

A Historical changes and their effects

The **transition**¹ from agriculture to industry challenged the economic and political **status quo**² in many countries. Millions of people **abandoned**³ villages and rural areas and moved into cities. The **shift**⁴ away from self-sufficiency meant most people became dependent on large corporations in one way or another, and had to **adapt**⁵ to new social environments and **adjust**⁶ to new ways of doing things. The **move**⁷ towards smaller, nuclear families brought about **fundamental**⁸ changes in family patterns in many parts of the world. **Maintaining**⁹ the old ways became **increasingly**¹⁰ difficult. On the other hand, the **elimination**¹¹ of diseases such as smallpox **transformed**¹² millions of people's lives, and the **expansion**¹³ of healthcare in many countries saved countless lives. Technology **enhanced**¹⁴ most people's lives in some way. For many people, nonetheless, the negative **impact**¹⁵ of technology on the environment **altered**¹⁶ the way we think of our relationship with nature, and **sustainable**¹⁷ development, rather than development for its own sake, became an important goal for a number of countries.

¹ change from one form to another ² the situation as it was at that time ³ left for ever ⁴ change in position or direction ⁵ change to suit different conditions ⁶ become more familiar with a new situation ⁷ action taken to achieve something ⁸ in a very basic way ⁹ not allowing them to change ¹⁰ more and more ¹¹ removal of ¹² changed completely so that they are better ¹³ increase in size or extent ¹⁴ improved the quality of ¹⁵ powerful effect that something, especially something new, has on a situation ¹⁶ changed (usually slightly) ¹⁷ causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time

B More verbs for describing change

The exchange rate between the euro and the dollar has **fluctuated** recently. [changed or varied, especially continuously and between one level and another]
The technicians **modified** the flow of oil through the engine. [changed it slightly to improve it]
The company's lawyers **amended** the contract to take account of the new situation. [changed the words of a text, typically a law or a legal document]
Seven power plants were **converted** from oil to gas. [caused to change in form or character]
After 20 years of trading in the US, the firm **transferred** their operations to Brazil. [moved]
The economy **recovered** after three years of depression. [returned to a satisfactory condition]
Oil supplies are **diminishing** rapidly. **Acquiring** new supplies is vital for many countries. [becoming less; (formal) obtaining, getting]
We need to **refine** our analysis to obtain more accurate results. [improve it, especially by removing unwanted material]
The government **relaxed** controls on imports in 1997. [make less strict or severe]
Plans have been drawn up to **restore** 50,000 acres of wetland to their former state. [return something or someone to an earlier good condition or position]

C Adjectives which often describe change

There was a **gradual** change in attitudes in the 1980s. [slow, over a long period of time]
A **sudden** change in the temperature of the liquid occurred after some minutes.
There is a **marked** change in how people perceive antisocial behaviour. [very noticeable]
There was no **perceptible** change in the learning outcomes between Time 1 and Time 2. [which could be perceived, i.e. noticed or seen]



A change **in** and a change **of** are different. A change **in** temperature/behaviour/attitudes/composition/policy, etc. suggests a process where something has become different (e.g. smaller, more radical). A change **of** clothing/government/approach, etc. means the complete substitution of one thing for another.