

English Vocabulary – “differ”

1. Verbs

a) **to differ** = to be different

- An apple **differs** from a pear.
- Cultures **differ** not only in how they speak, but also in how they think.
- Please note that the price shown on your ticket may **differ** from the price advertised on the website.

b) **to differentiate** = to show/see the difference

- Many people can't **differentiate** an orchid from a bromeliad.
- The methodology **differentiates** between new and existing buildings.

2. Adjectives

a) **different** = not the same

- To complete the staff, it's necessary to find people with **different** skills.
- It is an entirely **different** approach from the one previously used.

b) **differing** = not the same

- The countries of Europe have **differing** historical experiences with Russia.
- My thoughts are **differing** from yours.

‘Different’ vs ‘Differing’

The adjective ‘different’ simply states that two (or more) things are not the same. However, the adjective ‘differing’ (the gerund form of the verb ‘differ’) gives the idea that the difference is fluid or changing. It is often used to give the notion that a situation is problematic.

c) **differential** = depending on a difference; varying due to circumstances or factors

- The **differential** achievements of boys and girls can often be significant.
- Different fruits have **differential** benefits for our health.

3. Nouns

a) **difference** = the state of being not the same

- What's the **difference** between a door and a gate?
- I think that good leadership can really make a **difference**.
- Mathematics: A: What is the **difference** between 87 and 76?
 B: 11.

b) **differential** = a special quality due to a difference

- Another **differential** of this method is that almost all resources are utilized.
- In terms of earnings, the **differential** between these two countries is enormous.

c) **differentiation** = the action or process of differentiating

- The **differentiation** between types of noise pollution is considered irrelevant.
- The **differentiation** between normal working hours and overtime is important for financial reasons.

4. Adverbs

- a) **differently** = in a different way; in varied ways
- Bob teaches **differently** from the other teachers. He is more dynamic.
 - How can you explain treating the children of a second polygamous marriage **differently** from the children of a first marriage?
- b) **differentially** = in a way that varies according to circumstances or relevant factors
- Separation anxiety **differentially** affects young boys and young girls.
 - Women in developing and developed countries are **differentially** affected.
- c) **differingly** = in a differing manner; to a differing extent
Usage is rare

Exercise. Complete the following using a word from above.

1. I came home by a _____ route, to avoid the roadworks.
2. We seem to have _____ opinions. Would you like to discuss the matter some more?
3. (Notice on a packet) "Please note that the item enclosed may _____ in colour from the image on the packet."
4. Just because you speak _____ from the other kids in your class doesn't make you inferior.
5. If you don't know the _____ between a flat and an apartment, then you really shouldn't be in the real estate business!
6. When you are an artist, it's important to be able to _____ between a 2B and an HB pencil.