

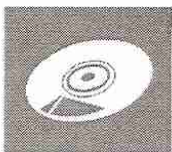
Lesson 196

	curse	[kɜ:s]
swear / swore / sworn		[sweə/swɔ:/swɔ:n]
	oath	[əθ]



When you **swear an oath** in court, you promise to tell the truth. When you say **I could have sworn**, you mean that *you were almost certain*. For example: *I could have sworn I switched off the TV.*

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| Are the words 'curse' and 'swear' similar in meaning? | Yes, the words 'curse' and 'swear' are similar in meaning. |
| What do some of us do when we hit our forehead on <i>a cupboard's drawer</i> ? | Some of us curse when we hit our forehead on <i>a cupboard's drawer</i> . |
| What animals do you think are a real curse? | I think <i>rats and some insects like mosquitoes</i> are a real curse . |
| Have you ever cursed yourself for not buying something which was a real bargain? | Yes, I've cursed myself for not buying something which was a real bargain.
or: No, I've never cursed myself ... |
| Why shouldn't we swear in front of children? | We shouldn't swear in front of children because <i>they quickly learn to imitate adults and so can learn to swear</i> . |
| What do people swear when they're getting married? | People swear to <i>love each other</i> when they're getting married. |
| Are witnesses in court required to swear an oath? | Yes, witnesses in court are required to swear an oath . |
| Give me an example of a sentence beginning with 'I could have sworn'. | I could have sworn <i>I left the keys on his desk. I could have sworn I sent the e-mail.</i> |
| In the Middle Ages did people believe that certain places were cursed? | Yes, in the Middle Ages people believed that certain places were cursed . |



Read your book and listen to the CD at home!