

# Man and machine 11

## Words and phrases

### Lead in

#### 11.01 famine /'fæmɪn/ (n)

when there is not enough food for people to eat and live ♦ *Lack of rain means crops can't grow and this causes famine in many hot countries.*

#### 11.02 disease /drɪ'zi:z/ (n)

illness that often passes from one person to another ♦ *Our teacher caught a disease when she was on holiday and she's in hospital now.* ► diseased (adj)

#### 11.03 specification

/ˌspesɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ (n)

details about how sth is or should be designed or made ♦ *Friends of my parents built an amazing house to their own specifications.* ► specify (v), specifically (adv)

#### 11.04 fuel consumption

/'fju:əl kən,sʌmpʃn/ (n)

the amount of fuel sth uses ♦ *The fuel consumption of our new car is very low and my dad's pleased about that.*

#### 11.05 partially /'pɑ:ʃəli/ (adv)

not completely ♦ *The flat is partially heated but one bedroom still needs a radiator.* ► part (n), partly (adv)

#### 11.06 electrical appliance

/ɪˌlektrɪkl ə'plaɪəns/ (n)

sth you use in the house that needs electricity ♦ *We'll need some more wall sockets in the study with so many electrical appliances.*

#### 11.07 fuse /fju:z/ (n)

small device that breaks an electrical circuit if the current is too strong ♦ *I need to check the fuse because this lamp isn't working.* ► fuse (v), fused (adj)

#### 11.08 plug /plʌg/ (n)

used to connect an appliance to the electricity supply ♦ *My new hair drier hasn't got a plug. Have you got one I could have?* ► plug in (v)

#### 11.09 manual /'mænjuəl/ (n)

booklet that tells you how sth works ♦ *The PC comes with a manual in case you don't know how to use it.*

#### 11.10 model /'mɒdl/ (n)

particular type or design of product ♦ *Toyota are bringing out a new model in their luxury range.* ► model (v)

#### 11.11 end-of-line

/ˌend əv 'laɪn/ (adj)

cheap because it's a design which is not going to be sold any more ♦ *I bought this in an end-of-line sale and it was half the original price!*

## Reading

#### 11.12 awesome /'ɔ:səm/ (adj)

amazing ♦ *The film is awesome. I've seen it ten times!* ③ informal ► awe (n)

#### 11.13 count /kaʊnt/ (v)

Here: can be considered ♦ *The tests you take at primary school don't count when you're applying for college.* Usually: say numbers in order ► count (n), countable (adj)

#### 11.14 far-fetched /ˌfɑ: 'fetʃt/ (adj)

unlikely to happen ♦ *William had some far-fetched idea of crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a canoe.*

#### 11.15 capable (of)

/'keɪpəbl (əv)/ (adj)

having the ability to do ♦ *The teacher says we're all capable of learning another language but we have to work hard.*

#### 11.16 artificial intelligence

/ˌɑ:tɪfɪʃl ɪn'telɪdʒəns/ (n)

area of study concerned with making computers copy intelligent human behaviour ♦ *Scientists have been trying to develop artificial intelligence for a long time with little success.*

#### 11.17 annual /'ænjuəl/ (adj)

happening every year ♦ *There's an annual singing competition at our school.* ► annually (adv)

#### 11.18 award /ə'wɔ:d/ (v)

give sth to sb as a prize, payment, etc. ♦ *The judges awarded Martina seven points for her dance.* ► award (n)

#### 11.19 emerge (as)

/ɪ'mɜ:ʒ (əz)/ (v)

come out as ♦ *After a hard competition John emerged as the clear winner.* ►

#### 11.20 battle it out

/ˌbætl ɪt 'aʊt/ (phr)

fight hard for sth ♦ *In the club tennis championship finals Terry and Brian battled it out for three hours but Terry finally won.* ► battle (n)

**11.21 declare** /dr'kleə(r)/ (v)  
say officially ♦ *Our school was declared the winner of the football trophy.* ► declaration (n)

**11.22 bronze** /brɒnz/ (adj)  
metal used for medal given for third place in a competition ♦ *Our country won two golds and ten bronze medals in the last Olympics.* ► bronze (n)

**11.23 retain** /rɪ'teɪn/ (v)  
keep ♦ *How long do you think the golfer Tiger Woods will retain his position as number one in the world?* ► retention (n)

**11.24 database** /'deɪtəbeɪs/ (n)  
organised store of information used for reference ♦ *I'll enter your details onto the database and you should automatically get a letter next month.* ► data (n unc)

**11.25 subjective** /səb'dʒektɪv/ (adj)  
having an opinion based on a personal point of view ♦ *The judges opinion in the singing competition is always subjective because they each like a particular type of music.* ► subject (to) (v)

**11.26 scoop** /sku:p/ (v)  
win ♦ *Our neighbours scooped two million pounds on the Lottery!*  
① informal.

**11.27 long haul** /lɒŋ 'hɔ:l/ (n)  
sth that takes a long time  
♦ *People who want to be successful entertainers have to be prepared for the long haul.*

**11.28 primitive** /'prɪmətɪv/ (adj)  
very basic and old-fashioned  
♦ *Making fire with a couple of sticks is a rather primitive way of doing it.*

**11.29 conceivably** /kən'si:vəbli/ (adv)  
possibly ♦ *This time next year we could conceivably be in South America.* ► conceivable (adj), conceive (of) (v)

**11.30 store (of)** /'stɔ:(r) (əv)/ (n)  
quantity that is available for use  
♦ *Our store of copier paper is running low. We must order some more.* ► store (v)

**11.31 call centre** /'kɔ:l ,sentə(r)/ (n)  
place where people work answering calls from customers

## Grammar

**11.32 burn an album** /,bɜ:n ən 'ælbəm/ (phr)  
copy an album on to a CD ♦ *I can burn the album for you. It won't take long at all.*

## Listening

**11.33 sensor** /'sensə(r)/ (n)  
device that reacts to movement, temperature or pressure

**11.34 diamond** /'daɪəmənd/ (n)  
very expensive stone ♦ *Tom bought Susie a ring with a huge diamond when he asked her to marry him.*

**11.35 circuit board** /'sɜ:kɪt ,bɔ:d/ (n)  
board that holds electrical circuits inside a piece of electronic equipment

**11.36 lens** /lens/ (n)  
part of the eye or spectacles that enables you to see clearly ♦ *I need a new lens for my glasses because I dropped them yesterday.*

**11.37 attachment** /ə'tætʃmənt/ (n)  
document that can be sent with an email ♦ *The attachment contained two files that we needed for the project.* ► attach (v)

**11.38 handy** /'hændi/ (adj)  
useful ♦ *It's very handy to have a friend who's good at English! He can help me with my translations.*  
① informal ► hand (n)

**11.39 aerial** /'eəriəl/ (n)  
piece of equipment made from wire or metal that receives signals for radio or TV ♦ *Someone broke the aerial on our car and now we can't listen to the radio.*

**11.40 detect** /dr'tekt/ (v)  
discover or notice sth ♦ *The car alarm can detect when someone is trying to open the door.* ► detective (n), detection (n unc), detected (adj)

**11.41 function** /'fʌŋkʃn/ (v)  
work ♦ *My computer is very old and doesn't function well if I have too many programs running at the same time.* ► function (n), functional (adj)

**11.42 wearable** /'weərəbl/ (adj)  
able to be worn ♦ *Scientists have invented wearable transmitters – they can be fitted inside a jacket.*  
► wear (v)

**11.43 apparatus** /,æpə'reɪtəs/ (n)  
tools or equipment needed for a particular activity ♦ *You need a lot of complex apparatus to carry out this experiment.*

**11.44 sinister** /'sɪnɪstə(r)/ (adj)  
seeming dangerous or evil  
♦ *There's a very sinister character in this horror movie.*

**11.45 surveillance** /sə'veɪləns/ (n unc)  
watching and recording people and their actions on secret or public cameras ♦ *The police use surveillance when they think someone may commit a crime.*  
► survey (v)

**11.46 privacy** /'prɪvəsi/ (n unc)  
the state of being not watched or disturbed by other people ♦ *There's no privacy in this house! Everyone knows everything about everyone!*  
► private (adj)

## Use of English

- 11.47 menial** /'mi:niəl/ (adj)  
routine, done by hand ♦ *Many people don't like doing menial work around the home so they employ others to do it for them.*
- 11.48 talk back**  
/ˌtɔ:k 'bæk/ (phr v)  
argue ♦ *My mum used to get cross if I talked back to her when I was young.*
- 11.49 battery** /'bætəri/ (n)  
device that is put inside a clock, radio, etc. and produces electricity to make it work ♦ *How many batteries do I need for this torch?*
- 11.50 mission** /'mɪʃn/ (n)  
important official job a person or group is asked to do ♦ *The army sent my brother on a special mission to South Africa.*  
► missionary (n)

## Writing

- 11.51 overcharge** /ˌəʊvə'tʃɑ:dʒ/ (v)  
charge too much money ♦ *My dad complained because we were overcharged in the restaurant.*  
► charge (n, v)
- 11.52 unbeatable** /ʌn'bi:təbl/ (adj)  
impossible to do better than  
♦ *The advert says that the prices in this shop are unbeatable and they certainly are good.* ► beat (v)
- 11.53 leave a lot to be desired**  
/ˌli:v ə ˌlɒt tə ˌbi di'zairəd/ (phr)  
inadequate, not as good as it could be ♦ *Our doctor's handwriting leaves a lot to be desired. You can hardly read it!*
- 11.54 guarantee** /ˌgærən'ti:/ (v)  
official promise to do sth ♦ *The shop guarantees to refund our money if there is something wrong with the product.* ► guarantee (n), guaranteed (adj), guarantor (n)

- 11.55 via** /'viə, viə/ (prep)  
through a place, along a route  
♦ *We went to London via all the small roads.*

- 11.56 acknowledgement**  
/ək'nɒlɪdʒmənt/ (n)  
information that sb has received sth from you ♦ *I complained to the shop about the appliance but after a brief acknowledgement I haven't heard anything else.*  
► acknowledge (v)

- 11.57 engaged** /ɪn'geɪdʒd/ (adj)  
Here: busy ♦ *I've phoned Gloria twenty times today but her number is always engaged.* ► engage (v)  
Usually: planning to get married  
► engagement (n)

- 11.58 refund** /'ri:fʌnd/ (n)  
money returned if a product or service is not satisfactory ♦ *The dress didn't fit so I got a refund the next day and bought a coat instead.* ► refund (v)

## Review

- 11.59 contribution**  
/ˌkɒntri'bju:ʃn/ (n)  
an action or service that adds to sth, making it bigger or better  
♦ *The Beatles' contribution to pop music in the twentieth century is impossible to calculate.*  
► contribute (to) (v), contributor (n)
- 11.60 update** /ˌʌp'det/ (v)  
change sth according to the most recent information ♦ *This book needs to be updated. It's using statistics from fifty years ago!*
- 11.61 shorten** /'ʃɔ:tn/ (v)  
make shorter ♦ *My boss has asked me to shorten my holiday because we're very busy at the moment.*  
► short (adj)
- 11.62 moody** /'mu:di/ (adj)  
bad-tempered or upset for no obvious reason ♦ *Ken is always moody when the weather's bad.*  
► mood (n)

## Workbook Reading

- 11.63 disposable culture**  
/dɪ'spəʊzəbl ˌkʌltʃə(r)/ (n)  
modern habit of throwing things away when they stop working or using things that only last a short time ♦ *The disposable culture makes us all much lazier and is really bad for the environment.*
- 11.64 razor** /'reɪzə(r)/ (n)  
device used for shaving ♦ *I got my dad an electric razor for his birthday.*
- 11.65 harm** /hɑ:m/ (n)  
hurt, damage ♦ *James might not be able to help but it can't do any harm to ask.* ► harm (v), harmful (adj)
- 11.66 consumer**  
/kən'sju:mə(r)/ (n)  
person who buys sth ♦ *Consumers should refuse to buy the products until the company becomes more environmentally friendly.*  
► consumer (adj), consumerism (n unc), consume (v)
- 11.67 spare part** /speə 'pɑ:t/ (n)  
new part you buy to replace an old or broken part of a car, machine, etc. ♦ *The garage are going to fix my brakes but they're waiting for a spare part.*
- 11.68 blade** /bleɪd/ (n)  
part of knife that cuts ♦ *The blade on this knife isn't very sharp. Have you got another one?*
- 11.69 landfill** /'lændfɪl/ (n)  
the process of burying large amounts of rubbish ♦ *We can't use landfill forever – we'll run out of space.*
- 11.70 set-top box**  
/ˌset ˌtɒp 'bɒks/ (n)  
small machine needed to be able to receive digital TV channels  
♦ *Our new digital TV doesn't need a set-top box – it's all inside the TV.*

**11.71 modem** /'məʊdem/ (n)  
device that connects a computer to the Internet via a phone line

**11.72 router** /'ru:tə(r)/ (n)  
device used to connect a computer to a broadband service

**11.73 persistence**  
/pə'sistəns/ (n unc)  
fact of continuing to do or try to do sth until you succeed ♦ *You certainly need persistence if you want to be a good journalist.*  
► persist (in) (v), persistent (adj)

**11.74 be better off** /,betər 'ɒf/ (idm)  
having more money or being in a better position ♦ *You'd be better off asking Rita about the homework. I wasn't listening!*

**11.75 dilemma** /drɪ'lemə, daɪ-/ (n)  
problem of knowing what is best to do in a situation ♦ *It's a real dilemma. I don't know whether to travel for a year or to go straight to university.*

**11.76 next to worthless**  
/,nekst tə 'wɜ:θləs/ (phr)  
having almost no value ♦ *Billy's car is next to worthless. He's going to have to pay to get it taken away!*

**11.77 figure out**  
/,figər 'aʊt/ (phr v)  
understand sth ♦ *I can't figure out what I've spent all my money on this month.*

**11.78 glue** /glu:/ (n)  
a sticky substance that is used for joining things together ♦ *I used some glue to mend the broken vase and now it looks fine.* ► glue (v)

**11.79 triumph** /'traɪʌmf/ (n)  
great achievement ♦ *Beating the other colleges at football was a triumph and I'm really proud of the team.* ► triumph (v), triumphant (adj)

**11.80 track down** /,træk 'daʊn/ (v)  
find sb/sth after a difficult search  
♦ *I finally tracked my brother down. He was playing computer games at his friend's house.*

## Vocabulary

**11.81 power cable**  
/'paʊə ,kerbl/ (n)  
set of wires, covered in plastic, that carries electricity to an appliance ♦ *I need the power cable for my laptop because the battery's low.*

## Grammar

**11.82 rubber** /'rʌbə(r)/ (n)  
strong material that stretches and bends ♦ *He braked suddenly in the car and you could smell the rubber of the tyres.* ► rubber (adj)

**11.83 mess** /mes/ (n)  
Here: situation with a lot of problems ♦ *I'm in a real mess. I'm supposed to be in two places at the same time.* Usually: untidy place  
► messy (adj)

## Listening

**11.84 unmanned** /,ʌn'mænd/ (adj)  
without a driver or controller ♦ *In Superman an unmanned spaceship carries the baby to earth.*

**11.85 buggy** /'bʌgi/ (n)  
small vehicle used for a particular purpose, e.g. on a golf course, on the moon

**11.86 novelty** /'nɒvlti/ (n)  
sth attractive because it is different  
♦ *At the moment being at home and not at work is a novelty but I'm sure it will get boring soon.*  
► novel (adj)

**11.87 range** /remdʒ/ (n)  
how far sth can go ♦ *My car radio can't receive London stations because they're out of range.*

**11.88 steam** /sti:m/ (n unc)  
hot gas that rises from boiling water ♦ *Early trains were powered by steam and made a lot of noise.*  
► steam (v)

**11.89 conventional**  
/kən'venʃənl/ (adj)  
normal, traditional ♦ *Many people think conventional means of transport like the car and bus will not exist in the near future.*  
► convention (n)

**11.90 potential** /pə'tenʃl/ (n)  
qualities that exist and can be developed ♦ *Leo's singing is OK now but I think he has a lot of potential for the future when he's a little older.* ► potential (adj)

## Use of English

**11.91 sb's days are numbered**  
/... ,deɪz ə 'nʌmbəd/ (idm)  
not going to last long ♦ *After his terrible mistake the politician's days are numbered.*