

A hard to understand, interesting to talk to etc.

Compare sentences (a) and (b):

- ☐ James doesn't speak clearly. { (a) **It** is hard to **understand him**.
(b) **He** is hard to **understand**.

Sentences (a) and (b) have the same meaning. Note that we say:

- ☐ He is hard **to understand**. (*not* He is hard to understand him)

We use other adjectives in the same way. For example:

easy **nice** **safe** **cheap** **exciting** **impossible**
difficult **good** **dangerous** **expensive** **interesting**

- ☐ Do you think it is **safe to drink this water**?
Do you think this water is **safe to drink**? (*not* to drink it)
☐ The exam questions were very hard. It was **impossible to answer them**.
The exam questions were very hard. They were **impossible to answer**.
(*not* to answer them)
☐ Nicola has lots of interesting ideas. It's **interesting to talk** to her.
Nicola is **interesting to talk to**. (*not* to talk to her)

We also use this structure with *adjective + noun*:

- ☐ This is a **difficult question to answer**. (*not* to answer it)

B nice of (you) to ...

We say 'It's **nice of** somebody **to ...**':

- ☐ It was **nice of** you **to take** me to the airport. Thank you very much.

We use other adjectives in the same way. For example:

kind **generous** **careless** **silly** **stupid** **inconsiderate** **unfair** **typical**

- ☐ It's **silly of Ruth to give** up her job when she needs the money.
☐ I think it was **unfair of him to criticise** me.

C sorry to ... / surprised to ... etc.

You can use *adjective + to ...* to say how somebody reacts to something:

- ☐ I'm **sorry to hear** that your mother isn't well.

We use other adjectives in the same way. For example:

glad **pleased** **relieved** **surprised** **amazed** **sad** **disappointed**

- ☐ Was Julia **surprised to see** you?
☐ It was a long and tiring journey. We were **glad to get** home.

D You can use **to ...** after **the next / the last / the only / the first / the second** (etc.):

- ☐ **The next** train **to arrive** at platform 4 will be the 10.50 to Liverpool.
☐ Everybody was late except me. I was **the only** one **to arrive** on time.
☐ If I have any more news, you will be **the first to know**. (= the first person to know.)

E You can say that something is **sure/likely/bound to** happen:

- ☐ Carla is a very good student. She's **bound to pass** the exam. (= she is sure to pass)
☐ It's possible I'll win the lottery one day, but it's not **likely to happen**. (= it's not probable)

Exercises

65.1 Write these sentences in another way, beginning as shown.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 It's hard to understand some things. | Some things <u>are hard to understand</u> |
| 2 It was difficult to open the window. | The window |
| 3 It's impossible to translate some words. | Some words |
| 4 It's expensive to maintain a car. | A |
| 5 It's not safe to eat this meat. | This |
| 6 It's easy to get to my house from here. | My |

65.2 Make sentences from the words in brackets.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 I couldn't answer the question.
(difficult question / answer) | <u>It was a difficult question to answer</u> |
| 2 It's a very common mistake.
(easy mistake / make) | It's |
| 3 I like living in this town.
(great place / live) | |
| 4 I wonder why she said that.
(strange thing / say) | |

65.3 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box.

- It's nice of Dan and Kate to invite me to their party.
- I've been travelling a long time. Now I'm to be back home.
- I heard about Tom's accident. I was relieved that he's OK.
- It was nice to remember my birthday.
- Let me know if you need any assistance. I'd be very pleased you.
- I thought James was about 25. I was to discover he was 40.
- It was inconsiderate of our neighbours so much noise.
- My interview went well. I was disappointed to be offered the job.
- It's of me to worry so much about things that are not important.

to hear
to help
~~to invite~~
to make
not
of you
silly
amazed
glad

65.4 Complete the sentences. Use: the first the second the last the only

- Nobody spoke before me. I was the first person to speak.
- Everybody else arrived before Paul.
Paul was
- Emily passed the exam. All the other students failed.
Emily
- I complained to the manager. Another customer had already complained.
I
- Neil Armstrong walked on the moon in 1969. Nobody had done this before him.
Neil Armstrong

65.5 Complete the sentences using the words in brackets and a suitable verb.

- Carla is a very good student.
(she / bound / pass) She's bound to pass the exam.
- I'm not surprised you're tired after your trip.
(you / bound / tired) after such a long journey.
- Andy has a very bad memory.
(he / sure / forget) anything you tell him.
- I don't think you'll need an umbrella.
(it / not / likely / rain)
- The holidays begin this weekend.
(there / sure / be) a lot of traffic on the roads.