

# Usage

Be careful how you use words.

Where a word is frequently used wrongly, or where there is a confusing similarity between two words, the dictionary warns you. For example:

**curb** *VERB* **curbs, curbing, curbed**

to keep in check; to restrain ♦ *It seemed a shame to curb their enthusiasm.*

**curb** *NOUN* **curbs**

a restraint ♦ *Put a curb on spending.*

**USAGE NOTE** Take care not to confuse this word with *kerb*.

**1** Look at the following pairs of sentences and tick the one which is correct.

- a You must learn to curb your impatience.
- b Don't step off the curb if there is traffic coming.

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- c There are two alternate styles to choose from.
- d The strange craft was glowing in alternate colours.

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- e There was no mistaking her distinct way of dressing.
- f This time the sound was quite distinct.

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- g There have been tales of strange phenomena at the house.
- h Ghosts are one phenomena I can't bring myself to take seriously.

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- i The hotel accommodation was really luxuriant.
- j Part of his disguise was a luxuriant black beard.

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- k My grandmother is a compulsive football supporter.
- l It is compulsive to wear crash helmets on site.

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- m It's no good trying to burn that: it's inflammable.
- n Inflammable gases are a danger in coal mines.

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**2** Can you see a way of putting right each of the *incorrect* sentences, without altering more than one word in each? (Write the new sentences on the lines provided.)