

# English Ladder

## Student Workbook

### The Use of "Care"

A polished self-study handout designed for print or tablet use. Read the concept, notice the pattern, and then complete the matching practice set on your own.



Grammar Concepts #	Key Points	Common Phrasal Expressions with	Summary of Edge Cases and Special Considerations
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#### Visual anchor













Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in **The Use of "Care"** and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.



ENGLISH LADDER


Concept #33 ▶ **The use of "care"**


*Use care when using "care".*





<p> I <u>care about</u> you. I love (have affection for) you.</p> <p> She <u>doesn't have a care</u> in the world. She does not worry about anything.</p> <p> Handle this glass <u>with care</u>. Handle this fragile glass carefully.</p> <p> The project was <u>put in my care</u>. I was put in charge of the project.</p> <p> I will <u>take care of</u> the children. I will tend to the needs of the children.</p> <p> I will <u>take care of</u> the problem. I will fix/eliminate the problem.</p>	<p> I <u>don't care</u> (either way). I have no preference. You choose.</p> <p> I <u>don't care</u> about that. That is not important to me.</p> <p> Take <u>care that</u> you lock the door. Don't forget (be sure) to lock the door.</p> <p> I <u>don't think I'd care for</u> sushi. I think I wouldn't enjoy sushi.</p> <p> I will <u>care for</u> the children. I will tend to the needs of the children.</p> <p> Would you <u>care for</u> some coffee? Would you like some coffee? (An offer)</p>
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  Use intonation to show the difference.

 Always used in the negative form.

 Identical meanings.

 This is a polite order.

 The task was delegated to you.

Try to use a different phrase if the use of "care" may be confusing to your audience.

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## Core Idea

The word "care" is versatile, appearing in various contexts with slightly different meanings. Below are additional examples and edge cases to help solidify your understanding of how to use "care" effectively in English.

### Quick reference

1. Caring About Someone or Something	Example from the Image: "I care about you."
2. Having No Worries or Concerns	Example from the Image: "She doesn't have a care in the world."
3. Handling Something Carefully	Example from the Image: "Handle this glass with care."
4. Being in Charge of Something	Example from the Image: "The project was put in my care."
5. Taking Care of Someone or Something	Example from the Image: "I will take care of the children."
6. Not Caring About Something	Example from the Image: "I don't care (either way)."

## Key Points

### 1. Caring About Someone or Something

- Example from the Image: "I care about you."
- Meaning: Expressing concern, affection, or interest.
- Additional Examples: "I care about my community and volunteer regularly." "They care deeply about preserving the environment."
- Edge Case: "Care about" vs. "Care for": While both can express affection, "care for" often implies a deeper or more personal level of concern, often in caregiving situations. Example: "I care for my grandmother every weekend." (Involves personal, hands-on care) Example: "I care about my grandmother." (General concern or affection)

### 2. Having No Worries or Concerns



- Example from the Image: "She doesn't have a care in the world."
- Meaning: Being worry-free or unconcerned.
- Additional Examples: "After winning the lottery, they felt like they didn't have a care in the world." "He's so carefree, living life without a care."
- Edge Case: Literal vs. Figurative Use: The phrase is often used figuratively. Literally, everyone has some concerns, but this phrase emphasizes a moment of complete relaxation or freedom from worries.  
Example: "At the beach, I felt I didn't have a care in the world." (Figurative) Example: "She lives without a care in the world, never worrying about the future." (Exaggeration for effect)

### 3. Handling Something Carefully

- Example from the Image: "Handle this glass with care."
- Meaning: To handle something delicately or cautiously.
- Additional Examples: "The museum staff handles the artifacts with great care." "Handle these plants with care; they're very fragile."
- Edge Case: Metaphorical Use: "With care" can also apply to non-physical actions, like how someone speaks or makes decisions. Example: "He chose his words with care to avoid offending anyone."  
Example: "She handled the situation with care, ensuring everyone felt heard."

### 4. Being in Charge of Something

- Example from the Image: "The project was put in my care."
- Meaning: Being given responsibility for something or someone.
- Additional Examples: "The children were left in the care of a trusted nanny." "I was put in charge of the new marketing campaign."
- Edge Case: Temporary vs. Permanent Responsibility: "In my care" can indicate either a temporary or permanent responsibility. Example: "The dog is in my care while my friend is on vacation." (Temporary)  
Example: "The orphanage took the child into its care." (Permanent)

### 5. Taking Care of Someone or Something

- Example from the Image: "I will take care of the children."
- Meaning: Looking after or managing the needs of someone or something.
- Additional Examples: "Can you take care of this issue for me?" "He takes care of his health by exercising regularly."
- Edge Case: "Take care of" vs. "Care for": "Take care of" often implies responsibility or a task, while "care for" can suggest a more nurturing or emotional involvement. Example: "She takes care of the household chores." (Task-oriented) Example: "He cares for his sick mother." (Nurturing, emotional)

### 6. Not Caring About Something

- Example from the Image: "I don't care (either way)."



- Meaning: Indifference or lack of preference.
- Additional Examples: "It's your choice. I really don't care." "They don't care what others think of them."
- Edge Case: Politeness and Tone: "I don't care" can come across as rude if not softened by context or tone. It's often better to use a more polite phrase in formal situations. Example: "I'm fine with whatever you decide." (Polite) Example: "It doesn't matter to me; you can choose." (Neutral)

## 7. Taking Care to Ensure Something

- Example from the Image: "Take care that you lock the door."
- Meaning: A polite reminder to ensure something is done carefully.
- Additional Examples: "Take care that you don't spill anything on the carpet." "Please take care to arrive on time."
- Edge Case: Directive Nature: While "take care" is often polite, it can also carry an implied command, especially when addressing a potential mistake or oversight. Example: "Take care not to repeat this mistake." (Implied warning) Example: "Take care when crossing the street." (Reminder of caution)

## 8. Expressing a Preference

- Example from the Image: "I don't think I'd care for sushi."
- Meaning: Expressing a dislike or lack of preference.
- Additional Examples: "Would you care for dessert?" (Offering politely) "She doesn't care for spicy food." (Expressing dislike)
- Edge Case: Formal vs. Informal: "Care for" is more formal and polite, often used in offers or formal settings. Example: "Would you care for a drink?" (Formal offer) Example: "I don't care for modern art." (Expressing a mild dislike)

### Common Phrasal Expressions with "Care"

- Take care! (used as a farewell): "Take care! See you tomorrow."
- Care for (nurture or tend to): "She cared for him during his illness."
- Care about (show concern): "I care about what happens to the environment."
- Handle with care (treat carefully): "These boxes are fragile, so handle with care."

### Summary of Edge Cases and Special Considerations

- "Care about" vs. "Care for": Differentiate between general concern (care about) and personal, nurturing concern (care for).
- Politeness in Negative Forms: "I don't care" can sound rude; consider softer alternatives.



- Temporary vs. Permanent Responsibility: The phrase "in my care" can imply different durations of responsibility.
- Formal vs. Informal Usage: "Care for" is often more formal, especially in polite offers or refusals.

Understanding these nuances and edge cases will help you use the word "care" more accurately and effectively in various situations. Practicing with these examples and paying attention to context will further enhance your grasp of the different meanings and applications of "care."



## Practice Check

Answer the quiz questions below with responses consistent with the grammar concepts taught in this article.

### ITEM 01

**Which of the following sentences means "I am indifferent to the outcome"?**

- a) I care about the outcome.
- b) I don't care about the outcome.
- c) I will take care of the outcome.
- d) I care for the outcome.

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 02

**Which of the following sentences means "Please be careful with this fragile item"?**

- a) Handle this vase with care.
- b) I will take care of the vase.
- c) I care for this vase.
- d) I don't care about the vase.

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 03

**Which of the following sentences means "I am concerned about environmental issues"?**

- a) I care about the environment.
- b) I don't care for environmental issues.
- c) I will take care of the environment.
- d) I care for the environment.

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 04**

**Which of the following sentences means "I have no strong preference"?**

- a) I don't care either way.
- b) I care a lot about this decision.
- c) I will take care of this decision.
- d) I care deeply about this matter.

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 05**

**Which of the following sentences means "I will manage this task"?**

- a) I will take care of this task.
- b) I don't care about this task.
- c) I care for this task.
- d) I will care this task.

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 06**

**Which of the following sentences means "I am responsible for the project"?**

- a) I care about the project.
- b) I care for the project.
- c) The project is under my care.
- d) I will care about the project.

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 07**

**Which of the following sentences means "I don't worry about anything"?**

- a) I take care of everything.
  - b) I don't care for worrying.
  - c) I don't have a care in the world.
  - d) I care about worrying.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 08**

**Which of the following sentences means "I will make sure to do this"?**

- a) I care about doing this.
  - b) I will take care to do this.
  - c) I don't care about doing this.
  - d) I care for doing this.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 09**

**Which of the following sentences means "I dislike this type of food"?**

- a) I care for spicy food.
  - b) I don't care for spicy food.
  - c) I care about spicy food.
  - d) I take care of spicy food.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 10**

**Which of the following sentences means "I will ensure this is done correctly"?**

- a) I care for doing this task.
  - b) I don't care about doing this task.
  - c) I will take care to do this task correctly.
  - d) I will care about doing this task.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 11**

**Which of the following sentences means "I love you"?**

- a) I care about you.
  - b) I don't care about you.
  - c) I will care for you.
  - d) I will take care of you.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 12**

**Which of the following sentences means "I don't prefer tea"?**

- a) I don't care for tea.
  - b) I care about tea.
  - c) I take care of tea.
  - d) I don't care about tea.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 13**

**Which of the following sentences means "I will handle this problem"?**

- a) I care for this problem.
  - b) I don't care about this problem.
  - c) I will take care of this problem.
  - d) I care about this problem.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 14**

**Which of the following sentences means "I don't care about the decision"?**

- a) I care for the decision.
  - b) I don't care about the decision.
  - c) I will take care of the decision.
  - d) I care about the decision.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 15**

**Which of the following sentences means "I have no concerns or worries"?**

- a) I will take care of the worries.
  - b) I don't care for concerns.
  - c) I don't have a care in the world.
  - d) I care about having concerns.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 16**

**Which of the following sentences means "I am not interested in this topic"?**

- a) I care about this topic.
  - b) I care for this topic.
  - c) I don't care about this topic.
  - d) I will take care of this topic.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 17**

**Which of the following sentences means "I am worried about the situation"?**

- a) I don't care about the situation.
  - b) I care about the situation.
  - c) I will take care of the situation.
  - d) I care for the situation.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 18**

**Which of the following sentences means "I will ensure that the details are handled properly"?**

- a) I care about the details.
  - b) I will take care to handle the details properly.
  - c) I don't care about the details.
  - d) I care for handling the details.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 19**

**Which of the following sentences means "I am responsible for the children"?**

- a) I will care for the children.
  - b) I don't care about the children.
  - c) The children are in my care.
  - d) I care about the children.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 20**

**Which of the following sentences means "I am not concerned about the issue"?**

- a) I care for the issue.
  - b) I care about the issue.
  - c) I don't care about the issue.
  - d) I will take care of the issue.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 21**

**Which of the following sentences means "I will handle this delicately"?**

- a) I will care for this matter.
  - b) I don't care about handling this.
  - c) I will take care to handle this delicately.
  - d) I care about handling this.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 22**

**Which of the following sentences means "I will look after the children"?**

- a) I will take care of the children.
  - b) I don't care about the children.
  - c) I care for the children.
  - d) I care about the children.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 23**

**Which of the following sentences means "I have no preference"?**

- a) I care for either option.
  - b) I don't care either way.
  - c) I care about choosing.
  - d) I will take care of the choice.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 24**

**Which of the following sentences means "I will make sure to lock the door"?**

- a) I will take care to lock the door.
  - b) I don't care about locking the door.
  - c) I will care for locking the door.
  - d) I care about locking the door.
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_



## Self-check Answer Key

Use the key after you have completed every item on your own.

**ITEM 01**

a) I care about the outcome.

**ITEM 02**

a) Handle this vase with care.

**ITEM 03**

a) I care about the environment.

**ITEM 04**

a) I don't care either way.

**ITEM 05**

a) I will take care of this task.

**ITEM 06**

a) I care about the project.

**ITEM 07**

a) I take care of everything.

**ITEM 08**

a) I care about doing this.

**ITEM 09**

c) I care about spicy food.

**ITEM 10**

a) I care for doing this task.

**ITEM 11**

a) I care about you.

**ITEM 12**

a) I don't care for tea.

**ITEM 13**

a) I care for this problem.

**ITEM 14**

b) I don't care about the decision.

**ITEM 15**

a) I will take care of the worries.

**ITEM 16**

a) I care about this topic.

**ITEM 17**

a) I don't care about the situation.

**ITEM 18**

a) I care about the details.

**ITEM 19**

a) I will care for the children.

**ITEM 20**

a) I care for the issue.

**ITEM 21**

a) I will care for this matter.

**ITEM 22**

a) I will take care of the children.

**ITEM 23**

c) I care about choosing.

**ITEM 24**

a) I will take care to lock the door.