

CIDE

FOOD/DRINK [I, T]A2 to give someone food or drink, especially guests or customers in a restaurant or bar: We're not allowed to serve alcohol to anyone under 18.

SHOP [I, T]B1 to help customers and sell things to them in a shop: Are you being served?

WORK [I, T] to do work that helps society, for example in an organization such as the army or the government: to serve in the army to serve on a committee/jury He served as mayor for 5 years.

BE USEFUL [I, T] to be useful as something: It's a very entertaining film but it also serves an educational purpose. The spare bedroom also serves as a study. [+ to do sth] He hopes his son's death will serve to warn others about the dangers of owning a gun.

COBUILD

serve ♦♦♦ / sɜːrv / (serves, serving, served)

- **1 VERB** If you **serve** your country, an organization, or a person, you do useful workfor them.(V
n) It is unfair to soldiers who have served their country well for many year
s.
(V
n) I have always said that I would serve the Party in any way it felt approp
riate.
- **2 VERB** If you **serve** in a particular place or as a particular official, you performofficial duties, especially in the armed forces, as a civil servant, or as a politician.(V
prep/adv) During the second world war he served with RAF Coastal Co
mmand.
(V
prep/adv) For seven years until 1991 he served as a district councillor in S
olihull.
- **3 VERB** If something serves as a particular thing or **serves** a particular purpose, it performs a particular function, which is often not its intended function.(V
+
'as/for') She ushered me into the front room, which served as her office.
(V n) I really do not think that an inquiry would serve any useful purpose.
(V to-
inf) Their brief visit has served to underline the deep differences between
the two countries.
(V n +
'as/for') The old drawing room serves her as both sitting room and study.

LONGMAN

care1 S2 W2 /ke@ \$ ker/ n 1 LOOKING AFTER SB [U] the process of looking after someone, especially because they are ill, old, or very young: high standards of medical care | They shared the care of the children. | Care facilities for the elderly are inadequate. | in sb's care (=being looked after by someone) The children had been left in the care of a babysitter. | be under sb's care (=be officially looked after or treated by someone) Mentally ill patients will be under the care of a psychiatrist. →DAY CARE, HEALTH CARE, INTENSIVE CARE; →tender loving care at TENDER1 (5)

2 take care of sb/sth a) to look after someone or something: Who's taking care of the dog while you're away? | take care of yourself The children are old enough to take care of themselves. b) to deal with all the necessary work, arrangements etc: Her secretary always took care of the details. | Don't worry about your accommodation – it's all taken care of. c) to pay for something – used when you want to avoid saying this directly: We'll take care of the fees.

3 take care a) spoken used when saying goodbye to family and friends: Take care! See you next week! b) to be careful: Take care when driving in icy conditions. | take care to do sth Take care to ensure that the ladder is steady before you climb it. | take care (that) Take care that the meat is cooked properly.