29 deal with something

**Study** Read these sentences carefully.
- Staff should know how to deal with an emergency.
- I've got far too much paperwork to deal with!
- What you have to do is face the situation and deal with it.
- Customer complaints should be dealt with quickly.

**Check**

Use the sentences in the Study box to help you do these exercises.

**MEANING**

Choose the best explanation for this meaning of *deal with something*.

| a | to arrange a business deal |
| b | to sell something          |
| c | to solve a problem or perform a task |

**GRAMMAR**

Which of these are grammatically possible?

| a | She dealt with the problem. |
| b | She dealt it with.           |
| c | She dealt with it.           |
| d | The problem was dealt with.  |

→ Now check your answers in the key.

**Practise**

1 Complete the sentences with an appropriate form of *deal with*.

a If something’s not going well, tell us so that we can ______________ it.

b Banks are ______________ bad loans aggressively now.

c There are many important subjects for the new board to ______________.

d We have ______________ all the challenges we faced.

2 Complete the sentences by using the correct form of *deal with* and one of the three possible nouns or pronouns.

a We need to ______________ the tables/situation/conference before it gets worse.

b The matter/computer/office will be ______________ by senior managers.

c My job involves ______________ lights/complaints/advice from customers.

d He told me about the problem and asked me to ______________ him/it/them.

3 Write one or two sentence describing problems or challenges that you face in your job, using a form of *deal with* in each one.

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→ Now check your answers in the key.

**Build your vocabulary**

**OTHER MEANINGS**

To *deal with something or somebody* can also mean ‘to do business with a person, a company or an organization’:

- We have dealt with the company for many years without a problem.

To *deal with somebody* can mean ‘to look after or talk to somebody in an appropriate way’ and is used especially about things you do in your job:

- Her job involves dealing with customers on the phone.