ECONOMICS and ECONOMY – ECONOMIC and ECONOMICAL

Economics is the science of the production and distribution of goods, the scientific study of a society's money, industry and trade (note that ***economics*** is an uncountable noun, plural in form but mostly singular in construction); ***economy*** indicates the financial state of a country, the control and management of the money, goods and other resources of a community or a country (e.g.: the UK *economy* is heading towards a bout of 'stagflation'; the *economies* of many developing countries are based on cash crops); ***economy*** can also mean "the deliberate saving of money through carefully controlled spending"; ***economic*** means: a) related to the economy (e.g.: *economic* growth leads to a per capita improvement in living standards), b) cost-effective (e.g.: we have to keep wage costs low to make it *economic* for us to continue production); the adjective ***economical*** (not wasteful) indicates something which does not require a great deal of money to operate (e.g.: I have a small car because it is more *economical* to run); it can also be used to refer to an efficient way of doing things (e.g.: holding business meetings at an airport can be an *economical* use of time). The verb ***to economise*** means to save money.

POLITICS and POLICY

Politics (usually followed by a singular verb but always with *-s*) is used to talk about government and related ideas (e.g.: I don't know much about *politics*, but I don't think this is a democracy; You talk beautifully – You should be in *politics*.)

Policy is used for people's rules of behaviour (not necessarily connected with politics) (e.g.: In what ways has Brexit impacted British foreign *policy*?; It is not my *policy* to believe everything I hear; It's the firm *policy* to employ a certain number of disabled people).

N.B.: ***policy*** can also mean a written statement of a contract of insurance (e.g. Check the terms of the *policy* before you sign).

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