

**f**ake v. n. adj.      phoney      to put on

If something is a **fake**, it is an attempt to fool people into believing that it is something that it really is not.

- a) 'This painting can't be an original Picasso. It must be a **fake**.'
- b) 'Is that a real fur coat or is it **fake** fur?'
- c) 'The guy is supposed to be some sort of clairvoyant. It's obvious he's just a **fake** but he's got loads of people going to see him. He must be making a fortune!'

We can also use the adjective **phoney** (esp. US) to describe something that is false.

- d) 'He got arrested for driving with a **phoney** licence.'
- e) 'This hundred buck bill is **phoney**! Where the hell did you get it from?'

If you **fake** something it means you are trying to make people believe something that is not true.

- f) 'When she told him that she wasn't interested in going to the Soccer Museum, he **faked** surprise.'

Martin: That was really nasty of you! Can't you see that she's really upset now?

Linda: 'Come on! You know what she's like – she's just faking. There's nothing wrong with her – just you wait and see.'

We can use the phrasal verb **to put on** with the sense of **to fake**.

- g) 'He hasn't really hurt himself – he's just **putting it on**.'
- h) 'I can never tell if Jeremy's really annoyed or if he's just **putting it on**.'
- i) 'I mean, the bloke's such a creep! When he talks to the guys down on the factory floor – he **puts on** this ridiculous Cockney accent to try to make them think he's just one of the lads!'

3) We also use **would** for the **future in the past** - when we report something that was said in the past, that referred to the future.

- a) 'I can't think what's happened – he said he *would be* here.'
- b) 'Yesterday's forecast said it *would rain* today. Wrong again!'

4) Another way that we can use **would** is to describe habitual or repeated actions in the past.

- a) 'Malcolm was a very popular member of staff. He *would always have* a kind word for everyone and he *would often go* out of his way to help new employees.'
- b) 'Living in Germany was weird for me – the people had such funny habits. For example, in the evening most people *would stay in* from Monday to Thursday. They *would just watch* TV and they'd usually be in bed by eleven. But on Friday and Saturday they *would go* wild! They *would drink* beer until they couldn't drink any more. Then they *would spend* all day in bed with a hangover, then they *would go* out in the evening and do exactly the same thing again!'

The way we use **would** to talk about regular past actions is often the same as we use **used to**.

- c) 'I'm not surprised they split up. They *would argue* – *used to argue* about everything.'
- d) 'I was a really slow eater. I *would always be* – I *always used to be* the last to finish.'

However, when we talk about past situations rather than actions, we can only use **used to**.

- e) 'There *used to be* three cinemas in this town. Now there aren't any.'
- f) 'This *used to be* one of the roughest areas in town. Now it's one of the trendiest'

We can also use **would** with the continuous form (but not usually **used to**)

'She was always in a world of her own. During lessons *she'd be sitting* at her desk just staring into space.'

1c) Another way we use the **Present Continuous** is when we describe changing situations.

f) 'Nowadays, more and more people **are choosing** to work from their homes via computer.'

2) The **Present Continuous** is also used for the **future** when talking about plans or arrangements we have made.

Mary: **Are you doing** anything next weekend?

John: Yes, **we're taking** the kids to Disneyland.

3) Another use of the **Present Continuous** is for when we talk about repeated or habitual actions. When we use it with this meaning, we generally use the word **always** or **constantly**.

g) 'I just can't get by on these wages - **I'm constantly having** to borrow money from friends.'

Mark: Where's Jim?

Gary: He decided not to come.

Mark: I'm getting really fed up with that guy. **He's always changing** his mind at the last moment!

Helen: Shall we ask Petra to come with us, too?

Sue: I'm not going out for dinner with her again - **she's always complaining** and **making** a fuss.

4) We can talk about repeated actions in the past using the **Past Continuous**.

José: Did you hear that Colin Hoddle is in jail?

Bob: 'I'm not surprised! Do you remember what he was like at school - **he was always getting** into fights or **getting** into trouble for stealing stuff.'

dim adj. v.

If a light is **dim** it is very low.

a) 'The room was too **dim** to make out what was written on the walls.'

b) 'Can't we have a stronger light in here? That 30 watt bulb is far too **dim**.'

If you are driving outside town at night, you probably have your headlights on **full beam** but when another car approaches you **dim** your headlights. Some lights in rooms have a **dimmer switch** with which we can control how bright the light is.

If we say that hopes or prospects look **dim**, we think they are unlikely to be successful.

c) 'Prospects of reaching a lasting agreement have never looked **dimmer**.'

If you **take a dim view** of something it means that you disapprove of it.

d) 'You have the right to apply for paternity leave but the company **takes a pretty dim view** of it.'

In informal English a **dim** person is someone who is not very intelligent.

Sam: I was trying to have a conversation with that Brian guy. He's a bit **dim**, isn't he?

Anne: **Dim? He's thick as a brick!**

Don: Darling, I think I must have thrown out those letters with the **garbage** by mistake!

Kim: That was pretty **dim**, wasn't it?

= *What sort of places often have dim lighting?*

= *When do drivers dim their headlights?*

= *Do you have any memories that you think time will never dim?*

= *Do you suspect there's anyone who takes a dim view of you?*

## to make up for                      to make it up

If you **make up** an amount of something you add what is needed to make it complete.

- a) 'My parents said that if I can raise half the cost of the trip, they'll **make up** the difference.'

If you **make up** or **make up for** time at work, you do extra hours to cover for the time that you missed before.

- b) 'I'm warning you - if you decide to join the strike you'll have to **make up** every minute in your own time.'
- c) 'The firm offered her an extra week's holiday to **make up for** the extra time she'd had to put in to get the report finished by the May 31\* deadline.'

If you **make up for** something that is missing or insufficient, you find a way of replacing it.

- d) 'I took a big cut in salary when I moved away from London. But the more relaxed pace and the improved quality of life **makes up for** every penny.'
- e) 'What she lacked in imagination she **made up for** with hard work and conscientious research.'

We also say we will **make up for something** or **make it up to someone** when we have caused them to suffer in some way and we feel in obligation towards them.

- f) 'Darling, forgive me! I know how you must be feeling, but believe me, I'll **make up for** what I've done if it's the last thing I do!'
- g) 'I realise the kids were really disappointed not to go to the zoo. We'll just have to find another way of **making it up to** them.'

If people **make up** after a row, it means that they agree to put their differences behind them and to continue their relationship as before.

- h) 'They have the classic 'love - hate' relationship. They've been **breaking up and making up** right from the word go.'

- = How can players in team games make up for lack of skill?  
= Do you think a high salary makes up for having very little free time?

## strain v. n.

**Strain** is the pressure that pulls hard on something, to the point where it may break or get damaged.

- a) 'The **strain** on the rope was so great that eventually it snapped, and the boat was blown out to open sea by the gale.'
- b) 'When the dog saw the cat, it started to **strain** against its lead, pulling its owner off balance for a moment.'

We often use the word **strain** when we talk about the pressures and difficulties a person has to cope with, normally caused by demanding work.

- c) 'He had the qualifications and he had the experience, but he could not cope with the **strain** that the position involved. Things got on top of him to the point that he became a nervous wreck.'

Used in this way, **strain** means the same as **stress**, and the two words are often used together - **stress and strain**.

- d) 'Although we undoubtedly enjoy a higher standard of living, the **stresses and strains** of modern life mean that whether the quality of life is better, is open to question.'

If a system or organisation is 'under **strain**', it means that it is reaching a point where it is no longer able to cope.

- e) 'The current shortage of qualified nurses is placing the hospital system under considerable **strain**.'
- f) 'Unions are warning of threats to safety as summer approaches and the number of holiday charter flights puts the air traffic control system under **strain**.'

If a person **strains** a part of their body in some way it means that they attempt to do something that is really beyond them and they risk causing themselves damage.

- g) 'Without her glasses, she had to **strain** her eyes to follow what was going on.'