



- **against** [əˈɡɛnst] *prep.*

To be **against** something is to be touching it or opposed to it.
→ *They both leaned **against** the wall.*



- **beach** [bi:tʃ] *n.*

The **beach** is a sandy or rocky place by the ocean.
→ *The little girl built a sandcastle on the **beach**.*



- **damage** [dæmɪdʒ] *v.*

To **damage** something is to break it.
→ *The car was **damaged** in the accident.*



- **discover** [dɪskʌvər] *v.*

To **discover** something is to find it for the first time.
→ *I **discovered** some new information in this book!*



- **emotion** [ɪməʊʃən] *n.*

An **emotion** is how you feel.
→ *Anger is a common **emotion** that we all feel.*



- **fix** [fiks] *v.*

To **fix** something is to make it work.
→ *My dad has many tools to help him **fix** broken things.*



- **frank** [fræŋk] *adj.*

If you are **frank**, you are being very honest.
→ *The teacher had a **frank** discussion with her students.*



- **identify** [aɪdɛntɪfaɪ] *v.*

To **identify** something is to be able to name it.
→ *I used the file to **identify** his name.*



- **island** [aɪlənd] *n.*

An **island** is land in the middle of water.
→ *Japan is a group of **islands**.*



- **ocean** [əʊʃən] *n.*

The **ocean** is all of the salt water that surrounds land.
→ *The **ocean** can make powerful waves.*



- **perhaps** [pərhæps] *adv.*
Perhaps is used when you say that something could happen.
→ *Perhaps I will eat an apple for lunch.*



- **pleasant** [plēznt] *adj.*
If something is **pleasant**, you enjoy it.
→ *The character had a pleasant look on its face.*



- **prevent** [prɪvənt] *v.*
To **prevent** something is to stop it from happening.
→ *The handcuffs prevented me from moving my hands.*



- **rock** [rɒk] *n.*
A **rock** is a hard thing in the dirt.
→ *I stacked rocks on top of one another.*



- **save** [seɪv] *v.*
To **save** something is to keep it from being hurt.
→ *I want to help save the world.*



- **step** [step] *v.*
To **step** is to walk.
→ *Be careful where you step.*



- **still** [stɪl] *adv.*
Still is used when you say that a situation keeps going on.
→ *They are still waiting in line to get tickets.*



- **taste** [teɪst] *n.*
A **taste** is the flavor something makes in your mouth.
→ *The taste of the fruit was sweet.*



- **throw** [θrəʊ] *v.*
To **throw** something is to use your hand to make it go through the air.
→ *The pitcher can throw the baseball very fast.*



- **wave** [weɪv] *n.*
A **wave** is a line of water that moves higher than the rest of the water.
→ *The water was filled with large blue waves.*

The Starfish

Last summer I took a trip to an **island**. I had a lot of fun. I sat and watched the **waves** and listened to the **ocean**. I learned to **identify** birds. I **discovered** pretty things and enjoyed the **taste** of new foods. It was a very nice time.

One evening I took a **pleasant** walk by the ocean. When the waves came in, many starfish* fell on the **beach**. Some starfish went back into the water, and they were safe. But other starfish were **still** on the sand. They would die if they did not get into the water. There were many starfish on the beach that night. It made me sad, but I knew I could not **fix** the problem. I **stepped** very carefully so I did not **damage** them.

Then I saw a little girl. She was also sad about the starfish. She wanted to **prevent** all of them from dying. She asked me if I could **perhaps** help her.

“To be **frank**, I don’t think we can do anything,” I said.

The little girl started to cry. She sat back **against** a **rock** and thought for a while. Finally, the **emotion** was gone. She stopped crying and stood up. Then she picked up a starfish and **threw** it into the water.

“What are you doing?” I asked her. But she did not answer me. She just threw as many starfish as she could. “You cannot **save** all of them!” I said.

She stopped to look at me. “No, I cannot save them all,” she replied. Then she picked up a very big starfish and said, “But I can save this one.” And then she smiled and threw the starfish as far as she could into the ocean.

*starfish – an animal shaped like a star that lives in the water

