Like most young children, he's very demanding.*

A situation or piece of work that is **challenging** is difficult and needs all your skills

and determination: *This has been a challenging time for us all.* • *I found the course very challenging.*

You say **easier said than done** about something that is impossible or very difficult to do: *I suppose I should stop smoking but it's easier said than done.*

◦ **difficult** /ˈdɪfɪkəl/ *adjective* **1** not easy and needing skill or effort to do or understand *Japanese is a difficult language for Europeans to learn.* ◦ *This game is too difficult for me.* ◦ [+ to do sth] *It's difficult to think with all that noise.* **2** not friendly or easy to deal with *a difficult teenager*

**WORD PARTNERS FOR difficulty**

**create/experience/have difficulty • great/serious difficulty • with/without difficulty**

◦ **difficulty** /ˈdɪfɪkəlti/ *noun* **1** [U] when something is not easy to do or understand [+ in + doing sth] *He was having difficulty in breathing because of the smoke.* ◦ [+ doing sth] *I had difficulty finding somewhere to park.* ◦ *She had twisted her ankle and was walking with difficulty.* **2** [C] something that is not easy to deal with *The company is having some financial difficulties at the moment.*

**COMMON LEARNER ERROR**

**have difficulty doing something**

You can say you **have difficulty doing** something or **have difficulty in doing** something.

*She has difficulty walking.*

*She has difficulty in walking.*

*I have difficulty to walk.*

**diffident** /ˈdɪfɪdnt/ *adjective* shy and without any confidence *a diffident young man* • **diffidence** /ˈdɪfɪdns/ *noun* [U]

**diffuse** /dɪˈfjuːz/ *verb* **dig**

[I, T] to spread, or to make something spread over a large area, or to a large number of people

◦ **dig** <sup>1</sup> /dɪg/ *verb* **digging** *past dug* **1** [I, T] to break or move the ground with a tool, machine, etc *Digging the garden is good exercise.* **2 dig a hole/tunnel, etc** to make a hole in the ground by moving some of the ground or soil away *They've dug a huge hole in the road.* ◻ See also: dig the/up dirt<sup>1</sup> on sb.

**dig in/dig into sth** *informal* to start eating food *Dig in, there's plenty for everyone.*

**dig (sth) into sb/sth** to press or push hard into someone or something, or to press something hard into someone or something *A stone was digging into my heel.*

