

# High Frequency Words

Their meanings and correct usage in sentence

## Abolish

verb

**Abolish something to officially end a law, a system or an institution**

*This tax should be abolished.*

## Abrupt

ADJECTIVE

**1 sudden and unexpected, often in an unpleasant way**

*an abrupt change/halt/departure*

*The accident brought his career to an abrupt end.*

**2 speaking or acting in a way that seems unfriendly and rude; not taking time to say more than is necessary**

*abrupt manner*

*She was very abrupt with me in our meeting.*

**Abruptly: ADVERB**

*The interview ended abruptly.*

## Absolute

adjective

**1 total and complete**

*a class for absolute beginners*

*absolute confidence/trust/silence/truth*

*'You're wrong,' she said with absolute certainty.*

*Around them the darkness was absolute, the silence oppressive.*

**2 [only before noun] used, especially in spoken English, to give emphasis to what you are saying**

*There's absolute rubbish on television tonight.*

*He must earn an absolute fortune.*

*110 MB is the absolute minimum you need to run the program.*

*What an absolute idiot I've been!*

**3 definite and without any doubt or confusion**

*There was no absolute proof.*

*He taught us that the laws of physics were absolute.*

*The divorce became absolute last week.*

**4 not limited or restricted**

*absolute power/authority*

*an absolute ruler/monarchy (= one with no limit to their power)*

**5 existing or measured independently and not in relation to something else**

*Although prices are falling in absolute terms, energy is still expensive.*

*Beauty cannot be measured by any absolute standard.*

## Absolutely

ADVERB

**1 used to emphasize that something is completely true**

*You're absolutely right.*

*He made it absolutely clear.*

*I'm not absolutely certain I posted it.*

*It was absolutely pouring with rain.*

**2 absolutely no..., absolutely nothing used to emphasize something negative**

*She did absolutely no work.*

*There's absolutely nothing more the doctors can do.*

**3 used with adjectives or verbs that express strong feelings or extreme qualities to mean 'extremely'**

*I was absolutely furious with him.*

*She absolutely adores you.*

*He's an absolutely brilliant cook.*

**4 used to emphasize that you agree with somebody, or to give somebody permission to do something'**

*They could have told us, couldn't they?' 'Absolutely!*

'Can we leave a little early?' 'Absolutely!'

**5 absolutely not used to emphasize that you strongly disagree with somebody, or to refuse permission**  
'Was it any good?' 'No, absolutely not.'

### **Absolution**

NOUN

(especially in the Christian Church)

a formal statement that a person is forgiven for what he or she has done wrong

### **Absolutism**

noun

**1 a political system in which a ruler or government has total power at all times**

**2 belief in a political, religious or moral principle which is thought to be true in all circumstances**

### **Abstain**

verb

**1 abstain (from something) to choose not to use a vote, either in favour of or against something**

*Ten people voted in favour, five against and two abstained.*

**2 abstain (from something) to decide not to do or have something, especially something you like or enjoy, because it is bad for your health or considered morally wrong**

*to abstain from alcohol/sex/drugs*

**3 abstain (from something) (Indian English) to stay away from something**

*The workers who abstained from work yesterday have been suspended.*

### **Abuse**

noun

**1 the use of something in a way that is wrong or harmful** **Synonym**

**SYNONYM:** misuse

*alcohol/drug/solvent abuse*

*The system of paying cash bonuses is open to abuse (= might be used in the wrong way).*

**abuse of something**

*He was arrested on charges of corruption and abuse of power.*

*What she did was an abuse of her position as manager.*

**2 unfair, cruel or violent treatment of somebody**

*child abuse*

*sexual abuse*

*reported abuses by the secret police*

*She suffered years of physical abuse.*

**3 [uncountable] rude and offensive remarks, usually made when somebody is very angry** **Synonym**

**SYNONYM:** insults

*to scream/hurl/shout abuse*

*a stream/torrent of abuse*

*The man burst into a torrent of foul-mouthed racist abuse.*

### **Acquaint**

verb

**acquaint somebody/yourself with something (formal)**

**to make somebody/yourself familiar with or aware of something**

*Please acquaint me with the facts of the case.*

*You will first need to acquaint yourself with the filing system.*

### **Acquiesce**

verb

**acquiesce (in/to something) (formal)**

**to accept something without arguing, even if you do not really agree with it**

*Senior government figures must have acquiesced in the cover-up.*

*She explained her plan and reluctantly he acquiesced.*

### **Acquiescence**

noun

the fact of being willing to do what somebody wants and to accept their opinions, even if you are not sure that they are right

*There was general acquiescence in the UN sanctions.*

### **Acquire**

verb

#### **1 acquire something to gain something by your own efforts, ability or behaviour**

*She has acquired a good knowledge of English.*

*How long will it take to acquire the necessary skills?*

*He has acquired a reputation for dishonesty.*

*I have recently acquired a taste for olives.*

#### **2 acquire something to obtain something by buying or being given it**

*The company has just acquired new premises.*

*How did the gallery come to acquire so many Picassos?*

*I've suddenly acquired a stepbrother.*

#### **IDIOM: an acquired taste**

a thing that you do not like much at first but gradually learn to like

*Abstract art is an acquired taste.*

### **Acquisition**

noun

#### **1 [uncountable] the act of getting something, especially knowledge, a skill, etc**

*theories of child language acquisition*

#### **2 [countable] something that somebody buys to add to what they already own, usually something valuable**

*His latest acquisition is a racehorse.*

*The money will be spent on acquisitions for the university library.*

#### **3 [countable, uncountable] (business) a company, piece of land, etc. bought by somebody, especially another company; the act of buying it**

*They have made acquisitions in several EU countries.*

*the acquisition of shares by employees*

*The group has announced its first overseas acquisition: a successful software company.*

### **Acquit**

VERB

#### **1 acquit somebody (of something) to decide and state officially in court that somebody is not guilty of a crime**

*The jury acquitted him of murder.*

*Both defendants were acquitted.*

*She was acquitted on all charges.*

*He was acquitted on the grounds of insufficient evidence.*

#### **Opposite: convict**

#### **2 acquit yourself well, badly, etc. to perform or behave well, badly, etc**

*He acquitted himself brilliantly in the exams.*

### **Adapt**

verb

#### **1 to change something in order to make it suitable for a new use or situation**

SYNONYM: modify, adapt something

*These styles can be adapted to suit individual tastes.*

#### **adapt something for something**

*Most of these tools have been specially adapted for use by disabled people.*

#### **2 to change your behaviour in order to deal more successfully with a new situation**

SYNONYM: adjust

*It's amazing how soon you adapt.*

*The organisms were forced to adapt in order to survive.*

#### **adapt to something**

*We have had to adapt quickly to the new system.*

*A large organization can be slow to adapt to change.*

#### **adapt yourself to something**

*It took him a while to adapt himself to his new surroundings.*

**3 adapt something (for something) (from something)**

to change a book or play so that it can be made into a play, film/movie, television programme, etc

*Three of her novels have been adapted for television.*

**Adequate**

adjective

enough in quantity, or good enough in quality, for a particular purpose or need

*an adequate supply of hot water*

*The room was small but adequate.*

*There is a lack of adequate provision for disabled students.*

*He didn't give an adequate answer to the question.*

**adequate for something**

*The space available is not adequate for our needs.*

**adequate to do something**

*training that is adequate to meet the future needs of industry*

**OPPOSITE: inadequate**

**adequacy**

noun [uncountable] The adequacy of the security arrangements has been questioned.

**OPPOSITE: inadequacy**

**adequately**

adverb

*Are you adequately insured?*

**OPPOSITE: inadequately**

**Adhere**

verb

**adhere (to something) (formal) to stick firmly to something**

*Once in the bloodstream, the bacteria adhere to the surface of the red cells.*

*Clean the surface first, or the paint will not adhere.*

*There was oil adhering to the bird's feathers.*

**Praisal Verb Use: adhere to something**

to behave according to a particular law, rule, set of instructions, etc; to follow a particular set of beliefs or a fixed way of doing something

*For ten months he adhered to a strict no-fat low-salt diet.*

*She adheres to teaching methods she learned over 30 years ago.*

*Staff should adhere strictly to the safety guidelines.*

*The diet will work if it is adhered to.*

**Adolescence**

noun

the time in a person's life when he or she develops from a child into an adult

SYNONYM: puberty

*Adolescence brings about major changes in a young person's body.*

**Adolescent**

noun

a young person who is developing from a child into an adult

*adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18*

## Adopt

verb

CHILD

**1 to take somebody else's child into your family and become its legal parent(s)**

*a campaign to encourage childless couples to adopt*

**adopt somebody to adopt a child**

**She was forced to have her baby adopted.**

method

**2 adopt something to start to use a particular method or to show a particular attitude towards somebody/something**

*All three teams adopted different approaches to the problem.*

suggestion

**3 adopt something to formally accept a suggestion or policy by voting**

*to adopt a resolution*

*The council is expected to adopt the new policy at its next meeting.*

new name/country

**4 adopt something to choose a new name, a country, a custom, etc. and begin to use it as your own**

*to adopt a name/title/language*

*Early Christians in Europe adopted many of the practices of the older, pagan religions.*

way of behaving

**5 adopt something (formal) to use a particular manner, way of speaking, expression, etc**

*He adopted an air of indifference.*

candidate

**6 adopt somebody (as something) (British English, politics) to choose somebody as a candidate in an election or as a representative**

*She was adopted as parliamentary candidate for Wood Green.*

## Adore

verb

(not used in the progressive tenses)

**1 adore somebody to love somebody very much**

*It's obvious that she adores him.*

**2 (informal) to like something very much**

**adore something**

*I simply adore his music!*

*Don't you just adore that dress!*

**adore doing something**

*She adores working with children.*

## Adorn

VERB

to make something/somebody look more attractive by decorating it or them with something

**adorn something/somebody**

*Gold rings adorned his fingers.*

*Graffiti adorned the walls.*

**adorn something/somebody/yourself with something**

*The walls were adorned with paintings.*

*The children adorned themselves with flowers.*

**adornment .noun**

*A plain necklace was her only adornment.*

## Advocate (v)

VERB

to support something publicly

**advocate something**

*The group does not advocate the use of violence.*

**advocate (somebody) doing something**

*Many experts advocate rewarding your child for good behaviour.*

**advocate that...**

*The report advocated that all buildings be fitted with smoke detectors.*

*The report advocated that all buildings should be fitted with smoke detectors.*

**Aesthete (Esthete)**

NOUN

a person who has a love and understanding of art and beautiful things

**Aesthetic (Esthetic)**

ADJECTIVE

**1 concerned with beauty and art and the understanding of beautiful things**

*an aesthetic appreciation of the landscape*

*The benefits of conservation are both financial and aesthetic.*

**2 made in an artistic way and beautiful to look at**

*Their furniture was more aesthetic than functional.*

**aesthetically (North American English also es-):adverb**

*aesthetically pleasing colour combinations*

**Affinity**

NOUN

**1 [singular] affinity (for/with somebody/something) | affinity (between A and B)**

a strong feeling that you understand somebody/something and like them or it

SYNONYM: rapport

*Sam was born in the country and had a deep affinity with nature.*

*Humans have a special affinity for dolphins.*

**2 [uncountable, countable] affinity (with somebody/something) | affinity (between A and B)**

a close relationship between two people or things that have similar qualities, structures or features

*There is a close affinity between Italian and Spanish.*

PLURAL: affinities

**Affirm**

VERB

to state firmly or publicly that something is true or that you support something strongly

SYNONYM: confirm

**affirm something Both sides affirmed their commitment to the ceasefire.**

**The decision was affirmed by the Court of Appeal.**

**affirm that... I can affirm that no one will lose their job.**

NOUN :affirmation

*She nodded in affirmation.*

**Affluent**

ADJECTIVE

having a lot of money and a good standard of living

SYNONYM: prosperous, wealthy

*affluent Western countries*

*a very affluent neighbourhood*

**NOUN: affluence**

*The 1950s were an age of affluence in America.*

SYNONYM: prosperity

**Agglomerate**

verb

to form into a mass or group; to collect things and form them into a mass or group

*These small particles agglomerate together to form larger clusters.*

**agglomerate something They agglomerated many small pieces of research into a single large study**

**Aggravate**

VERB

**1 aggravate something to make an illness or a bad or unpleasant situation worse onym**

SYNONYM: worsen

*Pollution can aggravate asthma.*

*Military intervention will only aggravate the conflict even further.*

**2 aggravate somebody (informal) to annoy somebody, especially deliberately**

SYNONYM: irritate

**aggravating**

ADJECTIVE

*aggravating circumstances/factors*

*Her constant interruptions were very aggravating.*

**aggravation**

NOUN

*I don't need all this aggravation at work.*

*The drug may cause an aggravation of the condition.*

**Agitate**

VERB

**1 [intransitive, transitive] to argue strongly for something you want, especially for changes in a law, in social conditions, etc.**

SYNONYM: campaign

**agitate (for/against something) political groups agitating for social change**

**agitate to do something Her family are agitating to have her transferred to a prison in the UK.**

**2 [transitive] agitate somebody to make somebody feel angry, anxious or nervous**

*This remark seemed to agitate her guest.*

**3 [transitive] agitate something (technical) to make something, especially a liquid, move around by stirring or shaking it**

*Agitate the mixture to dissolve the powder.*

**Ailment**

noun

an illness that is not very serious

**Align**

VERB

**1 [intransitive, transitive] align (something) (with something) to arrange something in the correct position, or to be in the**

**correct position, in relation to something else, especially in a straight line**

*Make sure the shelf is aligned with the top of the cupboard.*

*The top and bottom line of each column on the page should align.*

**2 [transitive] align something (with/to something) to change something slightly so that it is in the correct relationship to**

**something else** *Domestic prices have been aligned with those in world markets.*

**PRAISAL VERB USE: align yourself with somebody/something**

to publicly support an organization, a set of opinions or a person that you agree with

*Newspapers traditionally align themselves with one political party.*

**Allegation**

NOUN

a public statement that is made without giving proof, accusing somebody of doing something that is wrong or illegal

SYNONYM: accusation

*to investigate/deny/withdraw an allegation*

**allegation of something Several newspapers made allegations of corruption in the city's police department.**

**allegation (of something) against somebody allegations of dishonesty against him**

**allegation about somebody/something The committee has made serious allegations about interference in its work.**

**allegation that... an allegation that he had been dishonest**

**Allege**

VERB

to state something as a fact but without giving proof

**allege (that)... The prosecution alleges (that) she was driving carelessly**

**.it is alleged (that)... It is alleged that he mistreated the prisoners.**

**be alleged to be, have, etc. something He is alleged to have mistreated the prisoners.**

**allege something This procedure should be followed in cases where dishonesty has been alleged.**

**Alleged (Adjective)**

*the alleged attacker/victim/killer (= that somebody says is one) the alleged attack/offence/incident (= that somebody says has happened)*

*The girl gave evidence in court against her alleged attacker.*

**Allegedly (Adverb)**

*crimes allegedly committed during the war*

**Allegiance**

NOUN

a person's continued support for a political party, religion, ruler, etc

*to switch/transfer/change allegiance*

*an oath/a vow/a statement of allegiance*

*People of various party allegiances joined the campaign.*

**allegiance (to somebody/something) to pledge/swear allegiance**

*He affirmed his allegiance to the president.*

**Alleviate**

VERB

to make something less severe onym

SYNONYM: ease

*to alleviate suffering*

*A number of measures were taken to alleviate the problem.*

**Alleviation (Noun)**

*the alleviation of poverty*

**Allied**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (often Allied) [only before noun] connected with countries that unite to fight a war together, especially the countries that fought together against Germany in the First and Second World Wars**

*Italy joined the war on the Allied side in 1915.*

*Many civilians died as a result of allied bombing.*

*allied forces/troops*

**2 (of two or more things) similar or existing together; connected with something**

*medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and other allied professions*

**allied to/with something In this job you will need social skills allied with technical knowledge.**

**Allude**

VERB

**allude to somebody/something**

to mention something in an indirect way

*The problem had been alluded to briefly in earlier discussions.*

**Ally**

NOUN

Plural allies

**1 [countable] a country that has agreed to help and support another country, especially in case of a war**

*our European/NATO allies*

*a loyal ally of the United States*

**2 [countable] a person who helps and supports somebody who is in a difficult situation, especially a politician**

*a close ally and friend of the prime minister*

*His sister was his ally against their grandparents.*

**3 the Allies [plural] the group of countries including Britain and the US that fought together in the First and Second World Wars**

*the Western Allies*

**Alternative**

NOUN

a thing that you can choose to do or have out of two or more possibilities

*You can be paid in cash weekly or by cheque monthly; those are the two alternatives.*

*We had no alternative but to fire Gibson.*

*There is a vegetarian alternative on the menu every day.*



**Amalgamate**

VERB

**amalgamate (something) (with/into something)**

**1 [intransitive, transitive] if two organizations amalgamate or are amalgamated, they join together to form one large**

**organization**

*A number of colleges have amalgamated to form the new university.*

**SYNONYM: merge**

**amalgamate with/into something** The company has now amalgamated with another local firm.

**amalgamate something** They decided to amalgamate the two schools.

**amalgamate something with/into something** The two companies were amalgamated into one.

**2 [transitive] amalgamate something (into/with something) to put two or more things together so that they form one**

**SYNONYM: merge**

*This information will be amalgamated with information obtained earlier.*

**Amalgamation (noun)**

*The amalgamation of small farms into larger units*

**Ambassador**

NOUN

an official who lives in a foreign country as the senior representative there of his or her own country

*the British Ambassador to Italy/in Rome*

*a former ambassador to the UN*

*The best ambassadors for the sport are the players.*

**Ambiguity**

NOUN

Plural ambiguities

**1 [uncountable] the state of having more than one possible meaning**

*Write clear definitions in order to avoid ambiguity.*

*A lot of humour depends on ambiguity.*

**2 [countable] a word or statement that can be understood in more than one way**

*There were several inconsistencies and ambiguities in her speech.*

**3 [uncountable, countable] the state of being difficult to understand or explain because of involving many different aspects**

*You must understand the ambiguity of my position.*

**Ameliorate**

VERB

**ameliorate something to make something better**

*Steps have been taken to ameliorate the situation.*

**Amelioration (Noun)****Amicable**

ADJECTIVE

done or achieved in a polite or friendly way and without arguing

*an amicable relationship*

*An amicable settlement was reached.*

*In spite of their disagreement they parted on amicable terms.*

**Amicably (Adverb)**

*The policeman chatted amicably to the bystanders.*

**Ample**

ADJECTIVE

**1 enough or more than enough****SYNONYM: plenty of**

*ample opportunity/evidence/space/proof*

*There was ample time to get to the airport.*

*Ample free parking is available.*

**2 (of a person's figure) large, often in an attractive way**

*an ample bosom*

*These clothes belonged to a man of more ample girth.*

**Amplify (ADVERB)**

*His efforts were amply rewarded.*

**Animus**

NOUN

**animus (against somebody/something) (formal) a strong feeling of opposition, anger or hatred**

**Annihilate**

VERB

**1 annihilate somebody/something/yourself to destroy somebody/something completely**

*The human race has enough weapons to annihilate itself.*

**2 annihilate somebody/something to defeat somebody/something completely**

*She annihilated her opponent, who failed to win a single game.*

**Annihilation (NOUN)**

*the annihilation of the whole human race*

**Annul**

VERB

**annul something to state officially that something is no longer legally valid**

*Their marriage was annulled after just six months.*

**Annulment (Noun)**

**Anomaly**

NOUN

plural anomalies

**anomaly (in something) a thing, situation, etc. that is different from what is normal or expected**

*the many anomalies in the tax system*

*the apparent anomaly that those who produced the wealth, the workers, were the poorest*

**Anticipate**

VERB

**1 to expect something anticipate something**

*We don't anticipate any major problems.*

*Our anticipated arrival time is 8.30. The eagerly anticipated movie will be released next month.*

**anticipate doing something**

*They anticipate moving to bigger premises by the end of the year.*

**anticipate something doing something**

*I don't anticipate it being a problem.*

**anticipate that... We anticipate that sales will rise next year.**

**it is anticipated that... It is anticipated that inflation will stabilize at 3%.**

**2 to see what might happen in the future and take action to prepare for it anticipate something**

*We need someone who can anticipate and respond to changes in the fashion industry.*

**anticipate what, how, that, etc...**

*Try and anticipate what the interviewers will ask.*

**3 anticipate (doing) something| anticipate (something doing) something to think with pleasure and excitement about something that is going to happen**

*We eagerly anticipated the day we would leave school.*

*The more I anticipated arriving somewhere, the more disappointed I was.*

**4 anticipate somebody (doing something) (formal) to do something before it can be done by somebody else**

**SYNONYM: forestall**

*When Scott reached the South Pole he found that Amundsen had anticipated him.*

**Antithesis**

NOUN

**1 the opposite of something**

*Love is the antithesis of selfishness.*

*Students finishing their education at 16 is the very antithesis of what society needs.*

**2 a contrast between two things**

*There is an antithesis between the needs of the state and the needs of the people.*

**Antithetical (Adjective) antithetical (to something)**

*A culture of violence is antithetical to the church's traditional teaching.*

**Apathy**  
NOUN

the feeling of not being interested in or enthusiastic about something, or things in general  
*There is widespread apathy among the electorate.*  
*public/political/student apathy*

**Appeal**  
NOUN

**1 a formal request to a court or to somebody in authority for a judgement or a decision to be changed:**

(British English) to lodge an appeal  
(North American English) to file an appeal  
(British English) an appeal court/judge  
(North American English) an appeals court/judge

**appeal against something an appeal against the 3-match ban**

**2 a quality that makes somebody/something attractive or interesting**

*mass/wide/popular appeal*  
*The Beatles have never really lost their appeal.*  
*The prospect of living in a city holds little appeal for me.*

**3 an urgent and deeply felt request for money, help or information, especially one made by a charity or by the police**  
*a look of silent appeal*

**appeal (to somebody) (for something) to launch a TV appeal for donations to the charity**

**The child's mother made an emotional appeal on TV for his return.**

**appeal to somebody to do something The police made an appeal to the public to remain calm.**

**4 [countable] appeal to something an indirect suggestion that any good, fair or reasonable person would act in a particular way**

*I relied on an appeal to his finer feelings.*

**Appealing**  
ADJECTIVE

**1 attractive or interesting**

*Spending the holidays in Britain wasn't a prospect that I found particularly appealing.*  
*Brightly coloured packaging made the pens especially appealing to children.*

**2 showing that you want people to help you or to show you pity or sympathy**

*'Would you really help?' he said with an appealing look.*

**Appease**  
VERB

**1 appease somebody to make somebody calmer or less angry by giving them what they want**

*The move was widely seen as an attempt to appease critics of the regime.*

**2 appease somebody/something**

to give a country what it wants in order to avoid war

**Appoint**  
VERB

**1 to choose somebody for a job or position of responsibility**

**appoint somebody They have appointed a new head teacher at my son's school.**  
**appoint somebody to something She has recently been appointed to the committee.**  
**appoint somebody + noun| appoint somebody as something They appointed him (as) captain of the English team.**

**appoint somebody to do something A lawyer was appointed to represent the child.**

**2 [usually passive] appoint something (formal) to arrange or decide on a time or place for doing something**

*A date for the meeting is still to be appointed.*  
*Everyone was assembled at the appointed time.*

**Apprehend**  
VERB

**1 apprehend somebody (of the police) to catch somebody and arrest them**

*The police apprehended an armed suspect near the scene of the crime.*  
*The thief was apprehended in the act of stealing a car.*

**2 apprehend something (old-fashioned) to understand or recognize something**

*He was slow to apprehend danger.*

**Apprehension**

NOUN

**1 [uncountable, countable] worry or fear that something unpleasant may happen**

**SYNONYM: anxiety**

*There is growing apprehension that fighting will begin again.*

*He watched the election results with some apprehension.*

*There is apprehension about the safety of the missing children.*

*They shivered with apprehension.*

**2 [uncountable] (formal) the act of capturing or arresting somebody, usually by the police**

*the apprehension of the terrorists in the early hours of this morning*

**Apprise**

VERB

**apprise somebody of something (formal) to tell or inform somebody of something**

*He saw no reason to apprise the committee of what had happened.*

*We were fully apprised of the situation.*

**Approve**

VERB

**1 [intransitive] to think that somebody/something is good, acceptable or suitable**

*I told my mother I wanted to leave school but she didn't approve.*

**approve of somebody/something Do you approve of my idea?**

**approve of somebody doing something She doesn't approve of me leaving school this year.**

**approve of somebody's doing something She doesn't approve of my leaving school this year.**

**2 [transitive] approve something to officially agree to a plan, request, etc**

*The committee unanimously approved the plan.*

**3 [transitive, often passive] approve something to say that something is good enough to be used or is correct**

*The course is approved by the Department for Education.*

*The auditors approved the company's accounts.*

**Apt**

ADJECTIVE

**1 suitable or appropriate in the circumstances**

*a particularly apt description/name/comment*

*The song would have been more apt for a bass voice.*

**2 likely or having a natural tendency to do something**

**apt to be... apt to be forgetful/careless**

**apt to do something Babies are apt to put objects into their mouths.**

**Arrogant**

ADJECTIVE

behaving in a proud, unpleasant way, showing little thought for other people

**Armament**

NOUN

**1 weapons, especially large guns, bombs, tanks, etc**

*the armaments industry*

**2 the process of increasing the amount of weapons an army or a country has, especially to prepare for war.**

**OPPOSITE: disarmament**

**Arrogance**

NOUN

the behaviour of a person when they feel that they are more important than other people, so that they are rude to them or do not consider them

*He has a reputation for rudeness and intellectual arrogance.*

**Arsenal**

NOUN

**1 a collection of weapons such as guns and explosives**

*Britain's nuclear arsenal*

**2 a building where military weapons and explosives are made or stored**

**Articulate**

VERB

**1 articulate something (to somebody) to express or explain your thoughts or feelings clearly in words**

*She struggled to articulate her thoughts.*

*It is the school's duty to articulate its practices to parents.*

**2 [intransitive, transitive] to speak, pronounce or play something in a clear way**

*He was too drunk to articulate properly.*

**articulate something** Every note was carefully articulated.

**3 articulate (with something) to be related to something so that together the two parts form a whole**

*These courses are designed to articulate with university degrees.*

**4 to be joined to something else by a joint, so that movement is possible; to join something in this way**

**articulate (with something) bones that articulate with others**

**articulate something** a robot with articulated limbs

**Assail**

VERB

**1 assail somebody/something to attack somebody/something violently, either physically or with words**

*He was assailed with fierce blows to the head.*

*The proposal was assailed by the opposition party.*

*A vile smell assailed my nostrils.*

**2 assail somebody to disturb or upset somebody severely**

*to be assailed by worries/doubts/fears*

**Assault**

VERB

**1 the crime of attacking somebody physically**

*Both men were charged with assault.*

*sexual assaults*

**assault on/upon somebody** A significant number of indecent assaults on women go unreported.

**2 assault (on/upon/against somebody/something) (by an army, etc.) the act of attacking a building, an area, etc. in order to take control of it**

**SYNONYM:attack**

*An assault on the capital was launched in the early hours of the morning.*

**3 assault (on/upon something) the act of trying to achieve something that is difficult or dangerous**

*The government has mounted a new assault on unemployment.*

*Three people died during an assault on the mountain (= while trying to climb it).*

**4 an act of criticizing somebody/something severely**

*The suggested closures came under assault from all parties.*

**assault on/upon/against somebody/something**

*The paper's assault on the president was totally unjustified.*

**Assert**

VERB

**1 to state clearly and firmly that something is true**

**assert that...** She continued to assert that she was innocent.

**assert something** She continued to assert her innocence.

**The German Chancellor was anxious to assert his government's commitment to further European unity.**

+ speech 'That is wrong,' he asserted.

it is asserted that... It is commonly asserted that older people prefer to receive care from family members.

**2 assert yourself to behave in a confident and determined way so that other people pay attention to your opinions**

*You're too timid—you must try to assert yourself more.*

**3 assert something to make other people recognize your right or authority to do something, by behaving firmly and confidently**

*to assert your independence/rights*

*I was determined to assert my authority from the beginning.*

**4 assert itself to start to have an effect**

*Good sense asserted itself.*

**Assess**  
VERB

**1 to make a judgement about the nature or quality of somebody/something**

assess somebody/something It's difficult to assess the effects of these changes.

to assess a patient's needs

Interviews allow you to assess the suitability of candidates.

assess somebody/something as something The young men were assessed as either safe or unsafe drivers.

I'd assess your chances as low.

assess whether, how, etc... The committee assesses whether a building is worth preserving.

We are trying to assess how well the system works.

**2 to calculate the amount or value of something**

**SYNONYM:** estimate

assess something They have assessed the amount of compensation to be paid.

assess something at something Damage to the building was assessed at £40000.

**Assume**

VERB

**1 to think or accept that something is true but without having proof of it**

assume (that)... It is reasonable to assume (that) the economy will continue to improve.

*Let us assume for a moment that the plan succeeds.*

*She would, he assumed, be home at the usual time.*

it is assumed (that)... It is generally assumed that stress is caused by too much work.

assume something Don't always assume the worst (= that something bad has happened). In this example we have

assumed a unit price of \$10.

assume somebody/something to be/have something I had assumed him to be a Belgian.

**2 assume something (formal) to take or begin to have power or responsibility**

**SYNONYM:** take

*The court assumed responsibility for the girl's welfare.*

*Rebel forces have assumed control of the capital.*

**3 assume something (formal) to begin to have a particular quality or appearance**

**SYNONYM:** take on

*This matter has assumed considerable importance.*

*In the story the god assumes the form of an eagle.*

**4 assume something (formal) to pretend to have a particular feeling or quality**

**SYNONYM:** put on

*He assumed an air of concern.*

**Assure**

VERB

**1 to tell somebody that something is definitely true or is definitely going to happen, especially when they have doubts about it**

assure somebody (that)... You think I did it deliberately, but I assure you (that) I did not.

We were assured that everything possible was being done.

She's perfectly safe, I can assure you.

assure somebody (of something) We assured him of our support.

I won't let you down, I can assure you of that.

assure somebody + speech 'He'll come back,' Susan assured her.

**2 (formal) to make yourself certain about something**

assure yourself of something He assured himself of her safety.

assure yourself that... She assured herself that the letter was still in the drawer.

**3 to make something certain to happen**

**SYNONYM:** guarantee

assure something Victory would assure a place in the finals.

assure somebody something Victory would assure them a place in the finals.

This achievement has assured her a place in the history books.

**4 assure something (British English) to insure something, especially against somebody's death**

*What is the sum assured?*

**Aura**

NOUN

**aura (of something) a feeling or particular quality that is very noticeable and seems to surround a person or place**

*She always has an aura of confidence.*

*The mountains have a magical aura.*

### **Authentic**

ADJECTIVE

**1 known to be real and genuine and not a copy**

*I don't know if the painting is authentic.*

**2 true and accurate**

*an authentic account of life in the desert*

*the authentic voice of young black Americans*

**3 made to be exactly the same as the original**

*an authentic model of the ancient town*

*Take a trip on an authentic Spanish galleon to the famous Papagayo beach.*

### **Autonomy**

**1 the freedom for a country, a region or an organization to govern itself independently**

**SYNONYM: independence**

*a campaign in Wales for greater autonomy*

**2 the ability to act and make decisions without being controlled by anyone else**

*giving individuals greater autonomy in their own lives*

### **Avenue**

NOUN

**1 (abbr. Ave., Av.) a street in a town or city**

*a hotel on Fifth Avenue*

*120 Holland Park Avenue*

**2 (British English) a wide straight road with trees on both sides, especially one leading to a big house**

*an avenue lined with plane trees*

**3 a choice or way of making progress towards something**

*Several avenues are open to us.*

*We will explore every avenue until we find an answer.*

*He saw suicide as the only avenue left open to him.*

### **Banish**

VERB

**1 banish somebody (from...) (to...) to order somebody to leave a place, especially a country, as a punishment**

**SYNONYM: exile**

*He was banished to Australia, where he died five years later.*

*The children were banished from the dining room.*

**2 banish somebody/something (from something) to make somebody/something go away; to get rid of somebody/something**

*The sight of food banished all other thoughts from my mind.*

### **Benefit**

NOUN

**1 [uncountable, countable] an advantage that something gives you; a helpful and useful effect that something has**

*I've had the benefit of a good education.*

*The new regulations will be of benefit to everyone concerned.*

*It will be to your benefit to arrive early.*

*He couldn't see the benefit of arguing any longer.*

*the benefits of modern medicine*

*It was good to see her finally reaping the benefits (= enjoying the results) of all her hard work.*

*With the benefit of hindsight (= knowing what we have learnt since), we would do things differently.*

*For maximum benefit, take the tablets before meals.*

**2 money provided by the government to people who need financial help because they are unemployed, ill/sick, etc**

*How long have you been on benefit?*

**3 an advantage that you get from a company in addition to the money that you earn; money from an insurance company**

*The insurance plan will provide substantial cash benefits to your family in case of your death.*

**4 an event such as a performance, a dinner, etc, organized in order to raise money for a particular person or charity**  
*a benefit match/concert*

*The proceeds from the benefit will go directly to the refugee camps.*

### **Beneficial**

ADJECTIVE

**beneficial (to something/somebody) improving a situation; having a helpful or useful effect**

SYNONYM advantageous, favourable

*A good diet is beneficial to health.*

*They finally came to a mutually beneficial agreement.*

### **Benevolent**

ADJECTIVE

**1 kind, helpful and generous**

*a benevolent smile/attitude*

*belief in the existence of a benevolent god*

*a benevolent dictatorship*

**2 used in the names of some organizations that give help and money to people in need**

*the RAF Benevolent Fund*

### **Bereavement**

NOUN

**1 [uncountable] the state of having lost a relative or close friend because they have died**

*the pain of an emotional crisis such as divorce or bereavement*

*a sense of bereavement*

*learning to cope with bereavement*

*bereavement counselling*

**2 [countable] the death of a relative or close friend**

*A family bereavement meant that he could not attend the conference.*

*She had suffered three bereavements in quick succession.*

### **Bestow**

VERB

**bestow something (on/upon somebody) to give something to somebody, especially to show how much they are respected**

*It was a title bestowed upon him by the king.*

### **Betray**

VERB

**1 to give information about somebody/something to an enemy**

**betray somebody/something** He was offered money to betray his colleagues.

**betray somebody/something to somebody** For years they had been betraying state secrets to Russia.

**2 betray somebody/something to hurt somebody who trusts you, especially by not being loyal or faithful to them**

*She felt betrayed when she found out the truth about him.*

*She betrayed his trust over and over again.*

*I have never known her to betray a confidence (= tell other people something that should be kept secret).*

**3 betray something to ignore your principles or beliefs in order to achieve something or gain an advantage for yourself**

*He has been accused of betraying his former socialist ideals.*

**4 to tell somebody or make them aware of a piece of information, a feeling, etc, usually without meaning to**

SYNONYM: give away

**betray something** His voice betrayed the worry he was trying to hide.

**betray yourself** She was terrified of saying something that would make her betray herself (= show her feelings or who she was).

### **Betrayal**

NOUN

the act of betraying somebody/something or the fact of being betrayed

*a sense/a feeling/an act of betrayal*

*I saw her actions as a betrayal of my trust.*

*the many disappointments and betrayals in his life*



*Memories of his betrayal still haunted her.  
a betrayal of their election promises  
a story of heroism, love and betrayal*

**Betterment**

NOUN

the process of becoming or making something/somebody better

**SYNONYM: improvement**

*His life offered me no hope of betterment.*

**Beware**

VERB

(used only in infinitives and in orders) if you tell somebody to beware, you are warning them that somebody/something is dangerous and that they should be careful

**beware of somebody/something** Motorists have been warned to beware of icy roads.

**beware (of) doing something** Beware of saying anything that might reveal where you live.

**beware somebody/something** It's a great place for swimming, but beware dangerous currents.

**Bewitch**

VERB

**1 bewitch somebody to attract or impress somebody so much that they cannot think in a sensible way**

*He was completely bewitched by her beauty.*

**2 bewitch somebody to put a magic spell on somebody**

**Bewitching**

ADJECTIVE

so beautiful or interesting that you cannot think about anything else

*a bewitching girl/smile*

*a bewitching performance*

**Bifurcate**

VERB

to divide into two separate parts

**Bilateral**

ADJECTIVE

**1 involving two groups of people or two countries**

*bilateral relations/agreements/trade/talks*

**2 (medical) involving both of two parts or sides of the body or brain**

*bilateral hearing impairment*

**bilaterally (ADVERB)**

**Bizarre**

ADJECTIVE

very strange or unusual

**SYNONYM: weird**

*a bizarre situation/incident/story*

*bizarre behaviour*

**bizarrely (ADVERB)**

*bizarrely dressed*

**Blaze**

VERB

**1 to burn brightly and strongly**

*A huge fire was blazing in the fireplace.*

*Within minutes the whole building was blazing.*

*He rushed back into the blazing house.*

**2 to shine brightly**

*The sun blazed down from a clear blue sky.*

*The garden blazed with colour.*

**3 blaze (with something) if somebody's eyes blaze, they look extremely angry**

*Her eyes were blazing with fury.*

**4 (also blazon) blaze something (across/all over something) to make news or information widely known by telling people about it in a way they are sure to notice**

*The story was blazed all over the daily papers.*

**5 blaze (away) if a gun or somebody using a gun blazes, the gun fires continuously**

*In the distance machine guns were blazing.*

**Phrasal verbs**

**blaze up**

**1 to suddenly start burning very strongly**

**2 to suddenly become very angry**

**Blur**

NOUN

**1 a shape that you cannot see clearly, often because it is moving too fast**

*His arm was a rapid blur of movement as he struck.*

*Everything is a blur when I take my glasses off.*

**2 something that you cannot remember clearly**

*The events of that day were just a blur.*

**Blush**

VERB

**1 to become red in the face because you are embarrassed or ashamed**

**SYNONYM: go red**

**blush (with something) (at something) to blush with embarrassment/shame**

*She blushed furiously at the memory of the conversation.*

*He looked away, blushing.*

**+ adjective/noun He blushed scarlet at the thought.**

**2 blush to do something to be ashamed or embarrassed about something**

*I blush to admit it, but I quite like her music.*

**Boast**

VERB

**1 to talk with too much pride about something that you have or can do**

*I don't want to boast, but I can actually speak six languages.*

**boast about something She is always boasting about how wonderful her children are.**

**boast of something He openly boasted of his skill as a burglar.**

**boast that... Sam boasted that she could beat anyone at poker.**

**+ speech 'I won!' she boasted.**

**2 (not used in the progressive tenses) boast something to have something that is impressive and that you can be proud of**

*The hotel also boasts two swimming pools and a golf course.*

*Rhodes boasts 300 days of sunshine a year.*

**Bramble**

NOUN

**1 (especially British English) a wild bush with thorns on which blackberries grow**

**2 (British English) = blackberry**

**Breed**

VERB

**bred, bred**

**1 (of animals) to have sex and produce young**

*Many animals breed only at certain times of the year.*

**2 breed something (for/as something) to keep animals or plants in order to produce young ones in a controlled way**

*The rabbits are bred for their long coats.*

*Greyhounds were originally bred as hunting dogs.*

*the first panda to be bred in captivity*

**3 [transitive] breed something to be the cause of something**

*Nothing breeds success like success.*

**4 breed something into somebody to educate somebody in a particular way as they are growing up**

*Fear of failure was bred into him at an early age.*

**Brink**

NOUN

**1 the brink (of something) if you are on the brink of something, you are almost in a very new, dangerous or exciting situation**

*on the brink of collapse/war/death/disaster*

*Scientists are on the brink of making a major new discovery.*

*He's pulled the company back from the brink (= he has saved it from disaster).*

*teetering/poised/hovering on the brink*

**2 the extreme edge of land, for example at the top of a cliff or by a river**

*the brink of the precipice*

**Bureaucracy**

NOUN

**1 the system of official rules and ways of doing things that a government or an organization has, especially when these seem to be too complicated**

*unnecessary/excessive bureaucracy*

*We need to reduce paperwork and bureaucracy in the company.*

**2 a system of government in which there are a large number of state officials who are not elected; a country with such a system**

*the power of the state bureaucracy*

*living in a modern bureaucracy*

**Bureaucrat**

NOUN

an official working in an organization or a government department, especially one who follows the rules of the department too strictly

**Cabinet**

NOUN

**1 (usually the Cabinet) a group of chosen members of a government, which is responsible for advising and deciding on government policy**

*a cabinet meeting*

(British English) a cabinet minister

(British English) the shadow Cabinet (= the most important members of the opposition party)

**2 a piece of furniture with doors, drawers and/or shelves, that is used for storing or showing things**

*kitchen cabinets*

*a medicine cabinet*

*The china was displayed in a glass cabinet.*

**Capitalism**

NOUN

an economic system in which a country's businesses and industry are controlled and run for profit by private owners rather than by the government

*the growth of industrial capitalism in the West*

**Caliph**

NOUN

a title used by Muslim rulers, especially in the past

**Casual**

ADJECTIVE

**without care/attention**

**1 [usually before noun] not showing much care or thought; seeming not to be worried; not wanting to show that something is important to you**

*a casual manner*

*It was just a casual remark—I wasn't really serious.*

*He tried to sound casual, but I knew he was worried.*

**2 [usually before noun] without paying attention to detail**  
*They have a casual attitude towards safety (= they don't care enough).*

*a casual glance*

*It's obvious even to the casual observer.*

**not formal**

**3 not formal**

*casual clothes (= comfortable clothes that you choose to wear in your free time) family parties and other casual occasions*

**work**

**4 [usually before noun] (British English) not permanent; not done, or doing something regularly**

*casual workers/labour*

*Students sometimes do casual work in the tourist trade.*

*They are employed on a casual basis (= they do not have a permanent job with the company).*

**relationship**

**5 [usually before noun] without deep affection**

*a casual acquaintance*

*a casual friendship*

*to have casual sex (= to have sex without having a steady relationship with that partner)*

**by chance**

**6 [only before noun] happening by chance; doing something by chance**

*a casual encounter/meeting*

*a casual passer-by*

*The exhibition is interesting to both the enthusiast and the casual visitor.*

*The disease is not spread by casual contact.*

**Casually (adverb)**

*'What did he say about me?' she asked as casually as she could.*

*They chatted casually on the phone.*

*dressed casually in jeans and T-shirt*

**casualness (noun) [uncountable]**

*He was sure that the casualness of the gesture was deliberate.*

**Cease**

VERB

to stop happening or existing; to stop something from happening or existing

*Welfare payments cease as soon as an individual starts a job.*

**cease to do something You never cease to amaze me!**

**cease something They voted to cease strike action immediately.**

**He ordered his men to cease fire (= stop shooting).**

**cease doing something The company ceased trading in June.**

**Censor**

VERB

a person whose job is to examine books, films/movies, etc. and remove parts which are considered to be offensive, immoral or a political threat

**Censorship**

NOUN

the act or policy of censoring books, etc

*press censorship*

*The decree imposed strict censorship of the media.*

**Certain**

ADJECTIVE

**1 that you can rely on to happen or to be true**

*The climbers face certain death if the rescue today is unsuccessful.*

**certain (that)... It is certain that they will agree.**

**certain to do something She looks certain to win an Oscar.**

**They are certain to agree.**

**certain of something/of doing something If you want to be certain of getting a ticket, book now.**

**2 firmly believing something; having no doubts**

**certain (that)... She wasn't certain (that) he had seen her.**

**certain of/about something Are you absolutely certain about this?**

**certain who/where, etc...** I'm not certain who was there.

*To my certain knowledge he was somewhere else at the time (= I am sure about it).*

**3 used to mention a particular thing, person or group without giving any more details about it or them**

*For certain personal reasons I shall not be able to attend.*

*Certain people might disagree with this.*

*They refused to release their hostages unless certain conditions were met.*

**4 (formal) used with a person's name to show that the speaker does not know the person**

*It was a certain Dr Davis who performed the operation.*

**5 slight; noticeable, but difficult to describe**

*That's true, to a certain extent.*

*I felt there was a certain coldness in her manner.*

#### Idioms

##### for certain

without doubt

*I can't say for certain when we'll arrive.*

##### make certain (that...)

to find out whether something is definitely true

*I think there's a bus at 8 but you'd better call to make certain.*

##### make certain of something/of doing something

to do something in order to be sure that something else will happen

*You'll have to leave soon to make certain of getting there on time.*

##### of a certain age

if you talk about a person being of a certain age, you mean that they are no longer young but not yet old

*The show appeals to an audience of a certain age.*

#### Certainty

ADVERB

##### 1 without doubt

**Synonym: definitely**

*Without treatment, she will almost certainly die.*

*Certainly, the early years are crucial to a child's development.*

*I'm certainly never going there again.*

*She was certainly attractive but you couldn't call her beautiful.*

##### 2 (used in answer to questions) of course

*'May I see your passport, Mr Scott?' 'Certainly.'*

*'Do you think all this money will change your life?' 'Certainly not.'*

#### Chore

NOUN

##### 1 a task that you do regularly

*doing the household/domestic chores*

##### 2 an unpleasant or boring task

*Shopping's a real chore for me.*

#### Chronological

ADJECTIVE

##### 1 (of a number of events) arranged in the order in which they happened

*The facts should be presented in chronological order.*

**2 chronological age: the number of years a person has lived as opposed to their level of physical, mental or emotional**

**development**

**Civil**

ADJECTIVE

##### 1 [only before noun] connected with the people who live in a country

*civil unrest (= that is caused by groups of people within a country)*

##### 2 [only before noun] connected with the state rather than with religion or with the armed forces

*a civil marriage ceremony*

##### 3 [only before noun] involving personal legal matters and not criminal law

*a civil court*

##### 4 polite in a formal way but possibly not friendly

*The less time I have to spend being civil to him the better!*  
**civilly (adverb)**  
*She greeted him civilly but with no sign of affection.*

**Civilian**  
NOUN

a person who is not a member of the armed forces or the police  
*Two soldiers and one civilian were killed in the explosion.*  
**civilian adjective [usually before noun]**  
*He left the army and returned to civilian life.*

**Clamour**  
NOUN (Clamor : US)

- 1 a loud noise especially one that is made by a lot of people or animals**  
*the clamour of the market*  
*the incessant clamour of monkeys and birds*  
**2 clamour (for something) a demand for something made by a lot of people**  
*The clamour for her resignation grew louder.*  
**Clamorous (adjective)**

**Climate**  
NOUN

- 1 the regular pattern of weather conditions of a particular place**  
*a mild/temperate/warm/wet climate*  
*the harsh climate of the Arctic regions*  
**2 [countable] an area with particular weather conditions**  
*They wanted to move to a warmer climate.*  
**3 [countable] a general attitude or feeling; an atmosphere or a situation which exists in a particular place**  
*the present political climate*  
*the current climate of opinion (= what people generally are thinking about a particular issue)*  
*a climate of suspicion/violence*  
*We need to create a climate in which business can prosper.*

**Climax**  
NOUN

- 1 the most exciting or important event or point in time**  
*to come to/reach a climax*  
*the climax of his political career*  
*The team's 3-1 victory in the final provided a fitting climax to a great season.*  
**2 the most exciting part of a play, piece of music, etc. that usually happens near the end**  
*The book's powerful climax is the murder of Nancy by her lover Bill Sikes.*  
**3 the highest point of sexual pleasure**

**Clue**  
NOUN

- 1 clue (to something) an object, a piece of evidence or some information that helps the police solve a crime**  
*The police think the videotape may hold some vital clues to the identity of the killer.*  
**2 clue (to something) a fact or a piece of evidence that helps you discover the answer to a problem**  
*Diet may hold the clue to the causes of migraine.*  
**3 some words or a piece of information that helps you find the answers to a crossword, a game or a question**  
*'You'll never guess who I saw today!' 'Give me a clue.'*

**Coerce**  
VERB

**coerce somebody (into something/into doing something) | coerce somebody (to do something) to force somebody to do something by using threats**  
*They were coerced into negotiating a settlement.*

**Cognitive**  
NOUN

connected with mental processes of understanding  
*a child's cognitive development*  
*cognitive psychology*

### **Cohabit**

VERB

**cohabit (with somebody) (usually of a man and a woman) to live together and have a sexual relationship without being married**  
*cohabiting couples*

*She refused to cohabit with him before the wedding.*

**cohabitation : noun**

*There have been great changes in the patterns of marriage, divorce and cohabitation.*

(figurative) a period of cohabitation between a conservative government and a socialist president

### **Collaborate**

VERB

**1 to work together with somebody in order to produce or achieve something**

*Researchers around the world are collaborating to develop a new vaccine.*

**collaborate (with somebody) (on something) We have collaborated on many projects over the years.**

**collaborate (with somebody) (in something/in doing something) She agreed to collaborate with him in writing her biography.**

**2 collaborate (with somebody) (disapproving) to help the enemy who has taken control of your country during a war**

*He was accused of collaborating with the enemy.*

### **Collaboration**

NOUN

**1 the act of working with another person or group of people to create or produce something**

*It was a collaboration that produced extremely useful results.*

*The new plane was a triumph of European industrial and technical collaboration.*

**collaboration (with somebody) (on something) She wrote the book in collaboration with one of her students.**

**The government worked in close collaboration with teachers on the new curriculum.**

**collaboration (between A and B) collaboration between the teachers and the government**

**2 a piece of work produced by two or more people or groups of people working together**

**3 the act of helping the enemy during a war when they have taken control of your country**

### **Commence**

VERB

to begin to happen; to begin something

*The meeting is scheduled to commence at noon.*

*I will be on leave during the week commencing 15 February.*

**commence with something The day commenced with a welcome from the principal.**

**commence something She commenced her medical career in 1956.**

**The company commenced operations in April.**

**to commence bankruptcy proceedings against somebody**

**commence doing something We commence building next week.**

**commence to do something Operators commenced to build pipelines in 1862.**

### **Commission**

NOUN

**OFFICIAL GROUP**

**1 (often Commission) [countable] an official group of people who have been given responsibility to control something, or to find out about something, usually for the government**

*the European Commission*

(British English) The government has set up a commission of inquiry into the disturbances at the prison.

a commission on human rights

**MONEY**

**2 [uncountable, countable] an amount of money that is paid to somebody for selling goods and which increases with the amount of goods that are sold**

*You get a 10% commission on everything you sell.*

*He earned £2000 in commission last month.*

*In this job you work on commission (= are paid according to the amount you sell).*

**3 [uncountable] an amount of money that is charged by a bank, etc. for providing a particular service**

*1% commission is charged for cashing traveller's cheques.*

**FOR ART/MUSIC ETC**

**4 [countable] a formal request to somebody to design or make a piece of work such as a building or a painting**

*a commission to design the new parliament building*

**IN ARMED FORCES**

**5 [countable] an officer's position in the armed forces**

*He resigned his commission when he got married.*

**OF CRIME**

**6 [uncountable] (formal) the act of doing something wrong or illegal**

*the commission of a crime*

**Commission**

VERB

**PIECE OF ART/MUSIC ETC**

**1 to officially ask somebody to write, make or create something or to do a task for you**

**commission somebody to do something** *She has been commissioned to write a new national anthem.*

**commission something** *Publishers have commissioned a French translation of the book.*

*The survey on consumer taste was commissioned by local stores.*

**IN ARMED FORCES**

**2 commission somebody to choose somebody as an officer in one of the armed forces**

*She was commissioned in 2007.*

**commission somebody (as) something** *He has just been commissioned (as a) pilot officer.*

**Commodity**

NOUN

Plural commodities

**1 (economics) a product or a raw material that can be bought and sold**

*rice, flour and other basic commodities*

*a drop in commodity prices*

*Crude oil is the world's most important commodity.*

**2 (formal) a thing that is useful or has a useful quality**

*Water is a precious commodity that is often taken for granted in the West.*

**Communism**

NOUN

**1 a political movement that believes in an economic system in which the state controls the means of producing everything on behalf of the people. It aims to create a society in which everyone is treated equally.**

**2 Communism the system of government by a ruling Communist Party, such as in the former Soviet Union**

**Compel**

VERB

**1 to force somebody to do something; to make something necessary**

**compel somebody to do something** *The law can compel fathers to make regular payments for their children.*

*I feel compelled to write and tell you how much I enjoyed your book.*

**compel something** *Last year ill health compelled his retirement.*

**2 compel something (not used in the progressive tenses) to cause a particular reaction**

*He spoke with an authority that compelled the attention of the whole crowd.*

**Competence**

NOUN

**1 (also less frequent competency) [uncountable, countable] competence (in something) | competence (in doing something) the ability to do something well**

*to gain a high level of competence in English*

*professional/technical competence*

**Opposite: incompetence**

**2 [uncountable] (law) the power that a court, an organization or a person has to deal with something**

*he judge has to act within the competence of the court.*

*outside somebody's area of competence*

**3 [countable] (also less frequent competency (technical)) a skill that you need in a particular job or for a particular task**



*The syllabus lists the knowledge and competences required at this level.*

### **Complementary**

ADJECTIVE

**complementary (to something)** two people or things that are complementary are different but together form a useful or attractive combination of skills, qualities or physical features

*The school's approach must be complementary to that of the parents*

### **Compliance**

NOUN

**compliance (with something)** the practice of obeying rules or requests made by people in authority

*procedures that must be followed to ensure full compliance with the law*

*Safety measures were carried out in compliance with paragraph 6 of the building regulations.*

### **Comply**

VERB

**complies, complying, complied, complied**

[intransitive] comply (with something) to obey a rule, an order, etc

*They refused to comply with the UN resolution.*

### **Concede**

VERB

**1 to admit that something is true, logical, etc**

+ speech 'Not bad,' she conceded grudgingly.

concede (that)... He was forced to concede (that) there might be difficulties.

concede something I had to concede the logic of this.

concede something to somebody He reluctantly conceded the point to me.

concede somebody something He reluctantly conceded me the point.

it is conceded that... It must be conceded that different judges have different approaches to these cases.

**2 to give something away, especially unwillingly; to allow somebody to have something**

concede something (to somebody) The President was obliged to concede power to the army.

England conceded a goal immediately after half-time.

concede somebody something Women were only conceded full voting rights in the 1950s.

**3 concede (defeat) to admit that you have lost a game, an election, etc**

*After losing this decisive battle, the general was forced to concede.*

*Injury forced Hicks to concede defeat.*

### **Conceive**

VERB

**1 to form an idea, a plan, etc. in your mind; to imagine something**

conceive something He conceived the idea of transforming the old power station into an arts centre.

conceive of something (as something) God is often conceived of as male.

conceive (that)... I cannot conceive (= I do not believe) (that) he would wish to harm us.

conceive what/how, etc... I cannot conceive what it must be like.

**2 when a woman conceives or conveys a child, she becomes pregnant**

*She is unable to conceive.*

conceive something Their first child was conceived on their wedding night.

### **Conception**

NOUN

**1 the process of forming an idea or a plan**

*The plan was brilliant in its conception but failed because of lack of money.*

**2 conception (of something) | conception (that...) an understanding or a belief of what something is or what something should be**

*Marx's conception of social justice*

*He has no conception of how difficult life is if you're unemployed.*

**3 the process of an egg being fertilized inside a woman's body so that she becomes pregnant**

*the moment of conception*

*A child is born about 40 weeks after conception takes place.*

## Concern

VERB

affect/involve

**1 [often passive] concern somebody/something to affect somebody/something; to involve somebody/something**

*Don't interfere in what doesn't concern you.*

*The loss was a tragedy for all concerned (= all those affected by it).*

*Where our children's education is concerned, no compromise is acceptable.*

*The individuals concerned have some explaining to do.*

**To whom it may concern ... (= used for example, at the beginning of a public notice or of a job reference about somebody's character and ability)**

*Everyone who was directly concerned in (= had some responsibility for) the incident has now resigned.*

*Please pay attention because this information concerns all of you.*

**be about**

**2 concern something (also be concerned with something) to be about something**

*The story concerns the prince's efforts to rescue Pamina.*

*The book is primarily concerned with Soviet-American relations during the Cold War.*

*This chapter concerns itself with the historical background.*

*One major difference between these computers concerns the way in which they store information.*

**worry somebody**

**3 to worry somebody**

**concern somebody** What concerns me is our lack of preparation for the change.

**concern somebody that...** It concerns me that you no longer seem to care. see also concerned

**take an interest**

**4 concern yourself with/about something to take an interest in something**

*He didn't concern himself with the details.*

**consider important**

**5 be concerned to do something (formal) to think it is important to do something**

*She was concerned to write about situations that everybody could identify with.*

## Conclude

VERB

**1 (not used in the progressive tenses) to decide or believe something as a result of what you have heard or seen**

**conclude something (from something)** What do you conclude from that?

**conclude (that)...** The report concluded (that) the cheapest option was to close the laboratory.

**conclude from something that...** He concluded from their remarks that they were not in favour of the plan.

**it is concluded that...** It was concluded that the level of change necessary would be low.

+ speech 'So it should be safe to continue,' he concluded.

**2 to come to an end; to bring something to an end**

*Let me make just a few concluding remarks.*

**conclude with something** The programme concluded with Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring'.

**conclude by doing something** He concluded by wishing everyone a safe trip home.

**conclude something (with something)** The commission concluded its investigation last month.

**She concluded her speech with a quotation from Shakespeare.**

+ speech 'Anyway, she should be back soon,' he concluded.

**3 conclude something (with somebody) (formal) to arrange and settle an agreement with somebody formally and finally**

*They concluded a treaty with Turkey.*

*A trade agreement was concluded between the two countries.*

## Concrete

ADJECTIVE

**1 made of concrete**

*a concrete floor*

**2 based on facts, not on ideas or guesses**

**concrete evidence/proposals/proof**

*'It's only a suspicion,' she said, 'nothing concrete.'*

**'It is easier to think in concrete terms rather than in the abstract.'**

a concrete object is one that you can see and feel

## Confer

VERB

**1 confer (with somebody) (on/about something) to discuss something with somebody, in order to exchange opinions or get advice**

*He wanted to confer with his colleagues before reaching a decision.*

**2 confer something (on/upon somebody) to give somebody an award, a university degree or a particular honour or right**

*An honorary degree was conferred on him by Oxford University in 2009.*

### **Confess**

VERB

**1 to admit, especially formally or to the police, that you have done something wrong or illegal**

*After hours of questioning, the suspect confessed.*

**confess to something/to doing something** She confessed to the murder.

**confess (that)...** He confessed that he had stolen the money.

**confess something** We persuaded her to confess her crime.

**2 to admit something that you feel ashamed or embarrassed about**

**confess something** She was reluctant to confess her ignorance.

**confess to something/to doing something** I must confess to knowing nothing about computers.

**confess (that)...** I confess (that) I know nothing about computers.

+ speech 'I know nothing about them,' he confessed.

**confess yourself + adjective (formal)** I confess myself bewildered by their explanation.

**3 confess (something) (to somebody) (especially in the Roman Catholic Church) to tell God or a priest about the bad things you have done so that you can say that you are sorry and be forgiven**

**4 confess somebody (of a priest) to hear somebody confess their sins (= the bad things they have done)**

### **Conform**

VERB

**1 to behave and think in the same way as most other people in a group or society**

*There is considerable pressure on teenagers to conform.*

**conform to something** He refused to conform to the local customs.

**2 conform to/with something to obey a rule, law, etc.**

**SYNONYM: comply**

*The building does not conform with safety regulations.*

**3 conform to something to agree with or match something**

*Wordsworth changed the ideas of his poem to conform with his later religious and political opinions.*

*It did not conform to the usual stereotype of an industrial city.*

### **Conformity**

NOUN

**conformity (to/with something) behaviour or actions that follow the accepted rules of society**

### **Confront**

VERB

**1 confront somebody/something (of problems or a difficult situation) to appear and need to be dealt with by somebody**

*the economic problems confronting the country*

*The government found itself confronted by massive opposition.*

**2 confront something to deal with a problem or difficult situation**

**SYNONYM: face up to**

*She knew that she had to confront her fears.*

**3 confront somebody to face somebody so that they cannot avoid seeing and hearing you, especially in an unfriendly or dangerous situation**

*This was the first time he had confronted an armed robber.*

*Confronted by an angry crowd, the police retreated.*

**4 confront somebody with somebody/something to make somebody face or deal with an unpleasant or difficult person or situation**

*He confronted her with a choice between her career or their relationship.*

**5 be confronted with something to have something in front of you that you have to deal with or react to**

*Most people when confronted with a horse will pat it.*

### **Connotation**

NOUN

an idea suggested by a word in addition to its main meaning

*The word 'professional' has connotations of skill and excellence.*  
*negative connotations*  
“compare denotation”

### **Connote**

VERB

**connote something (of a word) to suggest a feeling, an idea, etc. as well as the main meaning “compare denote”**

### **Conscience**

NOUN

**1 the part of your mind that tells you whether your actions are right or wrong**

*to have a clear/guilty conscience (= to feel that you have done right/wrong)*

*This is a matter of individual conscience (= everyone must make their own judgement about it).*

*He won't let it trouble his conscience.*

**2 a guilty feeling about something you have done or failed to do**

*She was seized by a sudden pang of conscience.*

*I have a terrible conscience about it.*

**3 the fact of behaving in a way that you feel is right even though this may cause problems**

*freedom of conscience (= the freedom to do what you believe to be right) Emilia is the voice of conscience in the play.*

### **Conscious**

NOUN

**1 aware of something; noticing something**

**conscious of something** *She's very conscious of the problems involved.*

**conscious of doing something** *He became acutely conscious of having failed his parents.*

**conscious that...** *I was vaguely conscious that I was being watched.*

**Opposite:unconscious**

**2 able to use your senses and mental powers to understand what is happening**

*A patient who is not fully conscious should never be left alone.*

**Opposite:unconscious**

**3 (of actions, feelings, etc.) deliberate or controlled**

*to make a conscious decision*

*I made a conscious effort to get there on time.*

*a conscious act of cruelty*

**Opposite:unconscious**

**4 being particularly interested in something**

*environmentally conscious*

*They have become increasingly health-conscious.*

**ADVERB: consciously**

*Consciously or unconsciously, you made a choice.*

### **Console**

VERB

to give comfort or sympathy to somebody who is unhappy or disappointed

**Synonym:comfort**

**console somebody/yourself** *Nothing could console him when his wife died.*

**She put a consoling arm around his shoulders.**

**console somebody/yourself with something** *Console yourself with the thought that you did your best.*

**console somebody/yourself that...** *I didn't like lying but I consoled myself that it was for a good cause.*

**console somebody + speech** *'Never mind,' Anne consoled her.*

### **Conspiracy**

NOUN

a secret plan by a group of people to do something harmful or illegal

**conspiracy (to do something)** *a conspiracy to overthrow the government*

**conspiracy (against somebody/something)** *conspiracies against the president*

**conspiracy (to something)** *They were charged with conspiracy to murder.*

**a conspiracy of silence (= an agreement not to talk publicly about something which should be made public)**

*a conspiracy theory (= the belief that a secret conspiracy is responsible for a particular event)*

## Conspire

VERB

**1 to secretly plan with other people to do something illegal or harmful**

**conspire (with somebody) (against somebody)** They were accused of conspiring against the king.

**conspire (together) (to do something)** They deny conspiring together to smuggle drugs.

**conspire (with somebody) (to do something)** She admitted conspiring with her lover to murder her husband.

**2 (of events) to seem to work together to make something bad happen**

**conspire against somebody/something** Circumstances had conspired against them.

**conspire to do something** Everything conspired to make her life a misery.

## Constitute

VERB

**1 linking verb + noun (not used in the progressive tenses) to be considered to be something**

*Does such an activity constitute a criminal offence?*

*The increase in racial tension constitutes a threat to our society.*

*His action was interpreted as constituting a threat to the community.*

**2 linking verb + noun (not used in the progressive tenses) to be the parts that together form something**

**Synonym: make up**

*Female workers constitute the majority of the labour force.*

**3 [transitive, usually passive] constitute something to form a group legally or officially**

**Synonym: establish, set up**

*The committee was constituted in 1974 by an Act of Parliament.*

## Constitution

NOUN

**1 the system of laws and basic principles that a state, a country or an organization is governed by**

*your right to vote under the constitution*

*According to the constitution...*

*to propose a new amendment to the Constitution*

*the South African Constitution*

**2 [countable] the condition of a person's body and how healthy it is**

*A two-thirds majority is needed to amend the club's constitution.*

*to have a healthy/strong/weak constitution*

**3 [uncountable, countable] (formal) the way something is formed or organized**

**Synonym: structure**

*the genetic constitution of cells* **4 [uncountable] (formal) the act of forming something**

**Synonym: establishment, setting up**

*He recommended the constitution of a review committee.*

## Constrain

VERB

**1 constrain somebody to do something to force somebody to do something or behave in a particular way**

*The evidence was so compelling that he felt constrained to accept it.*

*The company said that it was constrained to raise prices.*

**2 to restrict or limit somebody/something**

**constrain something** Research has been constrained by a lack of funds.

**constrain somebody (from doing something)** She felt constrained from continuing by the threat of losing her job.

**Men and women are becoming less constrained by stereotyped roles.**

## Constraint

NOUN

**1 [countable] a thing that limits or restricts something, or your freedom to do something**

**SYNONYM: restriction**

*constraints of time/money/space*

*financial/economic/legal/political constraints*

**constraint on something** This decision will impose serious constraints on all schools.

**2 [uncountable] strict control over the way that you behave or are allowed to behave**

*At last we could relax and talk without constraint.*

## Contaminate

VERB

**1 contaminate something (with something) to make a substance or place dirty or no longer pure by adding a substance that is dangerous or carries disease**

**Synonym: adulterate**

*The drinking water has become contaminated with lead.*

**contaminated blood/food/soil**

*a river contaminated by pollution*

**2 contaminate something to influence people's ideas or attitudes in a bad way**

*They were accused of contaminating the minds of our young people.*

**Contemplate**

VERB

**1 [transitive] to think about whether you should do something, or how you should do something**

**Synonym: consider, think about/of**

**contemplate something** You're too young to be contemplating retirement.

**contemplate doing something** I have never contemplated living abroad.

**contemplate how/what, etc...** He continued while she contemplated how to answer.

**2 [transitive] to think carefully about and accept the possibility of something happening**

**contemplate something** The thought of war is too awful to contemplate.

**contemplate how/what, etc...** I can't contemplate what it would be like to be alone.

**contemplate that...** She contemplated that things might get even worse.

**3 [transitive, intransitive] contemplate (something) (formal) to think deeply about something for a long time**

*to contemplate your future*

*She lay in bed, contemplating.*

**4 contemplate somebody/something to look at somebody/something in a careful way for a long time**

**Synonym: stare at**

*She contemplated him in silence.*

*He sat there, contemplating his fingernails.*

**Contempt**

NOUN

**1 the feeling that somebody/something is without value and deserves no respect at all**

*She looked at him with contempt.*

*I shall treat that suggestion with the contempt it deserves.*

*His treatment of his children is beneath contempt (= so unacceptable that it is not even worth feeling contempt for).*

*Politicians seem to be generally held in contempt by ordinary people.*

**contempt for somebody/something** They had shown a contempt for the values she thought important.

**2 contempt for something a lack of worry or fear about rules, danger, etc**

*The firefighters showed a contempt for their own safety.*

*His remarks betray a staggering contempt for the truth (= are completely false).*

**3 contempt of court**

*He could be jailed for two years for contempt.*

*She was held in contempt for refusing to testify.*

**Contiguous**

ADJECTIVE

touching or next to something

*The countries are contiguous.*

**contiguous with/to something** The bruising was not contiguous to the wound.

**Contingency**

NOUN

an event that may or may not happen

**Synonym: possibility**

*We must consider all possible contingencies.*

*to make contingency plans (= plans for what to do if a particular event happens or does not happen)*

*fund (= to pay for something that might happen in the future)*

**Contradict**

VERB

- 1 to say that something that somebody else has said is wrong, and that the opposite is true**  
**contradict something** All evening her husband contradicted everything she said.  
**contradict somebody/yourself** You've just contradicted yourself (= said the opposite of what you said before).  
**contradict (somebody) + speech** 'No, it's not,' she contradicted (him).  
**2 contradict something| contradict each other (of statements or pieces of evidence) to be so different from each other that one of them must be wrong**  
*The two stories contradict each other.*  
*This version of events was contradicted by eye-witness reports.*

**Contrary**  
 ADJECTIVE

- 1 contrary to something different from something; against something**  
*Contrary to popular belief, many cats dislike milk.*  
*The government has decided that the publication of the report would be 'contrary to the public interest'.*  
*Contrary to expectations and the weather forecast, we had a fine day for the experiment.*  
**2 [only before noun] completely different in nature or direction**  
 Synonym: opposite  
*contrary advice/opinions/arguments*  
*The contrary view is that prison provides an excellent education—in crime.*

**Convalescence**  
 NOUN

a period of time when you get well again after an illness or a medical operation; the process of getting well  
*You need four to six weeks' convalescence.*

**Convene**  
 VERB

- 1 convene something to arrange for people to come together for a formal meeting**  
*to convene a meeting*  
*A Board of Inquiry was convened immediately after the accident.*  
**2 to come together for a formal meeting**  
*The committee will convene at 11.30 next Thursday.*

**Convention**  
 NOUN

- 1 the way in which something is done that most people in a society expect and consider to be polite or the right way to do it**  
*social conventions*  
*By convention the deputy leader was always a woman.*  
*She is a young woman who enjoys flouting conventions.*  
*Convention demands that a club member should resign in such a situation.*  
**2 a large meeting of the members of a profession, a political party, etc.**  
 Synonym: conference  
*to hold a convention*  
*the Democratic Party Convention (= to elect a candidate for president)*  
**3 [countable] an official agreement between countries or leaders**  
*the Geneva convention*  
*the United Nations convention on the rights of the child*  
**4 a traditional method or style in literature, art or the theatre**  
*the conventions of Greek tragedy*

**Convict**  
 VERB

**convict somebody (of something) to decide and state officially in court that somebody is guilty of a crime**  
*a convicted murderer*  
*He was convicted of fraud.*  
*There wasn't enough evidence to convict her.*

**Conviction**  
 NOUN

**1 conviction (for something) the act of finding somebody guilty of a crime in court; the fact of having been found guilty**

*She has six previous convictions for theft.*

*He plans to appeal against his conviction.*

*an offence which carries, on conviction, a sentence of not more than five years' imprisonment*

**2 [countable, uncountable] conviction (that...) a strong opinion or belief**

*strong political/moral convictions*

*She was motivated by deep religious conviction.*

*a conviction that all would be well in the end*

**3 the feeling or appearance of believing something strongly and of being sure about it**

*'Not true!' she said with conviction.*

*He said he agreed but his voice lacked conviction.*

*The leader's speech in defence of the policy didn't carry much conviction.*

**Coordinate**

VERB

**1 coordinate something to organize the different parts of an activity and the people involved in it so that it works well**

*They appointed a new manager to coordinate the work of the team.*

*We need to develop a coordinated approach to the problem.*

**2 coordinate something to make the different parts of your body work well together**

**3 coordinate (something) (with something) if you coordinate clothes, furniture, etc. or if they coordinate, they look nice together**

*This shade coordinates with a wide range of other colours.*

**coordinator (British English also co-ordinator) noun**

*The campaign needs an effective coordinator.*

**Cope**

VERB

to deal successfully with something difficult

**Synonym: manage**

*I got to the stage where I wasn't coping any more.*

**cope with something He wasn't able to cope with the stresses and strains of the job.**

**Desert plants are adapted to cope with extreme heat.**

**Cordial**

ADJECTIVE

pleasant and friendly

*a cordial atmosphere/meeting/relationship*

**cordiality (noun)**

*I was greeted with a show of cordiality.*

**Cordially**

ADVERB

**1 in a pleasant and friendly manner**

*You are cordially invited to a celebration for Mr Michael Brown on his retirement.*

**2 (used with verbs showing dislike) very much**

*They cordially detest each other.*

**Counsel**

VERB

**1 advice, especially given by older people or experts; a piece of advice**

*Listen to the counsel of your elders.*

*In the end, wiser counsels prevailed.*

**2 (law) a lawyer or group of lawyers representing somebody in court**

*to be represented by counsel*

*the counsel for the defence/prosecution*

*defence/prosecuting counsel*

*The court then heard counsel for the dead woman's father.*

**Crackle**

VERB

to make short sharp sounds like something that is burning in a fire



*A log fire crackled in the hearth.*  
*The radio crackled into life.*  
(figurative) *The atmosphere crackled with tension.*

**Creak**  
VERB

to make the sound that a door sometimes makes when you open it or that a wooden floor sometimes makes when you step on it  
*She heard a floorboard creak upstairs.*  
*a creaking bed/gate/stair*  
*The table creaked and groaned under the weight.*  
*The timbers creaked as the boat set sail.* + adjective *The door creaked open.*

**Creed**  
NOUN

**1 a set of principles or religious beliefs**

*people of all races, colours and creeds*

*What is his political creed?*

**2 the Creed [singular] a statement of Christian belief that is spoken as part of some church services**

**Cripple**  
VERB

**1 cripple somebody to damage somebody's body so that they are no longer able to walk or move normally**

**Synonym: disable**

*He was crippled by polio as a child.*

*to be crippled with arthritis*

**2 [usually passive] cripple somebody/something to seriously damage or harm somebody/something**

*The pilot tried to land his crippled plane.*

**Crisis**  
NOUN

**1 a time of great danger, difficulty or confusion when problems must be solved or important decisions must be made**

*a political/financial crisis*

*the government's latest economic crisis*

*The business is still in crisis but it has survived the worst of the recession.*

*The Labour Party was facing an identity crisis.*

*an expert in crisis management*

*We provide help to families in crisis situations.*

*In times of crisis I know which friends I can turn to.*

*The party was suffering a crisis of confidence among its supporters (= they did not trust it any longer).*

**2 a time when a problem, a bad situation or an illness is at its worst point**

*Their marriage has reached crisis point.*

*The fever has passed its crisis.*

**Criterion**  
NOUN

Plural criteria

a standard or principle by which something is judged, or with the help of which a decision is made

*The main criterion is value for money.*

*What criteria are used for assessing a student's ability?*

**Critic**  
NOUN

**1 a person who expresses opinions about the good and bad qualities of books, music, etc**

*a music/theatre/literary, etc. critic*

*The critics loved the movie.*

**2 a person who expresses disapproval of somebody/something and talks about their bad qualities, especially publicly**

*She is one of the ruling party's most outspoken critics.*

*a critic of private health care*

**Critical**

## ADJECTIVE

expressing disapproval

**1 expressing disapproval of somebody/something and saying what you think is bad about them**

*a critical comment/report*

*The supervisor is always very critical*

*.critical of somebody/something Tom's parents were highly critical of the school.*

**important**

**2 extremely important because a future situation will be affected by it**

**Synonym: crucial**

*a critical factor in the election campaign*

*Reducing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is of critical importance.*

*Your decision is critical to our future.*

**serious/dangerous**

**3 serious, uncertain and possibly dangerous**

*The first 24 hours after the operation are the most critical.*

*a critical moment in our country's history*

*One of the victims of the fire remains in a critical condition.*

**making careful judgements**

**4 involving making fair, careful judgements about the good and bad qualities of somebody/something**

*Students are encouraged to develop critical thinking instead of accepting opinions without questioning them.*

**of art/music/books, etc.**

**5 [only before noun] according to the judgement of critics of art, music, literature, etc**

*the film director's greatest critical success*

*In her day she never received the critical acclaim (= praise from the critics ) she deserved.*

**critically : adverb**

*She spoke critically of her father.*

*He is critically ill in intensive care.*

*I looked at myself critically in the mirror.*

## Criticize

VERB

**1 to say that you disapprove of somebody/something; to say what you do not like or think is wrong about somebody/something**

*All you ever do is criticize!*

**criticize somebody/something** The decision was criticized by environmental groups.

**criticize somebody/something for something** The government has been criticized for not taking the problem seriously.

**Opposite: praise**

**2 criticize something (British English) to judge the good and bad qualities of something**

*We were taught how to criticize poems.*

## Crucial

ADJECTIVE

extremely important, because it will affect other things

**Synonym: critical, essential**

*a crucial factor/issue/decision*

*topics of crucial importance*

*The next few weeks are going to be crucial.*

**crucial to/for something** Winning this contract is crucial to the success of the company.

**crucial that... It is crucial that we get this right.**

**Parents play a crucial role in preparing their child for school.**

**He wasn't there at the crucial moment (= when he was needed most).**

**Crucially (adverb)**

*crucially important*

## Culminate

VERB

**culminate (in/with something) to end with a particular result, or at a particular point**

*a gun battle which culminated in the death of two police officers*

*Months of hard work culminated in success.*

*Their summer tour will culminate at a spectacular concert in London.*

**Culpable**  
ADJECTIVE

responsible and deserving blame for having done something wrong

*The accident was the result of a culpable failure to consider the risks involved.*

**culpability: noun**

*The punishment should be proportionate to the gravity of the offence and the degree of culpability of the offender.*

**Culpably: adverb**

**Culprit**  
NOUN

**1 a person who has done something wrong or against the law**

*The police quickly identified the real culprits.*

**2 a person or thing responsible for causing a problem**

*The main culprit in the current crisis seems to be modern farming techniques.*

**Curb**  
VERB

**curb something to control or limit something, especially something bad**

**Synonym: check**

*He needs to learn to curb his temper.*

*A range of policies have been introduced aimed at curbing inflation.*

**Curious**  
ADJECTIVE

**1 curious (about something) | curious (to do something) having a strong desire to know about something**

**Synonym: inquisitive**

*They were very curious about the people who lived upstairs.*

*I was curious to find out what she had said.*

*Everyone was curious as to why Mark was leaving.*

*He is such a curious boy, always asking questions.*

**2 curious (that...) strange and unusual**

*There was a curious mixture of people in the audience.*

*It was a curious feeling, as though we were floating on air.*

*It was curious that she didn't tell anyone.*

**curiously :adverb**

*'Are you really an artist?' Sara asked curiously.*

*His clothes were curiously old-fashioned.*

*Curiously enough, a year later exactly the same thing happened again.*

**Cynical**  
ADJECTIVE

**1 believing that people only do things to help themselves rather than for good or honest reasons**

*Do you have to be so cynical about everything?*

*a cynical view/smile*

**2 not believing that something good will happen or that something is important**

*I'm a bit cynical about the benefits of the plan.*

*Her experiences with men have made her thoroughly cynical about love.*

**3 not caring that something might hurt other people, if there is some advantage for you**

*a cynical disregard for the safety of others*

*a deliberate and cynical foul*

**cynically : adverb**

**Damp**  
ADJECTIVE

**damp, dampest slightly wet, often in a way that is unpleasant**

*The cottage was cold and damp.*

*My shirt was damp with sweat.*

*damp clothes*

*Wipe the surface with a damp cloth.*

**damply:adverb**

*The blouse clung damply to her skin.*

**Damsel**

NOUN

a young woman who is not married

**Dare**

VERB

**1 (not usually used in the progressive tenses) to be brave enough to do something**

*She said it as loudly as she dared.*

**dare (to) do something He didn't dare (to) say what he thought.**

**They daren't ask for any more money.**

(literary) She dared not breathe a word of it to anybody.

Dare to be different!

There was something, dare I say it, a little unusual about him.

**2 [transitive] to persuade somebody to do something dangerous, difficult or embarrassing so that they can show that they are not afraid**

**dare somebody Go on! Take it! I dare you.**

**dare somebody to do something Some of the older boys had dared him to do it.**

**Idioms****don't you dare!**

(informal) used to tell somebody strongly not to do something

*'I'll tell her about it.' 'Don't you dare!' 'Don't you dare say anything to anybody.'*

**how dare you, etc.**

used to show that you are angry about something that somebody has done

*How dare you talk to me like that?*

*How dare she imply that I was lying?*

**I dare say**

(also I daresay especially in British English) used when you are saying that something is probable

*I dare say you know about it already.*

**Dart**

NOUN

**1 a small pointed object, sometimes with feathers to help it fly, that is shot as a weapon or thrown in the game of darts**

*a poisoned dart*

**2 darts; a game in which darts are thrown at a round board marked with numbers for scoring. Darts is often played in British pubs**

*a darts match*

**3 a sudden quick movement**

**Synonym: dash**

*She made a dart for the door.*

**4 a sudden feeling of a strong emotion**

*Nina felt a sudden dart of panic.*

**5 a pointed fold that is sewn in a piece of clothing to make it fit better**

**Deadlock**

NOUN

**1 [singular, uncountable] a complete failure to reach agreement or settle an argument**

**Synonym: stalemate**

*European agriculture ministers failed to break the deadlock over farm subsidies.*

(British English) The strike appeared to have reached deadlock.

(North American English, British English) The strike has reached a deadlock.

**2 (British English) (also deadbolt North American English, British English) a type of lock on a door that needs a key to open or close it**

**Dearth**

NOUN

**dearth (of something) a lack of something; the fact of there not being enough of something**

**Synonym: scarcity**

*There was a dearth of reliable information on the subject.*

### **Debate**

NOUN

#### **debate (on/about/over something)**

**1 a formal discussion of an issue at a public meeting or in a parliament. In a debate two or more speakers express opposing views and then there is often a vote on the issue**

*a debate on abortion*

*The minister opened the debate (= was the first to speak).*

*The motion under debate (= being discussed) was put to a vote.*

*After a long debate, Congress approved the proposal.*

**2 an argument or discussion expressing different opinions**

*a heated/wide-ranging/lively debate*

*the current debate about tax*

*There had been much debate on the issue of childcare.*

*Whether he deserves what has happened to him is open to debate/a matter for debate (= cannot be certain or decided yet). The theatre's future is a subject of considerable debate.*

### **Decay**

NOUN

**1 the process or result of being destroyed by natural causes or by not being cared for (= of decaying)tooth decay**

*The landlord had let the building fall into decay.*

*The smell of death and decay hung over the town.*

*The decay of the wood will spread if it is not removed.*

**2 the gradual destruction of a society, an institution, a system, etc**

*economic/moral/urban decay*

*the decay of the old industries*

### **Decency**

NOUN

**1 honest, polite behaviour that follows accepted moral standards and shows respect for others**

*Her behaviour showed a total lack of common decency.*

*Have you no sense of decency?*

*He might have had the decency to apologize.*

*standards of taste and decency that we expect broadcasting companies to meet*

**2 the decencies standards of behaviour in society that people think are acceptable**

*the basic decencies of civilized society*

### **Deceit**

NOUN

dishonest behaviour that is intended to make somebody believe something that is not true; an example of this behaviour

#### **Synonym:deception**

*He was accused of lies and deceit.*

*Everyone was involved in this web of deceit.*

*Their marriage was an illusion and a deceit.*

### **Deception**

NOUN

**1 the act of deliberately making somebody believe something that is not true (= of deceiving them)**

#### **Synonym: deceit**

*a drama full of lies and deception*

*He was accused of obtaining property by deception.2 [countable] a trick intended to make somebody believe*

*something that is not true*

#### **Synonym: deceit**

*The whole episode had been a cruel deception.*

### **Deceptive**

AJECTIVE

likely to make you believe something that is not true

#### **Synonym:misleading**

*a deceptive advertisement*

*Appearances can often be deceptive (= things are not always what they seem to be).the deceptive simplicity of her writing style (= it seems simple but is not really)*

**deceptively adverb**

*a deceptively simple idea*

**Declaration**

**Declare**

VERB

**1 [transitive] to say something officially or publicly**

**declare something** The government has declared a state of emergency.

**Germany declared war on France on 1 August 1914.**

**The government has declared war on (= officially stated its intention to stop) illiteracy.**

**declare that...** The court declared that strike action was illegal.

**declare something + noun** The area has been declared a national park.

**declare something to be something** The painting was declared to be a forgery.

**declare something + adjective** The contract was declared void.

**I declare this bridge open.**

**2 [transitive] to state something firmly and clearly+ speech 'I'll do it!' Tom declared.**

**declare that...** He declared that he was in love with her.

**declare something** Few people dared to declare their opposition to the regime.

**declare yourself + adjective/noun** She declared herself extremely hurt by his lack of support.

**3 declare something to tell the tax authorities how much money you have earned**

*All income must be declared.*

**4 declare something to tell customs officers (= at the border of a country) that you are carrying goods on which you should pay**

**tax** *Do you have anything to declare?*

**5 (in cricket) to decide to end your innings (= the period during which your team is batting ) before all your players have batted**

*England declared at 224 for 4 (= 4 batsmen had scored 224 runs ).*

**Deem**

VERB

**deem something + noun/adjective| deem something to be something| deem (that)...** (not usually used in the progressive tenses) **to have a particular opinion about something**

**Synonym: consider**

*The evening was deemed a great success.*

*I deem it an honour to be invited.*

*She deemed it prudent not to say anything.*

*They would take any action deemed necessary.*

**Defecate**

VERB

to get rid of solid waste from your body through your bowels/feces

**Dejected**

ADJECTIVE

unhappy and disappointed

**Synonym: despondent**

*She looked so dejected when she lost the game.*

**Delegate**

NOUN

a person who is chosen or elected to represent the views of a group of people and vote and make decisions for them

*The conference was attended by delegates from 56 countries.*

**Delegation**

NOUN

**1 a group of people who represent the views of an organization, a country, etc**

*the Dutch delegation to the United Nations*

*a delegation of teachers*

**2 the process of giving somebody work or responsibilities that would usually be yours**

*delegation of authority/decision-making*

### **Deliberate**

ADJECTIVE

**1 done on purpose rather than by accident**

**Synonym: intentional, planned**

*a deliberate act of vandalism*

*The speech was a deliberate attempt to embarrass the government.*

**Opposite: unintentional**

**2 (of a movement or an action) done slowly and carefully**

*She spoke in a slow and deliberate way.*

### **Delinquent**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (especially of young people or their behaviour) showing a tendency to commit crimes**

*delinquent teenagers*

**2 (North American English, finance) having failed to pay money that is owed**

*a delinquent borrower*

**3 (North American English, finance) (of a sum of money) not having been paid in time**

*a delinquent loan*

### **Delusion**

NOUN

**1 a false belief or opinion about yourself or your situation**

*the delusions of the mentally ill*

*Don't go getting delusions of grandeur (= a belief that you are more important than you actually are).*

*He was suffering from paranoid delusions and hallucinations.*

*Love can be nothing but a delusion.*

**2 the act of believing or making yourself believe something that is not true**

*He seems to have retreated into a world of fear and delusion.*

### **Demarcate**

VERB

**demarcate something to mark or establish the limits of something**

*Plots of land have been demarcated by barbed wire.*

*The police demarcated the city into eighteen geographical divisions.*

### **Demeanour**

NOUN

the way that somebody looks or behaves

*He maintained a professional demeanour throughout.*

### **Demolish**

VERB

**1 demolish something to pull or knock down a building**

*The factory is due to be demolished next year.*

**2 demolish something to destroy something accidentally**

*The car had skidded across the road and demolished part of the wall.*

**3 demolish something to show that an idea or theory is completely wrong**

*A recent book has demolished this theory.*

**4 demolish somebody/something to defeat somebody easily and completely**

*They demolished New Zealand 44–6 in the final.*

**5 demolish something (British English, informal) to eat something very quickly**

*The children demolished their burgers and chips.*

**demolition : noun**

*The whole row of houses is scheduled for demolition.*

*His speech did a very effective demolition job on the government's proposals.*

### **Depart**

VERB

**1 to leave a place, especially to start a trip**

**Opposite: arrive**

**depart (for...) (from...) Flights for Rome depart from Terminal 3.**

**She waited until the last of the guests had departed.**

**depart something (North American English) The train departed Amritsar at 6.15 p.m.**

**2 to leave your job**

*the departing president*

**depart something He departed his job December 16.**

**Depict**

VERB

**1 to show an image of somebody/something in a picture**

**depict somebody/something (as somebody/something) a painting depicting the Virgin and Child**

**depict somebody/something doing something The artist had depicted her lying on a bed.**

**2 to describe something in words, or give an impression of something in words or with a picture**

**depict somebody/something The novel depicts French society in the 1930s.**

**depict somebody/something as somebody/something The advertisements depict smoking as glamorous and attractive.**

**depiction : noun**

*They object to the movie's depiction of mad people.*

**Deplete**

VERB

**deplete something to reduce something by a large amount so that there is not enough left**

*Food supplies were severely depleted.*

**Deplore**

VERB

**deplore something to strongly disapprove of something and criticize it, especially publicly**

*Like everyone else, I deplore and condemn this killing.*

*He deplored the fact that these criminals were treated by many as heroes and martyrs.*

**Deploy**

VERB

**1 deploy somebody/something (technical) to move soldiers or weapons into a position where they are ready for military action**

*2000 troops were deployed in the area.*

*At least 5000 missiles were deployed along the border.*

**2 deploy something to use something effectively**

*to deploy arguments/resources*

**deployment: noun**

*the deployment of peace keeping forces*

*the deployment of resources/staff*

*troop deployments*

**Deprive**

VERB

**deprive somebody/something of something**

to prevent somebody from having or doing something, especially something important

*They were imprisoned and deprived of their basic rights.*

*Why should you deprive yourself of such simple pleasures?*

**Deputation**

NOUN

a small group of people who are asked or allowed to act or speak for others

**Depute**

VERB

**depute somebody to do something to give somebody else the authority to represent you or do something for you**

**Synonym: delegate**

*He was deputed to put our views to the committee.*



**Deranged**

ADJECTIVE

unable to behave and think normally, especially because of mental illness  
*mentally deranged*

**Deregulate**

VERB

**deregulate something to free a trade, a business activity, etc. from rules and controls**

**Synonym: decontrol**

*deregulated financial markets*

**deregulation: noun**

**Descent**

NOUN

**1 [countable, usually singular] an action of coming or going down**

*The plane began its descent to Heathrow. (figurative) the country's swift descent into anarchy*

**Opposite: ascent**

**2 [countable] a slope going downwards**

*There is a gradual descent to the sea.*

**Opposite: ascent**

**3 [uncountable] a person's family origins**

**Synonym: ancestry**

*to be of Scottish descent*

**descent from somebody He traces his line of descent from the Stuart kings.**

**Desert**

VERB

**1 desert somebody to leave somebody without help or support**

**Synonym: abandon**

*She was deserted by her husband.*

**2 [transitive, often passive] desert something to go away from a place and leave it empty**

**Synonym: abandon**

*The villages had been deserted.*

*The owl seems to have deserted its nest.*

**3 desert (something) to leave the armed forces without permission**

*Large numbers of soldiers deserted as defeat became inevitable.*

**4 desert something (for something) to stop using, buying or supporting something**

*Why did you desert teaching for politics?*

**5 desert somebody if a particular quality deserts you, it is not there when you need it**

*Her courage seemed to desert her for a moment.*

**Desertion: noun**

*She felt betrayed by her husband's desertion.*

*The army was badly affected by desertions.*

**Designate**

VERB

**1 to say officially that somebody/something has a particular character or name; to describe somebody/something in a particular way**

**designate somebody/something (as) something This area has been designated (as) a National Park.**

**This floor has been designated a no-smoking area.**

**designate somebody/something (as being/having something) Several pupils were designated as having moderate or severe learning difficulties.**

**a designated nature reserve**

**designated seats for the elderly**

**2 to choose or name somebody for a particular job or position**

**designate somebody/something The director is allowed to designate his/her successor.**

**designate somebody (as) something Who has she designated (as) her deputy?**

**designate somebody to do something the man designated to succeed the president**

**3 designate something (by something) to show something using a particular mark or sign**

*The different types are designated by the letters A, B and C.*

**Despot**

NOUN

a ruler with great power, especially one who uses it in a cruel way  
*an enlightened despot (= one who tries to use his/her power in a good way)*

**Despotism**

NOUN

the rule of a despot

**Destitute**

NOUN

**1 without money, food and the other things necessary for life**

*When he died, his family was left completely destitute.*

**2 the destitute noun people who are destitute**

**3 destitute of something lacking something**

*They seem destitute of ordinary human feelings.*

**Destitution: noun**

*homelessness and destitution*

**Destined**

ADJECTIVE

**1 having a future which has been decided or planned at an earlier time, especially by fate**

**destined for something** He was destined for a military career, like his father before him.

**destined to do something** We seem destined never to meet.

**2 destined for... on the way to or intended for a place**

**Synonym: bound for**

*goods destined for Poland*

**Destiny**

NOUN

**1 what happens to somebody or what will happen to them in the future, especially things that they cannot change or avoid**

*the destinies of nations*

*He wants to be in control of his own destiny.*

*The contemporary hero is one who stands out against the crowd to fulfil a personal destiny.*

**2 the power believed to control events**

**Synonym: fate**

*I believe there's some force guiding us—call it God, destiny or fate.*

**Deter**

VERB

**deter (somebody) (from something/from doing something) to make somebody decide not to do something or continue doing something, especially by making them understand the difficulties and unpleasant results of their actions**

*I told him I wasn't interested, but he wasn't deterred.*

*The high price of the service could deter people from seeking advice.*

**Deteriorate**

VERB

to become worse

*Her health deteriorated rapidly, and she died shortly afterwards.*

*deteriorating weather conditions*

**deteriorate into something** The discussion quickly deteriorated into an angry argument

**Determine**

VERB

**1 [transitive] to discover the facts about something; to calculate something exactly**

**Synonym: establish**

**determine something** An inquiry was set up to determine the cause of the accident.

**determine what, whether, etc...** We set out to determine exactly what happened that night.

it is determined that... It was determined that she had died of natural causes.

**2 determine something| determine what, whether, etc... to make something happen in a particular way or be of a particular type**

*Age and experience will be determining factors in our choice of candidate.*

*Upbringing plays an important part in determining a person's character.*

**3 to officially decide and/or arrange something**

**determine something A date for the meeting has yet to be determined.**

**determine (that)...** The court determined (that) the defendant should pay the legal costs.

**4 determine to do something| determine (that)...** determine on something to decide definitely to do something

*They determined to start early.*

### **Detest**

VERB

**detest somebody/something| detest doing something to hate somebody/something very much**

**Synonym: loathe**

*They detested each other on sight.*

**Detestation: NOUN**

### **Deviate**

VERB

**deviate (from something) to be different from something; to do something in a different way from what is usual or expected**

*The bus had to deviate from its usual route because of a road closure.*

*He never deviated from his original plan.*

### **Devote**

VERB

**1. devote yourself to somebody/something**

to give most of your time, energy, attention, etc. to somebody/something

*She devoted herself to her career.*

**2. devote something to something**

to give an amount of time, attention, etc. to something

*I could only devote two hours a day to the work.*

### **Devotion**

NOUN

**1 devotion (to somebody/something) great love, care and support for somebody/something**

*His devotion to his wife and family is touching.*

**2 [uncountable, singular] devotion (to somebody/something) the action of spending a lot of time or energy on something**

**Synonym: dedication**

*her devotion to duty*

*Her devotion to the job left her with very little free time.*

**3 devotions [plural] prayers and other religious practices**

### **Diction**

NOUN

**1 the way that somebody pronounces words**

*clear diction*

**2 the choice and use of words in literature**

*Wordsworth rejected poetic diction in favour of ordinary language.*

### **Dignity**

NOUN

**1 a calm and serious manner that deserves respect**

*She accepted the criticism with quiet dignity.*

**2 the fact of being given honour and respect by people**

*the dignity of work*

*The terminally ill should be allowed to die with dignity.*

**3 a sense of your own importance and value**

*It's difficult to preserve your dignity when you have no job and no home.*

### **Idioms**

**stand on your dignity**

(formal) to demand to be treated with the respect that you think that you deserve

*Our teacher never stands on her dignity with us, but treats us all as friends and colleagues.*

**Dignify**

VERB

**1 dignify somebody/something to make somebody/something seem impressive**

*The mayor was there to dignify the celebrations.*

**2 dignify something to make something appear important when it is not really**

*I'm not going to dignify his comments by reacting to them.*

**Dire**

ADJECTIVE

*direr, direst*

1 very serious

*living in dire poverty*

*dire warnings/threats*

*Such action may have dire consequences.*

*We're in dire need of your help.*

2 very bad *The firm is in dire straits (= in a very difficult situation) and may go bankrupt.*

*The acting was dire.*

**Disarmament**

NOUN

the fact of a country reducing the size of its armed forces or the number of weapons, especially nuclear weapons, that it has

*nuclear disarmament*

*disarmament talks*

OPPOSITE: armament

**Disaster**

NOUN

**1 an unexpected event, such as a very bad accident, a flood or a fire, that kills a lot of people or causes a lot of damage****Synonym: catastrophe**

*an air disaster*

*environmental disasters*

*Thousands died in the disaster.*

*a natural disaster (= one that is caused by nature)*

**2 [countable, uncountable] a very bad situation that causes problems**

*Losing your job doesn't have to be such a disaster.*

*Disaster struck when the wheel came off.*

*financial disaster*

*The discovery of the disease among sheep spells financial disaster for farmers.*

*Letting her organize the party is a recipe for disaster (= something that is likely to go badly wrong).*

**3 a complete failure**

*As a teacher, he's a disaster.*

*The play's first night was a total disaster.*

**Discern**

VERB

**1 to know, recognize or understand something, especially something that is not obvious****Synonym: detect**

**discern something** It is possible to discern a number of different techniques in her work.

**He discerned a certain coldness in their welcome.**

**discern how, whether, etc...** It is often difficult to discern how widespread public support is.

**discern that...** I quickly discerned that something was wrong.

**2 discern something to see or hear something, but not very clearly****Synonym: make out**

*We could just discern the house in the distance.*

**discernible : adjective**

**Synonym: perceptible**

*There is often no discernible difference between rival brands  
 .His face was barely discernible in the gloom.*

**Discrepancy**

NOUN

a difference between two or more things that should be the same

**discrepancy (in something) wide discrepancies in prices quoted for the work****discrepancy (between A and B) What are the reasons for the discrepancy between girls' and boys' performance in school?****Discrete**

ADJECTIVE

independent of other things of the same type

**Synonym: separate***The organisms can be divided into discrete categories.***Discretion**

NOUN

**1 the freedom or power to decide what should be done in a particular situation***I'll leave it up to you to use your discretion.**How much to tell terminally ill patients is left to the discretion of the doctor.***2 care in what you say or do, in order to keep something secret or to avoid causing embarrassment to or difficulty for somebody; the quality of being discreet***This is confidential, but I know that I can rely on your discretion.**Jane is the soul of discretion (= you can trust her). Use the utmost discretion when you talk to her.***Discriminate**

VERB

**1 to recognize that there is a difference between people or things; to show a difference between people or things****Synonym: differentiate, distinguish****discriminate (between A and B) The computer program was unable to discriminate between letters and numbers.****discriminate something When do babies learn to discriminate voices?****discriminate A from B A number of features discriminate this species from others.****2 to treat one person or group worse/better than another in an unfair way****discriminate (against somebody) | discriminate (in favour of somebody) practices that discriminate against women and in favour of men****discriminate (on the grounds of something) It is illegal to discriminate on grounds of race, sex or religion.****Discrimination**

NOUN

**1 the practice of treating somebody or a particular group in society less fairly than others***age/racial/sex/sexual discrimination (= because of somebody's age, race or sex) discrimination against somebody  
 discrimination against the elderly***discrimination in favour of somebody discrimination in favour of the young****discrimination on the grounds of something discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, or sexual orientation****2 the ability to judge what is good, true, etc.****Synonym: discernment***He showed great discrimination in his choice of friends.***3 the ability to recognize a difference between one thing and another; a difference that is recognized***to learn discrimination between right and wrong**fine discriminations***Disgust**

VERB

a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval for somebody/something that you feel is unacceptable, or for something that looks, smells, etc, unpleasant

**disgust (at/with something) She expressed her disgust at the programme by writing a letter of complaint.****disgust (for somebody) I can only feel disgust for these criminals.****The idea fills me with disgust.**

*He walked away in disgust.  
Much to my disgust, they refused to help.  
She wrinkled her nose in disgust at the smell.*

### **Dispatch**

VERB

**1 dispatch somebody/something (to...) to send somebody/something somewhere, especially for a special purpose**

*Troops have been dispatched to the area.*

*A courier was dispatched to collect the documents.*

**2 dispatch something (to somebody/something) (formal) to send a letter, package or message somewhere**

*Goods are dispatched within 24 hours of your order reaching us.*

*3 dispatch somebody/something (formal) to deal or finish with somebody/something quickly and completely*

*He dispatched the younger player in straight sets.*

**4 dispatch somebody/something (old-fashioned) to kill a person or an animal**

### **Dispose**

VERB

**1 dispose something/somebody + adverb/preposition to arrange things or people in a particular way or position**

**2 dispose somebody to/toward(s) something| dispose somebody to do something to make somebody behave in a particular way**

*a drug that disposes the patient towards sleep*

### **Phrasal verbs**

**dispose of somebody/something**

**1 to get rid of somebody/something that you do not want or cannot keep**

*the difficulties of disposing of nuclear waste*

*to dispose of stolen property*

**2 to deal with a problem, question or threat successfully**

*That seems to have disposed of most of their arguments.*

**3 to defeat or kill somebody**

*It took her a mere 20 minutes to dispose of her opponent.*

### **Disposal**

NOUN

**1 the act of getting rid of something**

*a bomb disposal squad*

*sewage disposal systems*

*the disposal of nuclear waste*

**2 the sale of part of a business, property, etc**

*The next step is to think about disposal of your assets.*

### **Idioms**

**at your/somebody's disposal**

available for use as you prefer/somebody prefers

*He will have a car at his disposal for the whole month.*

*Well, I'm at your disposal (= I am ready to help you in any way I can).*

### **Disrupt**

VERB

**disrupt something to make it difficult for something to continue in the normal way**

*Demonstrators succeeded in disrupting the meeting.*

*Bus services will be disrupted tomorrow because of the bridge closure.*

**disruption: noun**

*We aim to help you move house with minimum disruption to yourself.*

*disruptions to rail services*

*The strike caused serious disruptions.*

### **Disseminate**

VERB

**disseminate something to spread information, knowledge, etc. so that it reaches many people**

*Their findings have been widely disseminated.*

**dissemination: NOUN**

### **Distinct**

## ADJECTIVE

### 1 easily or clearly heard, seen, felt, etc

*There was a distinct smell of gas.*

*His voice was quiet but every word was distinct.*

### 2 clearly different or of a different kind

*The results of the survey fell into two distinct groups.*

**distinct from something** Jamaican reggae music is quite distinct from North American jazz or blues.

rural areas, as distinct from major cities

### 3 used to emphasize that you think an idea or situation definitely exists and is important

#### Synonym: definite

*Being tall gave Tony a distinct advantage.*

*I had the distinct impression I was being watched.*

*A strike is now a distinct possibility.*

#### distinctly: adverb

*I distinctly heard someone calling me.*

*a distinctly Australian accent*

*He could remember everything very distinctly.*

#### distinctness: noun

## Distinction

### NOUN

#### 1 distinction (between A and B) a clear difference or contrast especially between people or things that are similar or related

*distinctions between traditional and modern societies*

*Philosophers did not use to make a distinction between arts and science.*

*We need to draw a distinction between the two events.*

#### 2 the quality of being excellent or important

*a writer of distinction*

#### 3 the quality of being something that is special

*She had the distinction of being the first woman to fly the Atlantic.*

#### 4 distinction (between A and B) the separation of people or things into different groups

*The new law makes no distinction between adults and children (= treats them equally).*

*All groups are entitled to this money without distinction.*

#### 5 a special mark/grade or award that is given to somebody, especially a student, for excellent work

*Naomi got a distinction in maths.*

*He graduated with distinction.*

## Distress

### VERB

to make somebody feel very worried or unhappy

**distress somebody** It was clear that the letter had deeply distressed her.

**distress yourself** Don't distress yourself (= don't worry).

## Distress

### NOUN

#### 1 a feeling of great worry or unhappiness; great suffering

*The newspaper article caused the actor considerable distress.*

*She was obviously in distress after the attack.*

*deep emotional distress*

#### 2 suffering and problems caused by not having enough money, food, etc.

#### Synonym: hardship

*economic/financial distress*

*The charity aims to relieve poverty and distress caused by natural disasters.*

#### 3 a situation in which a ship, plane, etc. is in danger or difficulty and needs help

*a distress signal (= a message asking for help)*

*It is a rule of the sea to help another boat in distress.*

## Ditch

### NOUN

a long channel dug at the side of a field or road, to hold or take away water

*The car left the road and ended up in a ditch.*

**Ditch**

VERB

**1 ditch something/somebody to get rid of something/somebody because you no longer want or need it/them***The new road building programme has been ditched.**He ditched his girlfriend.***2 ditch (something) if a pilot ditches an aircraft, or if it ditches, it lands in the sea in an emergency****3 ditch school to stay away from school without permission****Diverge**

VERB

**1 to separate and go in different directions***The parallel lines appear to diverge.**We went through school and college together, but then our paths diverged.***diverge from something The coastal road diverges from the freeway just north of Santa Monica.***Many species have diverged from a single ancestor.***2 diverge (from something) (formal) (of opinions, views, etc.) to be different***Opinions diverge greatly on this issue.***3 diverge from something to be or become different from what is expected, planned, etc***to diverge from the norm**He diverged from established procedure.***Opposite:converge****divergence:noun***a wide divergence of opinion***divergent:adjective***divergent paths/opinions***Divine**

ADJECTIVE

**1 coming from or connected with God or a god***divine law/love/will**divine intervention (= help from God to change a situation)***2 (old-fashioned) wonderful; beautiful***That mango tasted divine!***divinely : adverb****D i v i n e**

VERB

**1 divine what, whether, etc...| divine something (formal) to find out something by guessing***She could divine what he was thinking just by looking at him.***Divine right**

NOUN

**1 (in the past) the belief that the right of a king or queen to rule comes directly from God rather than from the agreement of the people****2 a right that somebody thinks they have to do something, without needing to ask anyone else***No player has a divine right to be in this team.***Divisive**

ADJECTIVE

causing people to be split into groups that disagree with or oppose each other

*He believes that unemployment is socially divisive.***divisively: adverb****divisiveness:noun***The minister disliked the divisiveness of rich and poor children going to different schools.***Doctrine**

NOUN

**1 a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, a political party, etc***the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty**Christian doctrine*



*He was deeply committed to political doctrines of social equality.*

**2 Doctrine a statement of government policy**

*the Monroe Doctrine*

**Dominate**

VERB

**1 dominate (somebody/something) to control or have a lot of influence over somebody/something, especially in an unpleasant way**

*As a child he was dominated by his father. \He tended to dominate the conversation.*

*She always says a lot in meetings, but she doesn't dominate.*

**2 dominate something to be the most important or noticeable feature of something**

*The train crash dominated the news.*

**3 dominate something to be the largest, highest or most obvious thing in a place**

*The cathedral dominates the city.*

**4 dominate (something) (sport) to play much better than your opponent in a game**

*Arsenal dominated the first half of the match.*

**Domination:noun**

*political domination*

*companies fighting for domination of the software market*

**Domineering**

ADJECTIVE

trying to control other people without considering their opinions or feelings

*a cold and domineering father*

*a domineering manner*

**Dominion**

NOUN

**1 dominion (over somebody/something) authority to rule; control**

*Man has dominion over the natural world.*

*Soon the whole country was under his sole dominion.*

**2 an area controlled by one ruler**

*the vast dominions of the Roman Empire*

**3 (often Dominion) (in the past) any of the countries of the British Commonwealth that had their own government**

**Doodle**

VERB

to draw lines, shapes, etc, especially when you are bored or thinking about something else

*I often doodle when I'm on the phone.*

**Doom**

NOUN

death or destruction; any terrible event that you cannot avoid

*to meet your doom*

*She had a sense of impending doom (= felt that something very bad was going to happen).*

**Doom**

VERB

**doom somebody/something (to something)| doom somebody/something to do something to make somebody/something certain to fail, suffer, die, etc**

*The plan was doomed to failure.*

*The marriage was doomed from the start.*

**Dote**

VERB

**dote on/upon somebody**

to feel and show great love for somebody, ignoring their faults

*He dotes on his children.*

**Dramatic**

## ADJECTIVE

### 1 (of a change, an event, etc.) sudden, very great and often surprising

*a dramatic increase/fall/change/improvement*

*dramatic results/developments/news*

*The announcement had a dramatic effect on house prices.*

### 2 exciting and impressive

*a dramatic victory*

*They watched dramatic pictures of the police raid on TV.*

*set against the dramatic backcloth of Mont Blanc*

### 3 connected with the theatre or plays

*a local dramatic society*

*Students will study various plays and dramatic texts.*

*a dramatic monologue*

### 4 exaggerated in order to create a special effect and attract people's attention

*He flung out his arms in a dramatic gesture.*

*Don't be so dramatic!*

### dramatically:adverb

*Prices have fallen dramatically.*

*Prices have increased dramatically in the last few years.*

*Events could have developed in a dramatically different way.*

*'At last!' she cried dramatically.*

*The mountains rose dramatically behind them.*

## Drastic

### ADJECTIVE

extreme in a way that has a sudden, serious or violent effect on something

***drastic measures/changes***

*The government is threatening to take drastic action.*

*a drastic shortage of food*

*a drastic reduction in their standard of living*

*Talk to me before you do anything drastic.*

### drastically: adverb

*Output has been drastically reduced.*

*Things have started to go drastically wrong.*

## Dual

### ADJECTIVE

having two parts or aspects

*his dual role as composer and conductor*

*She has dual nationality (= is a citizen of two different countries).*

*The piece of furniture serves a dual purpose as a cupboard and as a table.*

## Dualism

### NOUN

1 (philosophy) the theory that there are two opposite principles in everything, for example good and evil

2 (formal) the state of having two parts

**dualist**

**Dualistic: adjective**

**dualist:noun**

## Duck

### VERB

1 to move your head or body downwards to avoid being hit or seen

*He had to duck as he came through the door.*

**duck (down) (behind/under something) We ducked down behind the wall so they wouldn't see us.**

**He ducked under the overhanging branches.**

**He just managed to duck out of sight.**

**duck something She ducked her head and got into the car.**

2 duck something to avoid something by moving your head or body out of the way

**Synonym: dodge**

*He ducked the first few blows then started to fight back.*

**3 + adverb/preposition to move somewhere quickly, especially in order to avoid being seen**

*She ducked into the adjoining room as we came in.*

**4 to avoid a difficult or unpleasant duty or responsibility**

**duck out of something** It's his turn to cook dinner, but I bet he'll try to duck out of it.

**duck something** The government is ducking the issue.

**5 (North American English also dunk) [transitive] duck somebody to push somebody underwater and hold them there for a short time**

*The kids were ducking each other in the pool.*

### **Egalitarian**

ADJECTIVE

based on, or holding, the belief that everyone is equal and should have the same rights and opportunities

*an egalitarian society*

**egalitarian: noun**

*He described himself as 'an egalitarian'.*

**egalitarianism: noun**

### **Elaborate**

VERB

**1 to explain or describe something in a more detailed way**

**elaborate (on/upon something)** He said he was resigning but did not elaborate on his reasons.

**elaborate something** She went on to elaborate her argument.

**2 elaborate something to develop a plan, an idea, etc. and make it complicated or detailed**

*In his plays he takes simple traditional tales and elaborates them.*

**elaboration: noun**

*the elaboration of an idea*

*The importance of the plan needs no further elaboration.*

### **Eliminate**

VERB

**1 to remove or get rid of something/somebody**

**eliminate something/somebody** Credit cards eliminate the need to carry a lot of cash.

**eliminate something/somebody from something** The police have eliminated two suspects from their investigation.

**This diet claims to eliminate toxins from the body.**

**2 eliminate somebody (from something) [usually passive] to defeat a person or a team so that they no longer take part in a competition, etc.**

**Synonym: knock out**

*All the English teams were eliminated in the early stages of the competition.*

*She was eliminated from the tournament in the first round.*

**3 eliminate somebody (formal) to kill somebody, especially an enemy or opponent**

*Most of the regime's left-wing opponents were eliminated.*

**elimination: noun**

*the elimination of disease/poverty/crime*

*There were three eliminations in the first round of the competition.*

*the elimination of toxins from the body*

### **Elusive**

ADJECTIVE

difficult to find, define, or achieve

*Eric, as elusive as ever, was nowhere to be found.*

*the elusive concept of 'literature'*

*'A solution to the problem of toxic waste is proving elusive.*

**elusively: adverb**

**elusiveness: noun**

### **Emanate**

VERB

**emanate something to produce or show something**

*He emanates power and confidence.*

**emanation:noun ]**

**Phrasal verbs**

**emanate from something**

to come from something or somewhere

**Synonym:issue from**

*The sound of loud music emanated from the building.*

*The proposal originally emanated from the UN.*

**Embark**

VERB

to get onto a ship; to put something onto a ship

*We stood on the pier and watched as they embarked.*

**embark somebody/something** They embarked the troops by night.

**Embarkation:noun**

*Embarkation will be at 14:20 hours.*

**Phrasal verbs**

**embark on/upon something**

to start to do something new or difficult

*She is about to embark on a diplomatic career.*

*Remember these basic rules before embarking upon major home improvements.*

**Embarrass**

VERB

**1 to make somebody feel shy, awkward or ashamed, especially in a social situation**

**embarrass somebody** Her questions about my private life embarrassed me.

**I didn't want to embarrass him by kissing him in front of his friends.**

**it embarrasses somebody to do something** It embarrassed her to meet strange men in the corridor at night.

**2 embarrass somebody to cause problems or difficulties for somebody**

*The speech was deliberately designed to embarrass the prime minister.*

**Embarrassment**

NOUN

**1 shy, awkward or guilty feelings; a feeling of being embarrassed**

*I nearly died of embarrassment when he said that.*

*I'm glad you offered—it saved me the embarrassment of having to ask.*

*Much to her embarrassment she realized that everybody had been listening to her singing.*

**2 embarrassment (to/for somebody) a situation which causes problems for somebody**

*Her resignation will be a severe embarrassment to the party.*

**3 embarrassment (to somebody) a person who causes problems for another person or other people and makes them feel embarrassed**

*Poor Lucy! He's such an embarrassment to her.*

**Embarrassing**

ADJECTIVE

**1 making you feel shy, awkward or ashamed**

*an embarrassing mistake/question/situation*

*It can be embarrassing for children to tell complete strangers about such incidents.*

*It was so embarrassing having to sing in public.*

**2 causing somebody to look stupid, dishonest, etc**

*The report is likely to prove highly embarrassing to the government.*

*This EU ruling puts Britain in a very embarrassing position.*

**embarrassingly:adverb**

*The play was embarrassingly bad.*

**Em bitter**

VERB

**embitter somebody to make somebody feel angry or disappointed about something over a long period of time**

*Years of caring for her ageing parents had embittered her.*

**embittered:adjective**

*a sick and embittered old man*

*an embittered laugh*

### **Embody**

VERB

**1 to express or represent an idea or a quality**

**Synonym:**represent

**embody something** a politician who embodied the hopes of black youth

**be embodied in something** the principles embodied in the Declaration of Human Rights

**2 embody something to include or contain something**

*This model embodies many new features.*

### **Embroidery**

NOUN

**1 patterns that are sewn onto cloth using threads of various colours; cloth that is decorated in this way**

*a beautiful piece of embroidery*

*Indian embroideries*

**2 the skill or activity of decorating cloth in this way**

### **Eminent**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (of people) famous and respected, especially in a particular profession**

*an eminent architect*

**2 (of good qualities) unusual; excellent**

*a man of eminent good sense*

### **Eminence**

NOUN

**1 the quality of being famous and respected, especially in a profession**

*a man of political eminence*

*Few could have predicted that she would reach eminence as a surgeon.*

**2 His/Your Eminence** a title used in speaking to or about a cardinal (= a priest of the highest rank in the Roman Catholic Church)

*Their Eminences will see you now.*

**3 an area of high ground**

*a castle on an eminence overlooking the river*

### **Emphasis**

NOUN

**1 special importance that is given to something**

**Synonym:**stress

**emphasis (on/upon something)** The emphasis is very much on learning the spoken language.

**to put/lay/place emphasis on something**

**Increased emphasis is now being placed on corporate image.**

**We provide all types of information, with an emphasis on legal advice.**

**There has been a shift of emphasis from manufacturing to service industries.**

**The course has a vocational emphasis.**

**2 the extra force given to a word or phrase when spoken, especially in order to show that it is important; a way of writing a word (for example drawing a line underneath it) to show that it is important**

**Synonym:**stress

*'I can assure you,' she added with emphasis, 'the figures are correct.'*

### **Emphasize**

verb(British English also -ise)

**1 to give special importance to something**

**Synonym:**stress

**emphasize something** His speech emphasized the importance of attracting industry to the town.

**emphasize that...** She emphasized that their plan would mean sacrifices and hard work.

**emphasize how, what, etc...** He emphasized how little was known about the disease.

**it must/should be emphasized that...** It should be emphasized that this is only one possible explanation.

- + speech 'This must be our top priority,' he emphasized.
- 2 emphasize something to make something more noticeable**  
*She swept her hair back from her face to emphasize her high cheekbones.*  
*The rising tone of his voice emphasized his panic.*
- 3 emphasize something to give extra force to a word or phrase when you are speaking, especially to show that it is important**

**Empower**  
 VERB

**1 empower somebody (to do something) (formal) to give somebody the power or authority to do something**

**Synonym: authorize**

*The courts were empowered to impose the death sentence for certain crimes.*

**2 empower somebody (to do something) to give somebody more control over their own life or the situation they are in**

*The movement actively empowered women and gave them confidence in themselves.*

**empowerment: noun**

*the empowerment of the individual*

**Enchant**

VERB

**1 enchant somebody to attract somebody strongly and make them feel very interested, excited, etc.**

**Synonym: delight**

*The happy family scene had enchanted him.*

**2 enchant somebody/something to place somebody/something under a magic spell (= magic words that have special powers)**

**Synonym: bewitch**

**Encroach**

VERB

**1 encroach (on/upon something) (disapproving) to begin to affect or use up too much of somebody's time, rights, personal life,**

**etc** *I won't encroach on your time any longer.*

*He never allows work to encroach upon his family life.*

**2 encroach (on/upon something) to slowly begin to cover more and more of an area**

*The growing town soon encroached on the surrounding countryside.*

*the encroaching tide (= that is coming in)*

**encroachment: noun**

**encroachment (on/upon something) the regime's many encroachments on human rights**

**Encumber**

VERB

**1 encumber somebody/something (with something) to make it difficult for somebody to do something or for something to happen**

*The police operation was encumbered by crowds of reporters.*

*The business is encumbered with debt.*

**2 encumber somebody/something (with something) to be large and/or heavy and make it difficult for somebody to move**

*The frogmen were encumbered by their diving equipment.*

**Endure**

VERB

**1 [transitive] to experience and deal with something that is painful or unpleasant, especially without complaining**

**Synonym: bear, TOLERATE**

**endure something** They had to endure a long wait before the case came to trial.

**She could not endure the thought of parting.**

**The pain was almost too great to endure.**

**a love that endures all things and never fails**

**endure doing something** He can't endure being defeated.

**endure to do something** He can't endure to be defeated.

**2 to continue to exist for a long time**

**Synonym: last**

*a success that will endure*

*The torn flag has endured as a symbol of freedom.*

**Endurable: adjective**

*I felt that life was no longer endurable.*

**Opposite: unendurable**

**Enfeeble**

VERB

**enfeeble somebody/something to make somebody/something weak**

**Enforce**

VERB

**1 enforce something (on/against somebody/something) to make sure that people obey a particular law or rule**

*It's the job of the police to enforce the law.*

*The legislation will be difficult to enforce.*

*United Nations troops enforced a ceasefire in the area.*

**2 enforce something (on somebody) to make something happen or force somebody to do something**

*You can't enforce cooperation between the players.*

**enforceable: adjective**

*A gambling debt is not legally enforceable.*

**Enforcement: noun**

*strict enforcement of regulations*

*law enforcement officers*

**Enfranchise**

VERB

**enfranchise somebody (formal) to give somebody the right to vote in an election**

Opposite: disenfranchise

**Enfranchisement: noun**

*the enfranchisement of foreign residents in local elections*

**Ensure**

VERB

(also insure especially in North American English)

**to make sure that something happens or is definite**

**ensure something** *The book ensured his success.*

**ensure somebody something** *Victory ensured them a place in the final.*

**ensure (that)...** *Please ensure (that) all lights are switched off.*

**Entwine**

VERB

**1 entwine something (with/in/around something) to twist or wind something around something else**

*They strolled through the park, with arms entwined.*

*The balcony was entwined with roses.*

**2 be entwined (with something) to be very closely involved or connected with something**

*Her destiny was entwined with his.*

*Their lives are entwined.*

**Enumerate**

VERB

**enumerate something to name things on a list one by one**

*She enumerated the main points.*

*Let me enumerate the benefits for you.*

**enumeration: noun**

**Enunciate**

VERB

**1 enunciate (something) + speech to say or pronounce words clearly**

*She enunciated each word slowly and carefully.*

**2 enunciate something to express an idea clearly and exactly**

*He enunciated his vision of the future.*

**Envisage**

## VERB

to imagine what will happen in the future

**envisage something** What level of profit do you envisage?

**envisage (somebody) doing something** I can't envisage her coping with this job.

**I don't envisage working with him again.**

**it is envisaged that...** It is envisaged that the talks will take place in the spring.

**envisage that...** I envisage that the work will be completed next year.

**envisage how, where, etc...** It is difficult to envisage how people will react.

## Equitable

### ADJECTIVE

fair and reasonable; treating everyone in an equal way

**Synonym:fair**

*an equitable distribution of resources*

**Opposite:inequitable**

**Equitably:adverb**

*We aim to ensure that employees are all treated equitably.*

## Equity

### NOUN

**1 [uncountable] (finance) the value of a company's shares; the value of a property after all charges and debts have been paid**

*He plans to raise the company's return on equity to 15%.*

**2 equities [plural] (finance) shares in a company which do not pay a fixed amount of interest**

**3 [uncountable] (formal) a situation in which everyone is treated equally**

**Synonym:fairness**

*a society where justice and equity prevail*

**Opposite**

**inequity**

**4 [uncountable] (law) (especially British English) a system of natural justice allowing a fair judgement in a situation which is not covered by the existing laws**

*The rules of common law and equity are both, in essence, systems of private law.*

## Eradicate

### VERB

to destroy or get rid of something completely, especially something bad

**Synonym:wipe out**

**eradicate something** Diphtheria has been virtually eradicated in the United States.

**eradicate something from something** We are determined to eradicate racism from our sport.

## Erupt

### VERB

**1 when a volcano erupts or burning rocks, smoke, etc. erupt or are erupted, the burning rocks, etc. are thrown out from the volcano**

*The volcano could erupt at any time.*

**erupt from something** Ash began to erupt from the crater.

**erupt something** An immense volume of rocks and molten lava was erupted.

**2 to start happening, suddenly and violently**

**Synonym:break out**

*Violence erupted outside the embassy gates.*

**erupt into something** The unrest erupted into revolution.

**3 to suddenly express your feelings very strongly, especially by shouting loudly**

*When Davis scored for the third time the crowd erupted.*

**erupt in/into something** My father just erupted into fury.

+ speech 'How dare you?' she erupted.

**4(of spots, etc.) to suddenly appear on your skin**

*A rash had erupted all over his chest.*

**eruption: noun**

*a major volcanic eruption*

*an eruption of violent protest*

*skin rashes and eruptions*



## Essence

NOUN

**1 essence (of something) the most important quality or feature of something, that makes it what it is**

*His paintings capture the essence of France.*

*In essence (= when you consider the most important points) , your situation isn' t so different from mine.*

**2 a liquid taken from a plant, etc. that contains its smell and taste in a very strong form**

*essence of rosewood*

(British English) coffee/vanilla/almond essence

## Establish

VERB

**1 establish something to start or create an organization, a system, etc. that is meant to last for a long time**

**Synonym: set up**

*The committee was established in 1912. The new treaty establishes a free trade zone.*

*Let's establish some ground rules.*

**2 establish something to start having a relationship, especially a formal one, with another person, group or country**

*The school has established a successful relationship with the local community.*

**3 establish somebody/something/yourself (in something) (as something) to hold a position for long enough or succeed in something well enough to make people accept and respect you**

*By then she was established as a star.*

*He has just set up his own business but it will take him a while to get established.*

**4 establish something to make people accept a belief, claim, custom etc**

*It was this campaign that established the paper's reputation.*

*Traditions get established over time.*

**5 to discover or prove the facts of a situation**

**Synonym: ascertain**

**establish something** Police are still trying to establish the cause of the accident.

**establish that...** They have established that his injuries were caused by a fall.

**establish where, what, etc...** We need to establish where she was at the time of the shooting.

**it is established that...** It has since been established that the horse was drugged.

## Evacuate

VERB

**1 to move people from a place of danger to a safer place**

**evacuate something** Police evacuated nearby buildings.

**evacuate somebody (from...) (to...)** Children were evacuated from London to escape the bombing.

**Families were evacuated to safer parts of the city.**

**2 evacuate (something) to move out of a place because of danger, and leave the place empty**

*Employees were urged to evacuate their offices immediately.*

*Locals were told to evacuate.*

**3 evacuate something (formal) to empty your bowels**

## Evaluate

VERB

to form an opinion of the amount, value or quality of something after thinking about it carefully

**Synonym: assess**

**evaluate something** Our research attempts to evaluate the effectiveness of the different drugs.

**evaluate how, whether, etc...** We need to evaluate how well the policy is working.

**evaluation: noun**

*an evaluation of the health care system*

**evaluative: adjective**

## Evidence

NOUN

**1 the facts, signs or objects that make you believe that something is true**

**evidence (of something)** There is convincing evidence of a link between exposure to sun and skin cancer.

**The room bore evidence of a struggle.**

**evidence (for something)** We found further scientific evidence for this theory.

**evidence (that...)** There is not a shred of evidence that the meeting actually took place.

**evidence (to suggest, show, etc.)** Have you any evidence to support this allegation?

*On the evidence of their recent matches, it is unlikely the Spanish team will win the cup.*

*The cave contained evidences of prehistoric settlement.*

**2 the information that is used in court to try to prove something**

*I was asked to give evidence (= to say what I knew, describe what I had seen, etc.) at the trial.*

*He was released when the judge ruled there was no evidence against him.*

**Exacerbate**

VERB

**exacerbate something (formal) to make something worse, especially a disease or problem**

**Synonym: aggravate**

*His aggressive reaction only exacerbated the situation.*

*The symptoms may be exacerbated by certain drugs.*

**exacerbation: noun**

**Exaggerate**

VERB

to make something seem larger, better, worse or more important than it really is

*The hotel was really filthy and I'm not exaggerating.*

**exaggerate something He tends to exaggerate the difficulties.**

**I'm sure he exaggerates his Irish accent (= tries to sound more Irish than he really is).**

**Demand for the product has been greatly exaggerated.**

**Exalt**

VERB

**1 exalt somebody (to something) to make somebody rise to a higher rank or position, sometimes to one that they do not deserve**

*His son was exalted to a high position in the government through family connections.*

**2 exalt somebody/something to praise somebody/something very much**

*He was exalted as a pillar of the community.*

**Exception**

NOUN

**1 a person or thing that is not included in a general statement**

*Most of the buildings in the town are modern, but the church is an exception.*

*With very few exceptions, private schools get the best exam results.*

*Nobody had much money at the time and I was no exception.*

**2 a thing that does not follow a rule**

*Good writing is unfortunately the exception rather than the rule (= it is unusual).*

*There are always a lot of exceptions to grammar rules.*

**Idioms**

**the exception that proves the rule**

(saying) people say that something is the exception that proves the rule when they are stating something that seems to be different from the normal situation, but they mean that the normal situation remains true in general

*Most electronics companies have not done well this year, but ours is the exception that proves the rule.*

**make an exception**

to allow somebody not to follow the usual rule on one occasion

*Children are not usually allowed in, but I'm prepared to make an exception in this case.*

**take exception to something**

to object strongly to something; to be angry about something

*I take great exception to the fact that you told my wife before you told me.*

*No one could possibly take exception to his comments.*

**with the exception of**

except; not including

*All his novels are set in Italy with the exception of his last.*

**without exception**

used to emphasize that the statement you are making is always true and everyone or everything is included

*All students without exception must take the English examination.*

**Exclusive**

## ADJECTIVE

**1 only to be used by one particular person or group; only given to one particular person or group**

*The hotel has exclusive access to the beach.*

*exclusive rights to televise the World Cup*

*His mother has told 'The Times' about his death in an exclusive interview (= not given to any other newspaper).*

**2 (of a group, society, etc.) not very willing to allow new people to become members, especially if they are from a lower social class**

*He belongs to an exclusive club.*

**3 of a high quality and expensive and therefore not often bought or used by most people**

*an exclusive hotel*

*exclusive designer clothes*

**4 not able to exist or be a true statement at the same time as something else**

*The two options are not mutually exclusive (= you can have them both).*

**5 exclusive of somebody/something not including somebody/something**

*The price is for accommodation only, exclusive of meals.*

**Opposite: inclusive**

**exclusively: adverb**

*a charity that relies almost exclusively on voluntary contributions*

**exclusiveness: noun**

## Execute

VERB

**1 execute somebody (for something) to kill somebody, especially as a legal punishment**

*He was executed for treason.*

*The prisoners were executed by firing squad.*

**2 execute something to do a piece of work, perform a duty, put a plan into action, etc**

*They drew up and executed a plan to reduce fuel consumption.*

*The crime was very cleverly executed.*

*Check that the computer has executed your commands.*

**3 execute something (formal) to successfully perform a skilful action or movement**

*The pilot executed a perfect landing.*

**4 execute something (formal) to make or produce a work of art**

*Picasso also executed several landscapes at Horta de San Juan.*

**5 execute something (law) to follow the instructions in a legal document; to make a document legally valid**

*His will was executed by his lawyers in 2008.*

## Executive

NOUN

**1 a person who has an important job as a manager of a company or an organization**

*advertising/business/sales, etc. executives*

*a chief/senior/top executive in a computer firm*

**2 a group of people who run a company or an organization**

*The union's executive has/have yet to reach a decision.*

**3 the executive the part of a government responsible for putting laws into effect**

## Exemplify

VERB

**1 exemplify something to be a typical example of something**

*Her early work is exemplified in her book, 'A Study of Children's Minds'.*

*His food exemplifies Italian cooking at its best.*

**2 exemplify something to give an example in order to make something clearer**

**Synonym: illustrate**

*She exemplified each of the points she was making with an amusing anecdote.*

**exemplification: noun**

## Exhaust

VERB

**1 to make somebody feel very tired**

**Synonym: wear out**

*exhaust somebody Even a short walk exhausted her.*

- exhaust yourself** There's no need to exhaust yourself clearing up—we'll do it.
- 2 exhaust something to use all of something so that there is none left**  
*Within three days they had exhausted their supply of food.*  
*Don't give up until you have exhausted all the possibilities.*
- 3 exhaust something to talk about or study a subject until there is nothing else to say about it**  
*I think we've exhausted that particular topic.*

### Exhaustion

NOUN

- 1 the state of being very tired**  
*suffering from physical/mental/nervous exhaustion*  
*Her face was grey with exhaustion.*
- 2 (formal) the act of using something until it is completely finished**  
*the exhaustion of natural resources*

### Exile

VERB

[usually passive] exile somebody (from...) to force somebody to leave their country, especially for political reasons or as a punishment; to send somebody into exile  
*the party's exiled leaders*

E x i l e  
 NOUN

- 1 the state of being sent to live in another country that is not your own, especially for political reasons or as a punishment**  
*to be/live in exile*  
*to be forced/sent into exile*  
*to go into exile*  
*a place of exile*  
*He returned after 40 years of exile.*
- 2 a person who chooses, or is forced to live away from his or her own country**  
*political exiles*  
*a tax exile (= a rich person who moves to another country where taxes are lower)*

### Exotic

ADJECTIVE

from or in another country, especially a tropical one; seeming exciting and unusual because it is connected with foreign countries  
*brightly-coloured exotic flowers/plants/birds*  
*She travels to all kinds of exotic locations all over the world.*

**exotically:adverb**

*rainbows of exotically coloured blooms*

### Expel

VERB

- 1 expel somebody (from something) to officially make somebody leave a school or an organization**  
*She was expelled from school at 15.*  
*Olympic athletes expelled for drug-taking*
- 2 expel somebody (from something) to force somebody to leave a country**  
*Foreign journalists are being expelled.*  
*Thousands of Jews had been expelled from the city.*
- 3 expel something (from something) to force air or water out of a part of the body or from a container**  
*to expel air from the lungs*

### Explicit

ADJECTIVE

- 1 (of a statement or piece of writing) clear and easy to understand**

*He gave me very explicit directions on how to get there.*

- 2 (of a person) saying something clearly, exactly and openly**

**Synonym:frank**

*She was quite explicit about why she had left.3 said, done or shown in an open or direct way, so that you have no doubt about what is happening*

*The reasons for the decision should be made explicit.*  
*She made some very explicit references to my personal life.*  
*a sexually explicit film*  
compare implicit  
explicitly: adverb  
*The report states explicitly that the system was to blame.*  
compare implicitly  
**explicitness:noun**  
*He didn't like the degree of sexual explicitness in the film.*

### **Exploit**

VERB

**1 exploit something to treat a person or situation as an opportunity to gain an advantage for yourself**

*He exploited his father's name to get himself a job.*

*She realized that her youth and inexperience were being exploited.*

*The opposition parties will always exploit government problems to their own advantage.*

**2 exploit somebody to treat somebody unfairly by making them work and not giving them much in return**

*What is being done to stop employers from exploiting young people?*

**3 exploit something to use something well in order to gain as much from it as possible**

*She fully exploits the humour of her role in the play.*

*Teachers should be exploiting computers in education.*

**4 to develop or use something for business or industry**

**exploit something** *No minerals have yet been exploited in Antarctica.*

**exploit something for something** *countries exploiting the rainforests for hardwood*

**exploiter: noun**

### **Exploitation**

NOUN

**1 a situation in which somebody treats somebody else in an unfair way, especially in order to make money from their work**

*the exploitation of children*

*Starvation and poverty are the result of global economic exploitation, not lack of resources.*

**2 the use of land, oil, minerals, etc**

*commercial exploitation of the mineral resources in Antarctica*

**3 the fact of using a situation in order to get an advantage for yourself**

*exploitation of the situation for his own purposes*

### **Fabulous**

ADJECTIVE

**1 extremely good**

*a fabulous performance*

*Jana is a fabulous cook.*

*The food looks fabulous.*

**2 very great**

*fabulous wealth/riches/beauty*

**3 appearing in fables**

*fabulous beasts*

### **Facilitate**

VERB

**facilitate something (formal) to make an action or a process possible or easier**

*The new trade agreement should facilitate more rapid economic growth.*

*Structured teaching facilitates learning.*

**Facilitation:noun**

*the facilitation of international communication*

### **Facsimile**

NOUN

**1 [countable] an exact copy of something**

*a facsimile edition*

*a manuscript reproduced in facsimile*

**2 [countable, uncountable] (formal) = fax**  
*a facsimile machine*

**Factual**

ADJECTIVE

based on or containing facts  
*a factual account of events*  
*factual information*

*The essay contains a number of factual errors.*

**factually: adverb**

*factually correct*

**Fade**

VERB

**1 to become or to make something become paler or less bright**

*The curtains had faded in the sun.*

**fade from something** All colour had faded from the sky.

**fade something** The sun had faded the curtains.

**He was wearing faded blue jeans.**

**2 to disappear gradually**

*Her smile faded.*

**fade away** Hopes of reaching an agreement seem to be fading away.

**The laughter faded away.**

**fade to/into something** His voice faded to a whisper (= gradually became quieter).

**All other issues fade into insignificance compared with the struggle for survival.**

**Summer was fading into autumn.**

**3 if a sports player, team, actor, etc. fades, they stop playing or performing as well as they did before**

*Black faded on the final bend.*

**Phrasal verbs**

**fade away**

(of a person) to become very weak or ill/sick and die

*In the last weeks of her life she simply faded away.*

**fade in/out**

to become clearer or louder / less clear or quieter

*George saw the monitor black out and then a few words faded in.*

**fade something in/out**

to make a picture or a sound clearer or louder / less clear or quieter

*Fade out the music at the end of the scene.*

**Faint**

ADJECTIVE

**fainter, faintest**

**1 that cannot be clearly seen, heard or smelt**

*a faint glow/glimmer/light*

*a faint smell of perfume*

*We saw the faint outline of the mountain through the mist.*

*We could hear their voices growing fainter as they walked down the road.*

*His breathing became faint.*

**2 very small; possible but unlikely**

**Synonym: slight**

*There is still a faint hope that she may be cured.*

*They don't have the faintest chance of winning.*

**3 not enthusiastic**

*a faint show of resistance*

*a faint smile*

**4 [not before noun] feeling weak and tired and likely to become unconscious**

*She suddenly felt faint.*

*The walkers were faint from hunger.*

**faintly: adverb**

*She smiled faintly.*

*He looked faintly embarrassed.*

**Fallacy**

NOUN

**1 [countable] a false idea that many people believe is true**

*It is a fallacy to say that the camera never lies.*

**2 a false way of thinking about something**

*He detected the fallacy of her argument.*

**False dawn**

NOUN

a situation in which you think that something good is going to happen but it does not  
*a false dawn for the economy*

**Fancy**

VERB

**fancies, fancying, fancied, fancied**

**1 to want something or want to do something**

**Synonym: feel like**

**fancy something** Fancy a drink? I fancied a change of scene.

**She didn't fancy (= did not like) the idea of going home in the dark.**

**fancy doing something** Do you fancy going out this evening?

**2 fancy somebody to be sexually attracted to somebody**

*I think she fancies me.*

**3 fancy yourself to think that you are very popular, attractive or intelligent**

*He started to chat to me and I could tell that he really fancied himself.*

**4 to like the idea of being something or to believe, often wrongly, that you are something**

**fancy yourself (as) something** She fancies herself (as) a serious actress.

**fancy yourself + adverb/preposition** He fancied himself in love with me, the silly boy.

**5 Fancy! used to show that you are surprised or shocked by something**

*Fancy! She's never been in a plane before.*

**fancy doing something** Fancy meeting you here!

**fancy something** 'She remembered my name after all those years.' 'Fancy that!'

**6 fancy somebody/something to think that somebody/something will win or be successful at something, especially in a race**

*Which horse do you fancy in the next race?*

*He's hoping to get the job but I don't fancy his chances.*

**7 fancy (that)... to believe or imagine something**

*She fancied (that) she could hear footsteps.*

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NOUN

plural fancies

**1 something that you imagine; your imagination**

**Synonym: fantasy**

*night-time fancies that disappear in the morning*

*a child's wild flights of fancy*

**2 a feeling that you would like to have or to do something**

**Synonym: whim**

*She said she wanted a dog but it was only a passing fancy.*

**3 a small decorated cake**

**Fascinate**

VERB

**fascinate (somebody) to attract or interest somebody very much**

*China has always fascinated me.*

*It was a question that had fascinated him since he was a boy.*

*The private lives of movie stars never fail to fascinate.*

**Fascination: Noun**

**Fascinating**

## ADJECTIVE

extremely interesting and attractive  
*a fascinating story/subject*

*The results of the survey made fascinating reading.*

*It's fascinating to see how different people approach the problem.*

*I fail to see what women find so fascinating about him.*

*Your trip to Alaska sounds absolutely fascinating.*

*The book provides a fascinating glimpse into Moroccan life.*

## Fascism

### NOUN

an extreme right-wing political system or attitude which is in favour of strong central government and which does not allow any opposition

## Federation

### NOUN

**1 a country consisting of a group of individual states that have control over their own affairs but are controlled by a central**

**government for national decisions, etc**

*the Russian Federation*

**2 a group of clubs, trade/labor unions, etc. that have joined together to form an organization**

*the International Tennis Federation*

**3 the act of forming a federation**

*Many MPs are against federation in Europe.*

## Feeble

### ADJECTIVE

**1 very weak**

*a feeble old man*

*The heartbeat was feeble and irregular.*

**2 not effective; not showing determination or energy**

*a feeble argument/excuse/joke*

*a feeble attempt to explain*

*Don't be so feeble! Tell her you don't want to go.*

**febleness: noun**

**feebly : adverb**

*He shook his head feebly.*

## Ferocious

### ADJECTIVE

very aggressive or violent; very strong

**Synonym:savage**

*a ferocious beast/attack/storm*

*a man driven by ferocious determination*

*ferocious opposition to the plan*

**ferociously:adverb**

*growling ferociously*

## Fervent

### ADJECTIVE

having or showing very strong and sincere feelings about something

**Synonym:ardent**

*a fervent admirer/believer/supporter*

*a fervent belief/hope/desire*

**fervently: adverb**

*She prayed fervently for his complete recovery.*

*We fervently hope they will succeed.*

## Feudalism

the social system that existed during the Middle Ages in Europe in which people were given land and protection by a nobleman, and had to work and fight for him in return- feudalistic



**Feudal: connected with or similar to feudalism**

*the feudal system*

**Fidelity**

NOUN

**1 fidelity (to something) the quality of being loyal to somebody/something**

*fidelity to your principles*

**2 fidelity (to somebody) the quality of being faithful to your husband, wife or partner by not having a sexual relationship with anyone else**

*marital/sexual fidelity*

**Opposite: infidelity**

**3 fidelity (of something) (to something) (formal) the quality of being accurate**

*the fidelity of the translation to the original text*

**Flabbergast**

ADJECTIVE

extremely surprised and/or shocked

**Synonym: astonished**

*Friends were flabbergasted by the news that they'd split up.*

*She was too flabbergasted to speak.*

**Flaunt**

VERB

**1 flaunt something to show something you are proud of to other people, in order to impress them**

*He did not believe in flaunting his wealth.*

*She openly flaunted her affair with the senator.*

**2 flaunt yourself to behave in a confident and sexual way to attract attention**

**Flick**

VERB

**1 flick something + adverb/preposition to hit something with a sudden quick movement, especially using your finger and thumb together, or your hand**

*She flicked the dust off her collar.*

*The horse was flicking flies away with its tail.*

*James flicked a peanut at her.*

*Please don't flick ash on the carpet!*

*The striker flicked the ball into the back of the net.*

**2 to move or make something move with sudden quick movements**

**+ adverb/preposition The snake's tongue flicked out.**

*Her eyes flicked from face to face.*

**flick something (+ adverb/preposition) He lifted his head, flicking his hair off his face.**

**The horse moved off, flicking its tail.**

**3 to smile or look at somebody suddenly and quickly**

**flick a smile/look, etc. at somebody**

*She flicked a nervous glance at him.*

**flick somebody a smile/look, etc.**

*She flicked him a nervous glance.*

**4 to press a button or switch quickly in order to turn a machine, etc. on or off**

**Synonym: flip**

**flick something He flicked a switch and all the lights went out.**

**flick something on/off She flicked the TV on.**

**5 to move something up and down with a sudden movement so that the end of it hits something**

**flick A (with B) He flicked me with a wet towel.**

**flick B (at A) He flicked a wet towel at me.**

**to flick a whip**

**Flick**

NOUN

**1 [countable, usually singular] a small sudden, quick movement or hit, for example with a whip or part of the body**

*Bell's flick into the penalty area helped to create the goal.*

*All this information is available at the flick of a switch (= by simply turning on a machine).*

*He threw the ball back with a quick flick of the wrist.*

**2 a flick through something a quick look through the pages of a book, magazine, etc.**

**Synonym: flip**

*I had a flick through the catalogue while I was waiting.*

**3 a film/movie**

**4 the flicks a cinema**

## **Flinch**

Verb

to make a sudden movement with your face or body as a result of pain, fear, surprise, etc

*He met my gaze without flinching.*

*He didn't even flinch (= wasn't surprised) when I told him the price.*

**flinch at something He flinched at the sight of the blood.**

**flinch away She flinched away from the dog.**

## **Flock**

VERB

**1 flock (of something) a group of sheep, goats or birds of the same type**

**compare herd**

**2 flock (of somebody) a large group of people, especially of the same type**

*a flock of children/reporters*

*They came in flocks to see the procession.*

**3 the group of people who regularly attend the church of a particular priest, etc.**

**4 small pieces of soft material used for filling cushions, chairs, etc**

*a flock mattress*

**5 small pieces of soft material on the surface of paper or cloth that produce a raised pattern**

*flock wallpaper*

## **Flock**

VERB

to go or gather together somewhere in large numbers

+ **adverb/preposition Thousands of people flocked to the beach this weekend.**

**Huge numbers of birds had flocked together by the lake.**

**flock to do something People flocked to hear him speak.**

## **Fluctuate**

VERB

to change frequently in size, amount, quality, etc, especially from one extreme to another

**Synonym: vary**

*fluctuating prices*

*The documentary follows the fluctuating fortunes of one marketing company.*

**fluctuate between A and B During the crisis, oil prices fluctuated between \$20 and \$40 a barrel.**

+ **adverb/preposition Temperatures can fluctuate by as much as 10 degrees.**

**My weight fluctuated wildly depending on how much I ate.**

**My mood seems to fluctuate from day to day.**

**The rate of inflation has been fluctuating around 4% for some time.**

**fluctuation: noun**

**fluctuation (in/of something) wild fluctuations in interest rates**

## **Foliage**

NOUN

the leaves of a tree or plant; leaves and branches together

*dense green foliage*

## **Forecast**

VERB

a statement about what will happen in the future, based on information that is available now

*sales forecasts*

*It is difficult to make long-term forecasts for a fast-growing industry.*

*The forecast said there would be sunny intervals and showers.  
The shipping forecast gave warnings of gales.*

### **Forsake**

VERB

Forsook, forsaken

**1 forsake somebody/something (for somebody/something) to leave somebody/something, especially when you have a responsibility to stay**

**Synonym: abandon**

*He had made it clear to his wife that he would never forsake her.*

**2 forsake something (for somebody/something) to stop doing something, or leave something, especially something that you enjoy**

**Synonym: renounce**

*She forsook the glamour of the city and went to live in the wilds of Scotland.*

### **Fragrance**

NOUN

**1 a pleasant smell**

*The bath oil comes in various fragrances.*

*The flowers are chosen for their delicate fragrance.*

**2 a liquid that you put on your skin in order to make yourself smell nice**

**Synonym: perfume**

*an exciting new fragrance from Dior*

*They are about to launch their first fragrance for men.*

### **Frail**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (especially of an old person) physically weak and thin**

*Mother was becoming too frail to live alone.*

**2 weak; easily damaged or broken**

*the frail stems of the flowers*

*Human nature is frail.*

**Frailty: Noun**

### **Fraught**

ADJECTIVE

**1 fraught with something filled with something unpleasant**

*a situation fraught with danger/difficulty/problems*

**2 causing or feeling worry and anxiety**

**Synonym: tense**

*She looked/sounded fraught.*

*There was a fraught silence.*

*The atmosphere remained fraught.*

*Things are as fraught as ever in the office.*

### **Frown**

VERB

to make a serious, angry or worried expression by bringing your eyebrows closer together so that lines appear on your forehead

**frown (at somebody/something) What are you frowning at me for?**

**She frowned with concentration.**

**+ speech 'I don't understand,' she frowned.**

**Phrasal verbs**

**frown on/upon somebody/something**

to disapprove of somebody/something

*In her family, any expression of feeling was frowned upon.*

### **Frustrate**

VERB

**1 frustrate somebody to make somebody feel annoyed or impatient because they cannot do or achieve what they want**

*What frustrates him is that there's too little money to spend on the project.*

**2 frustrate somebody/something to prevent somebody from doing something; to prevent something from happening or succeeding**

**Synonym:thwart**

*The rescue attempt was frustrated by bad weather.*

*He tried to frustrate his political opponents by denying them access to the media.*

**Full-fledged**

ADJECTIVE

completely developed; with all the qualifications necessary for something

**Furnish**

VERB

**1 furnish something to put furniture in a house, room, etc**

*The room was furnished with antiques.*

**2 furnish somebody/something with something| furnish something to supply or provide somebody/something with something; to supply something to somebody**

*She furnished him with the facts surrounding the case.*

*Foreign investors furnished most of the capital for the project*

**Fuzzy**

ADJECTIVE

**1 covered with short soft fine hair or fur**

**Synonym:downy**

**2 (of hair) in a mass of tight curls**

**3 not clear in shape or sound**

**Synonym: blurred**

*a fuzzy image*

*The soundtrack is fuzzy in places.*

*These photographs have come out fuzzy.*

**4 confused and not expressed clearly**

**fuzzy ideas/thinking**

*a somewhat fuzzy definition of 'in the national interest'*

**Gasp**

VERB

**1 to take a quick deep breath with your mouth open, especially because you are surprised or in pain**

**gasp (at something)** She gasped at the wonderful view.

**They gasped in astonishment at the news.**

**+ speech 'What was that noise?'**

**he gasped.**

**2 to have difficulty breathing or speaking**

**gasp (for something)** He came to the surface of the water gasping for air.

**gasp (something) (out)** She managed to gasp out her name.

**+ speech 'Can't breathe,' he gasped.**

**3 be gasping (for something) to want or need something very badly, especially a drink or a cigarette**

**Glory**

NOUN

**1 fame, praise or honour that is given to somebody because they have achieved something important**

*Olympic glory in the 100 metres*

*I do all the work and he gets all the glory.*

*She wanted to enjoy her moment of glory.*

*He came home a rich man, covered in glory.*

**2 praise and worship of God**

*'Glory to God in the highest'*

**3 great beauty**

*The city was spread out beneath us in all its glory.*

*The house has now been restored to its former glory.*

**4 a special cause for pride, respect or pleasure**

*The temple is one of the glories of ancient Greece.*

*Her long black hair is her crowning glory (= most impressive feature).*

**Glorify**

VERB

**1 glorify something to make something seem better or more important than it really is***He denies that the movie glorifies violence.***2 glorify somebody to praise and worship God****Goofy**

ADJECTIVE

silly; stupid

*a goofy grin***Grab**

VERB

**1 [transitive, intransitive] to take or hold somebody/something with your hand suddenly, firmly or roughly**

Synonym: seize

**grab (something) She grabbed the child's hand and ran.***He grabbed hold of me and wouldn't let go.**He grabbed her around the throat and squeezed.**Someone grabbed me from behind.**Don't grab—there's plenty for everyone.***grab something from somebody/something Jim grabbed a cake from the plate.****2 to try to take hold of something****grab at something She grabbed at the branch, missed and fell.****grab for something Kate grabbed for the robber's gun.****3 [transitive, intransitive] to take advantage of an opportunity to do or have something**

Synonym: seize

**grab something This was my big chance and I grabbed it with both hands.****grab at something He'll grab at any excuse to avoid doing the dishes.****4 grab something to have or take something quickly, especially because you are in a hurry***Let's grab a sandwich before we go.**I'll grab a bite to eat in town.**Grab a cab and get over here.**I managed to grab a couple of hours' sleep on the plane.***Grab a seat, I won't keep you a moment.****5 grab something to take something for yourself, especially in a selfish or greedy way***By the time we arrived, someone had grabbed all the good seats.**She's always trying to grab the limelight.***6 grab somebody/something to get somebody's attention***I'll see if I can grab the waitress and get the bill.**Glasgow's drugs problem has grabbed the headlines tonight (= been published as an important story in the newspapers).**The play grabs the audience's attention from the very start.***Grant**

VERB

**1 to agree to give somebody what they ask for, especially formal or legal permission to do something****grant something My request was granted.****grant somebody something I was granted permission to visit the palace.****She was granted a divorce.****He was granted a licence to mine in the area.****The bank finally granted me a £500 loan****.grant something to somebody/something The bank finally granted a £500 loan to me.****2 to admit that something is true, although you may not like or agree with it***These lands had been granted to the family in perpetuity.***grant somebody She's a smart woman, I grant you, but she's no genius.****grant (somebody) (that)... I grant you (that) it looks good, but it's not exactly practical.****Idioms****take it for granted (that...)**

to believe something is true without first making sure that it is

*I just took it for granted that he'd always be around.*

*She seemed to take it for granted that I would go with her to New York.*

**take somebody/something for granted**

to be so used to somebody/something that you do not recognize their true value anymore and do not show that you are grateful

*Her husband was always there and she just took him for granted.*

*We take having an endless supply of clean water for granted.*

**Grant**

NOUN

**grant (to do something)** a sum of money that is given by the government or by another organization to be used for a particular purpose

*student grants (= to pay for their education)*

*He has been awarded a research grant.*

**Grip**

VERB

**hold tightly**

**1 to hold something tightly**

**Synonym:grasp**

**grip something** 'Please don't go,' he said, **gripping her arm.**

**grip on to something** She **gripped on to the railing** with both hands.

**interest/excite**

**2 grip somebody to interest or excite somebody; to hold somebody's attention**

*The book grips you from start to finish.*

*I was totally gripped by the story.*

**have powerful effect**

**3 grip somebody/something (of an emotion or a situation) to have a powerful effect on somebody/something**

*I was gripped by a feeling of panic.*

*A sudden fear gripped me.*

*Terrorism has gripped the country for the past two years.*

**move/hold without slipping**

**4 grip (something) to hold onto or to move over a surface without slipping**

*tyres that grip the road*

**Grip**

NOUN

**1 grip (on somebody/something)** an act of holding somebody/something tightly; a particular way of doing this

**Synonym:grasp**

*Keep a tight grip on the rope.*

*to loosen/release/relax your grip*

*She tried to get a grip on the icy rock.*

*The climber slipped and lost her grip.*

*She struggled from his grip.*

*Try adjusting your grip on the racket.*

**Groan**

VERB

**1 to make a long deep sound because you are annoyed, upset or in pain, or with pleasure**

**Synonym: moan**

*He lay on the floor groaning.*

**groan with something to groan with pain/pleasure**

**groan at something** We all groaned at his terrible jokes.

**groan about something** They were all moaning and groaning (= complaining) about the amount of work they had.

+ speech 'It's a complete mess!' she groaned.

'Don't move me,' he groaned.

**2 to make a sound like a person groaning**

**Synonym:moan**

*The trees creaked and groaned in the wind.*

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## NOUN

a long deep sound made when somebody/something groans

**Synonym: moan**

*She let out a groan of dismay.*

*He fell to the floor with a groan.*

*The house was filled with the cello's dismal squeaks and groans.*

## Grope

### VERB

**1 grope (around)(for something) to try and find something that you cannot see, by feeling with your hands**

*He groped around in the dark for his other sock.*

*She groped for the railing to steady her as she fell.*

*'It's so..., so...' I was groping for the right word to describe it.*

**2 to try and reach a place by feeling with your hands because you cannot see clearly**

**grope your way + adverb/preposition**

*He groped his way up the staircase in the dark.*

**+ adverb/preposition She groped through the darkness towards the doors.**

**3 grope somebody to touch somebody sexually, especially when they do not want you to**

## Grudge

### NOUN

**grudge (against somebody) a feeling of anger or dislike towards somebody because of something bad they have done to you in the past**

*I bear him no grudge.*

*He has a grudge against the world.*

*She has harboured a grudge against me for years.*

*I don't hold any grudges now.*

*He's a man with a grudge.*

*England beat New Zealand in a grudge match (= a match where there is strong dislike between the teams).*

## Grudge

### VERB

**1 to do or give something unwillingly**

**Synonym: begrudge**

**grudge doing something I grudge having to pay so much tax.**

**grudge something He grudges the time he spends travelling to work.**

**2 grudge somebody something to think that somebody does not deserve to have something**

**Synonym: begrudge**

*You surely don't grudge her success?*

## Hackneyed

### ADJECTIVE

used too often and therefore boring

*hackneyed phrase/subject*

## Hang up

### NOUN

**1 hang-up (about something) an emotional problem about something that makes you embarrassed or worried**

*He's got a real hang-up about his height.*

*sexual hang-ups*

**2 a problem that delays something being agreed or achieved**

*The ABM treaty is a key hang-up in negotiations.*

## Harass

### VERB

**1 harass somebody to annoy or worry somebody by putting pressure on them or saying or doing unpleasant things to them**

*He has complained of being harassed by the police.*

*She claims she has been sexually harassed at work.*

**2 harass somebody/something to make repeated attacks on an enemy**

**Synonym: harry**

*Our convoys are being continually harassed by enemy submarines.*

*Greenpeace has been harassing whaling operations at sea.*

**harassment: noun**

*racial/sexual harassment*

**Harbinger**

NOUN

**harbinger (of something) a sign that shows that something is going to happen soon, often something bad**

**Harp**

NOUN

a large musical instrument with strings stretched on a vertical frame, played with the fingers

**Haunt**

VERB

**1 haunt something/somebody if the ghost of a dead person haunts a place, people say that they have seen it there**

*A headless rider haunts the country lanes.*

*I'll come back to haunt you!*

**2 haunt somebody if something unpleasant haunts you, it keeps coming to your mind so that you cannot forget it**

*The memory of that day still haunts me.*

*For years she was haunted by guilt.*

**3 haunt somebody to continue to cause problems for somebody for a long time**

*That decision came back to haunt him.*

*She has been haunted by her past during her career.*

**Heinous**

ADJECTIVE

morally very bad

*a heinous crime*

**Heritage**

NOUN

the history, traditions and qualities that a country or society has had for many years and that are considered an important part of its character

*Spain's rich cultural heritage*

*The building is part of our national heritage.*

**Hierarchy**

NOUN

Plural hierarchies

**1 a system, especially in a society or an organization, in which people are organized into different levels of importance from highest to lowest**

*the social/political hierarchy*

*She's quite high up in the management hierarchy.*

**2 the group of people in control of a large organization or institution**

**3 a system that ideas or beliefs can be arranged into**

*a hierarchy of needs*

**Hierarchical**

ADJECTIVE

arranged in a hierarchy

*a hierarchical society/structure/organization*

**Hitherto**

ADVERB

until now; until the particular time you are talking about

*a hitherto unknown species of moth*

*Her life hitherto had been devoid of adventure.*

**Hostile**

ADJECTIVE



**1 very unfriendly or aggressive and ready to argue or fight**

*The speaker got a hostile reception from the audience.*

**hostile to/towards somebody/something** She was openly hostile towards her parents.

**2 hostile (to something) strongly rejecting something**

**Synonym: opposed to**

*hostile to the idea of change*

*The proposals have provoked a hostile response from opposition parties.*

**3 making it difficult for something to happen or to be achieved**

*hostile conditions for plants to grow in*

**4 belonging to a military enemy**

*hostile territory*

**5 (of an offer to buy a company, etc.) not wanted by the company that is to be bought**

*a hostile takeover bid*

**Hostility**

NOUN

**1 unfriendly or aggressive feelings or behaviour**

**hostility (to/towards somebody/something)** feelings of hostility towards people from other backgrounds

**hostility (between A and B)** There was open hostility between the two schools.

**2 hostility (to/towards something) strong and angry opposition towards an idea, a plan or a situation**

*public hostility to nuclear power*

**3 hostilities acts of fighting in a war**

*the start/outbreak of hostilities between the two sides*

*a cessation of hostilities (= an end to fighting)*

**Hue**

NOUN

**1 a colour; a particular shade of a colour**

*His face took on an unhealthy whitish hue.*

*Her paintings capture the subtle hues of the countryside in autumn.*

**2 a type of belief or opinion**

*supporters of every political hue*

**Humiliate**

VERB

**humiliate somebody/yourself/something to make somebody feel ashamed or stupid and lose the respect of other people**

*I didn't want to humiliate her in front of her colleagues.*

*I've never felt so humiliated.*

*How could I humiliate myself like that?*

*The party was humiliated in the recent elections.*

**humiliating: adjective**

*a humiliating defeat*

*It was the most humiliating night of his life.*

**Humiliation: noun**

*She suffered the humiliation of being criticized in public.*

*The election result is a humiliation for our party.*

**Humility**

NOUN

the quality of not thinking that you are better than other people; the quality of being humble

*Her first defeat was an early lesson in humility.*

*an act of genuine humility*

**Hymn**

NOUN

**1 a song of praise, especially one praising God and sung by Christians**

**2 if a film/movie, book, etc. is a hymn to something, it praises it very strongly**

**Hype**

NOUN

advertisements and discussion on television, radio, etc. telling the public about a product and about how good or important it is  
**marketing/media hype**  
*Don't believe all the hype—the book isn't that good.*

### **Integrate**

VERB

**1 to combine two or more things so that they work together; to combine with something else in this way**

**integrate into/with something** These programs will integrate with your existing software.

**integrate A (into/with B) | integrate A and B** These programs can be integrated with your existing software.

**2 to become or make somebody become accepted as a member of a social group, especially when they come from a different culture**

**integrate (into/with something)** They have not made any effort to integrate with the local community.

**integrate somebody (into/with something)** The policy is to integrate children with special needs into ordinary schools.

### **Integration**

NOUN

**1 the act or process of combining two or more things so that they work together (= of integrating them)**

*The aim is to promote closer economic integration.*

*His music is an integration of tradition and new technology.*

**2 the act or process of mixing people who have previously been separated, usually because of colour, race, religion, etc**  
*racial integration in schools*

### **Illusion**

NOUN

**1 a false idea or belief, especially about somebody or about a situation**

*She's under the illusion that (= believes wrongly that) she'll get the job.*

*The new president has no illusions about the difficulties facing her country (= she knows that the country has serious problems).*

*I have no illusions about her feelings for me (= I know the truth is that she does not love me).*

*He could no longer distinguish between illusion and reality.*

**2 something that seems to exist but in fact does not, or seems to be something that it is not**

*I don't want to have my illusions shattered!*  
*Mirrors in a room often give an illusion of space.*

*The idea of absolute personal freedom is an illusion.*

### **Illusive**

ADJECTIVE

not real although seeming to be

**Synonym: illusory**

*There is an illusive sense of depth.*

*the illusive security of yesteryear*

### **Illustrate**

VERB

**1 to use pictures, photographs, diagrams, etc. in a book, etc**

**illustrate something** an illustrated textbook

**illustrate something with something** His lecture was illustrated with photos taken during the expedition.

**2 to make the meaning of something clearer by using examples, pictures, etc**

**illustrate something** To illustrate my point, let me tell you a little story.

**Last year's sales figures are illustrated in Figure 2.**

**illustrate how, what, etc...** Here's an example to illustrate what I mean.

**3 illustrate something | illustrate how, what, etc... | illustrate that... to show that something is true or that a situation exists**

**Synonym : demonstrate**

*The incident illustrates the need for better security measures.*

### **Illustration**

NOUN

**1 a drawing or picture in a book, magazine, etc. especially one that explains something** 50 full-colour illustrations

**2 the process of illustrating something**

*the art of book illustration*

**3 a story, an event or an example that clearly shows the truth about something**

*The statistics are a clear illustration of the point I am trying to make*

*Let me, by way of illustration, quote from one of her poems.*

**Imbibe**

VERB

**1 imbibe (something) (formal or humorous) to drink something, especially alcohol**

**2 imbibe something to absorb something, especially information**

*He imbibed elements of oriental mysticism from the years he spent in India.*

**Imbroglia**

NOUN

a complicated situation that causes confusion or embarrassment, especially one that is political

**Immense**

ADJECTIVE

extremely large or great

**Synonym: enormous**

*There is still an immense amount of work to be done.*

*The benefits are immense.*

*a project of immense importance*

*To my immense relief, he didn't notice my mistake.*

**Impact**

NOUN

**1 impact (of something) (on somebody/something) the powerful effect that something has on somebody/something**

*the environmental impact of tourism*

*The report assesses the impact of AIDS on the gay community.*

*Her speech made a profound impact on everyone.*

*Businesses are beginning to feel the full impact of the recession.*

**2 the act of one object hitting another; the force with which this happens**

*social support to cushion the impact of unemployment*

*craters made by meteorite impacts*

*The impact of the blow knocked Jack off balance.*

*The bomb explodes on impact (= when it hits something).*

*The car is fitted with side impact bars (= to protect it from a blow from the side).*

**Impart**

VERB

**1 impart something (to somebody) to pass information, knowledge, etc. to other people**

**Synonym: convey**

**2 impart something (to something) to give a particular quality to something**

**Synonym: lend**

*The spice imparts an Eastern flavour to the dish.*

**Impel**

VERB

if an idea or feeling impels you to do something, you feel as if you are forced to do it

**impel somebody to do something He felt impelled to investigate further.**

**impel somebody (to something) There are various reasons that impel me to that conclusion.**

**Imperious**

ADJECTIVE

expecting people to obey you and treating them as if they are not as important as you

*The professor was as imperious as ever.*

*She put out an imperious hand to stop him.*

*an imperious gesture/voice/command*

**imperiously: adverb**

*'Get it now,' she demanded imperiously.*

**Impetus**

NOUN

**1 something that encourages a process or activity to develop more quickly****Synonym:stimulus***The debate seems to have lost much of its initial impetus.***impetus to something/to do something to give (a) new/fresh impetus to something****The Prime Minister's support will give (an) added impetus to the campaign against crime.****impetus for something His articles provided the main impetus for change.****2 the force or energy with which something moves****Implement**

VERB

**implement something (formal) to make something that has been officially decided start to happen or be used****Synonym:carry out***to implement changes/decisions/policies/reforms**A new work programme for young people will be implemented.***implementation: noun***the implementation of the new system***Implicate**

VERB

**1 implicate somebody (in something) to show or suggest that somebody is involved in something bad or criminal****Synonym:incriminate***He tried to avoid saying anything that would implicate him further.***2 implicate something (in/as something) to show or suggest that something is the cause of something bad***The results implicate poor hygiene as one cause of the outbreak.***Implication**

NOUN

**1 implication (of something) (for something) a possible effect or result of an action or a decision***They failed to consider the wider implications of their actions.**The development of the site will have implications for the surrounding countryside.***2 something that is suggested or indirectly stated (= something that is implied)***The implication in his article is that being a housewife is greatly inferior to every other occupation.**He criticized the Director and, by implication, the whole of the organization.***3 implication (of somebody) (in something) the fact of being involved, or of involving somebody, in something, especially a crime****Synonym:involvement***He resigned after his implication in a sex scandal.***Implicit**

ADJECTIVE

**1 implicit (in something) suggested without being directly expressed***Implicit in his speech was the assumption that they were guilty.**implicit criticism***2 implicit (in something) forming part of something (although perhaps not directly expressed)***The ability to listen is implicit in the teacher's role.***3 complete and not doubted****Synonym:absolute***She had the implicit trust of her staff.*

compare explicit

implicitly:adverb

*It reinforces, implicitly or explicitly, the idea that money is all-important.**I trust John implicitly.***Imply**

VERB

**1 to suggest that something is true or that you feel or think something, without saying so directly****imply (that)... Are you implying (that) I am wrong?**

**imply something I disliked the implied criticism in his voice.**  
**His silence seemed to imply agreement.**  
**it is implied that... It was implied that we were at fault.**

**2 to make it seem likely that something is true or exists**

**Synonym:suggest**

**imply (that)... The survey implies (that) more people are moving house than was thought.**  
**it is implied that... It was implied in the survey that...**  
**imply something The fact that she was here implies a degree of interest.**

**3 imply something (of an idea, action, etc.) to make something necessary in order to be successful**

**Synonym:mean**

*The project implies an enormous investment in training.*  
*Sustainable development implies a long-term perspective.*

**Impose**

**VERB**

**1 impose something (on/upon something/somebody) to introduce a new law, rule, tax, etc; to order that a rule, punishment, etc. be used**

*A new tax was imposed on fuel.*

**2 impose something (on/upon somebody/something) to force somebody/something to have to deal with something that is difficult or unpleasant**

*to impose limitations/restrictions/constraints on something*  
*This system imposes additional financial burdens on many people.*  
*The time limits are imposed on us by factors outside our control.*

**3 impose something (on/upon somebody) to make somebody accept the same opinions, wishes, etc. as your own**

*She didn't want to impose her values on her family.*

*It was noticeable how a few people managed to impose their will on the others.*

**4 to expect somebody to do something for you or to spend time with you, when it may not be convenient for them**

*'You must stay for lunch.' 'Well, thanks, but I don't want to impose...'*

*'impose on/upon somebody/something Everyone imposes on Dave's good nature.*

**5 impose yourself (on/upon somebody/something) to make somebody/something accept or be aware of your presence or ideas**

*European civilization was the first to impose itself across the whole world.*

**Impotent**

**VERB**

**1 having no power to change things or to influence a situation**

**Synonym:powerless**

*Without the chairman's support, the committee is impotent.*  
*She blazed with impotent rage.*

**impotence: noun**

*a feeling of impotence in the face of an apparently insoluble problem*

**impotently:adverb**

*It irritated him to have to sit impotently in silence.*

**Impracticable**

**ADJECTIVE**

impossible or very difficult to do; not practical in a particular situation

*It would be impracticable for each member to be consulted on every occasion.*

**Opposite:practicable**

**Impracticability: Noun**

**Improvise**

**VERB**

**1 to make or do something using whatever is available, usually because you do not have what you really need**

*There isn't much equipment. We're going to have to improvise.*

**improvise something We improvised some shelves out of planks of wood and bricks.**

**2 to invent music, the words in a play, a statement, etc. while you are playing or speaking, instead of planning it in advance**

*'It'll be ready sometime next week, I expect,' she said, improvising.*

**improvise on something He improvised on the melody.**

**improvise something an improvised speech**

**Improvisation: noun**

## **Inclination**

NOUN

**1 a feeling that makes you want to do something**

**inclination (to do something)** He did not show the slightest inclination to leave.

**My natural inclination is to find a compromise.**

**She had neither the time nor the inclination to help them.**

**inclination (towards/for something)** She lacked any inclination for housework.

**He was a loner by nature and by inclination.**

**You must follow your own inclinations when choosing a career.**

**2 inclination to do something a tendency to do something**

*There is an inclination to treat geography as a less important subject.*

**3 a degree of sloping**

*an inclination of 45° the angle of inclination*

**4 a small downward movement, usually of the head**

## **Incline**

VERB

**1 to tend to think or behave in a particular way; to make somebody do this**

**incline to/towards something** I incline to the view that we should take no action at this stage.

**Young people incline towards individualistic behaviour.**

**incline to do something** The government is more effective than we incline to think.

**incline somebody to/towards something** Lack of money inclines many young people towards crime.

**incline somebody to do something** His obvious sincerity inclined me to trust him.

**2 incline your head to bend your head forward, especially as a sign of agreement, welcome, etc**

*He inclined his head in acknowledgement.*

**3 incline (something) (to/towards something) to lean or slope in a particular direction; to make something lean or slope**

*The land inclined gently towards the shore.*

## **Inclusive**

ADJECTIVE

**1 having the total cost, or the cost of something that is mentioned, contained in the price**

*The fully inclusive fare for the trip is £52.*

**inclusive of something** The rent is inclusive of water and heating.

**Opposite:exclusive**

**2 (from) ... to... inclusive (British English) including all the days, months, numbers, etc. mentioned**

*We are offering free holidays for children aged two to eleven inclusive.*

*The castle is open daily from May to October inclusive.*

**3 including a wide range of people, things, ideas, etc**

*The party must adopt more inclusive strategies and a broader vision.*

**Opposite:exclusive**

**inclusively:adverb**

*The word 'men' can be understood inclusively (= including men and women).*

**Inclusiveness: noun**

## **Incredible**

ADJECTIVE

**1 impossible or very difficult to believe**

**Synonym:unbelievable**

*an incredible story*

*It seemed incredible that she had been there a week already.*

**2 extremely good or extremely large**

*The hotel was incredible.*

*an incredible amount of work*

**Inculcate**

VERB

to cause somebody to learn and remember ideas, moral principles, etc, especially by repeating them often  
**inculcate something (in/into somebody) to inculcate a sense of responsibility in somebody**  
**inculcate somebody with something to inculcate somebody with a sense of responsibility**

**Indigenous**

ADJECTIVE

belonging to a particular place rather than coming to it from somewhere else

**Synonym:native**

*the indigenous peoples/languages of the area*

**indigenous to... The kangaroo is indigenous to Australia.**

**Indigent**

ADJECTIVE

very poor

**Indispensable**

Adjective

too important to be without

**Synonym:essential**

*Cars have become an indispensable part of our lives.*

**indispensable to somebody/something** She made herself indispensable to the department.

**indispensable for something/for doing something** A good dictionary is indispensable for learning a foreign language.

**Ineffable**

Adjective

too great or beautiful to describe in words

*ineffable joy*

**Inevitable**

ADJECTIVE

**1 that you cannot avoid or prevent**

**Synonym: unavoidable**

*It was an inevitable consequence of the decision.*

*It was inevitable that there would be job losses.*

*A rise in the interest rates seems inevitable.*

**2 (often humorous) so frequent that you always expect it**

*the English and their inevitable cups of tea*

**3 the inevitable: noun**

**something that is certain to happen**

*You have to accept the inevitable.*

*The inevitable happened—I forgot my passport.*

**inevitability:noun**

*the inevitability of death*

*There was an inevitability about their defeat.*

**Infancy**

NOUN

**1 the time when a child is a baby or very young**

*to die in infancy*

**2 the early development of something**

*a time when the cinema was still in its infancy*

**Infant**

NOUN

**1 a baby or very young child**

*a nursery for infants under two*

*their infant son*

*She was seriously ill as an infant.*

*the infant mortality rate*

*Mozart was an infant prodigy (= a child with unusual ability).*

**NOTE: In North American English infant is only used for a baby, especially a very young one.**

**2 (in British and Australian education) a child at school between the ages of four and seven**

*an infant school*

*infant teachers*

*I've known her since we were in the infants (= at infant school).*

### **Infer**

VERB

**1 to reach an opinion or decide that something is true on the basis of information that is available**

**Synonym: deduce**

**infer something (from something) Much of the meaning must be inferred from the context.**

**Readers are left to infer the killer's motives.**

**infer that... It is reasonable to infer that the government knew about these deals.**

**2 infer (that)...| infer something (non-standard) to suggest indirectly that something is true**

*Are you inferring (that) I'm not capable of doing the job?*

### **Inferior**

ADJECTIVE

**1 not good or not as good as somebody/something else**

*of inferior quality*

*inferior goods*

*to make somebody feel inferior*

**inferior to somebody/something Modern music is often considered inferior to that of the past.**

**2 [usually before noun] (formal) of lower rank; lower**

*an inferior officer*

**Opposite: superior**

### **Infirm**

ADJECTIVE

**1 ill/sick and weak, especially over a long period or as a result of being old**

*to grow old and infirm*

**2 the infirm noun [plural] people who are weak and ill/sick for a long period**

*care for the elderly and infirm*

### **Inflict**

VERB

to make somebody/something suffer something unpleasant

**inflict something on/upon somebody/something They inflicted a humiliating defeat on the home team.**

**Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy.**

(humorous) Do you have to inflict that music on us?

**inflict something They surveyed the damage inflicted by the storm.**

**The rodent's sharp teeth can inflict a nasty bite.**

**infliction: noun**

*the infliction of pain*

**Phrasal verbs**

**inflict yourself/somebody on somebody**

(often humorous) to force somebody to spend time with you/somebody, when they do not want to

*Sorry to inflict myself on you again like this!*

*She inflicted her nephew on them for the weekend.*

### **Influence**

VERB

**1 influence (on/upon somebody/something) the effect that somebody/something has on the way a person thinks or behaves or on the way that something works or develops**

*to have/exert a strong influence on somebody*

*the influence of the climate on agricultural production*



*What exactly is the influence of television on children?*

**2 the power that somebody/something has to make somebody/something behave in a particular way**  
**influence (over somebody/something)** Her parents no longer have any real influence over her.  
**influence (with somebody)** She could probably exert her influence with the manager and get you a job.

**3 a person or thing that affects the way a person behaves and thinks**  
*cultural influences*

**influence (on somebody/something)** Those friends are a bad influence on her.

**His first music teacher was a major influence in his life.**

**There seem to be several influences at work in (= affecting) his writing.**

#### Idioms

##### **under the influence**

having had too much alcohol to drink

*She was charged with driving under the influence.*

#### Infra-structure

NOUN

the basic systems and services that are necessary for a country or an organization to run smoothly, for example buildings, transport and water and power supplies

**infrastructural: adjective**

*infrastructural development*

#### Infuse

VERB

**1 infuse A into B | infuse B with A to make somebody/something have a particular quality**

*Her novels are infused with sadness.*

**2 infuse something to have an effect on all parts of something**

*Politics infuses all aspects of our lives.*

**3 infuse (something) if you infuse herbs, etc. or they infuse, you put them in hot water until the flavour has passed into the water**

**4 infuse something (into something) (medical) to slowly put a drug or other substance into a person's vein**

#### Ingenuity

NOUN

the ability to invent things or solve problems in clever new ways

**Synonym: inventiveness**

*The problem tested the ingenuity of even the most imaginative students.*

#### Inherent

ADVERB

**inherent (in somebody/something) that is a basic or permanent part of somebody/something and that cannot be removed**

**Synonym: intrinsic**

*the difficulties inherent in a study of this type*

*Violence is inherent in our society.*

*an inherent weakness in the design of the machine*

**inherently: adverb**

*an inherently unworkable system*

#### Initiate

VERB

**1 initiate something (formal) to make something begin**

**Synonym: set in motion**

*to initiate legal proceedings against somebody*

*The government has initiated a programme of economic reform.*

**2 initiate somebody (into something) to explain something to somebody and/or make them experience it for the first time**

*Many of them had been initiated into drug use at an early age.*

*His uncle initiated him into the pleasures of sailing.*

**3 initiate somebody (into something) to make somebody a member of a particular group, especially as part of a secret ceremony**

*Hundreds are initiated into the sect each year.*

#### Innovative

## ADJECTIVE

introducing or using new ideas, ways of doing something, etc  
*There will be a prize for the most innovative design.*

## Insight

### NOUN

**1 the ability to see and understand the truth about people or situations**

*a writer of great insight*

*With a flash of insight I realized what the dream meant.*

**2 insight (into something) an understanding of what something is like**

*The book gives us fascinating insights into life in Mexico.*

*I hope you have gained some insight into the difficulties we face.*

## Insinuate

### VERB

**1 to suggest indirectly that something unpleasant is true**

**Synonym: imply**

**insinuate that...** The article insinuated that he was having an affair with his friend's wife.

**insinuate something** What are you trying to insinuate?

**an insinuating smile**

**2 insinuate yourself into something to succeed in gaining somebody's respect, affection, etc. so that you can use the situation to your own advantage**

*In the first act, the villain insinuates himself into the household of the man he intends to kill.*

**3 insinuate yourself/something + adverb/preposition to slowly move yourself or a part of your body into a particular position or place**

*She insinuated her right hand under his arm.*

## Insist

### VERB

**1 to demand that something happens or that somebody agrees to do something**

*I didn't really want to go but he insisted.*

*Stay and have lunch. I insist! 'Please come with us.' 'Very well then, if you insist.*

**insist on something/somebody doing something** She insisted on his/him wearing a suit.

**insist that...** He insists that she come. He insists that she should come.

**2 to say firmly that something is true, especially when other people do not believe you**

**insist on something** He insisted on his innocence.

**insist (that)...** He insisted (that) he was innocent.

**+ speech** 'It's true,' she insisted.

**Phrasal verbs**

**insist on/upon something to demand something and refuse to be persuaded to accept anything else**

*We insisted on a refund of the full amount.*

**insist doing something** They insisted upon being given every detail of the case.

**insist on doing something to continue doing something even though other people think it is annoying**

*They insist on playing their music late at night.*

## Insolence

### ADJECTIVE

extremely rude and showing a lack of respect

*an insolent child/smile*

**insolence: noun**

*Her insolence cost her job.*

**Insolently: adverb**

## Instigate

### VERB

**1 instigate something to make something start or happen, usually something official**

**Synonym: bring something about**

*The government has instigated a programme of economic reform.*

**2 instigate something to cause something bad to happen**

*They were accused of instigating racial violence.*

**Instinct**

NOUN

**1 instinct (for something/for doing something)| instinct (to do something) a natural tendency for people and animals to behave in a particular way using the knowledge and abilities that they were born with rather than thought or training**

*maternal instincts*

*Children do not know by instinct the difference between right and wrong.*

*His first instinct was to run away.*

*Horses have a well-developed instinct for fear.*

*Even at school, he showed he had an instinct for (= was naturally good at) business.*

**2 instinct (that...) a feeling that makes you do something or believe that something is true, even though it is not based on facts or reason**

**Synonym: intuition**

*Her instincts had been right.*

**Integrate**

VERB

**1 to combine two or more things so that they work together; to combine with something else in this way**

**integrate into/with something** These programs will integrate with your existing software.

**integrate A (into/with B)| integrate A and B** These programs can be integrated with your existing software.

**2 to become or make somebody become accepted as a member of a social group, especially when they come from a different culture**

**integrate (into/with something)** They have not made any effort to integrate with the local community.

**integrate somebody (into/with something)** The policy is to integrate children with special needs into ordinary

**schools.**

**Integrity**

NOUN

**1 the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles**

*personal/professional/artistic integrity*

*to behave with integrity*

*a man of great integrity*

**2 the state of being whole and not divided**

**Synonym: unity**

*to respect the territorial integrity of the nation*

**Intend**

VERB

**1 to have a plan, result or purpose in your mind when you do something**

*We finished later than we had intended.*

**intend to do something** I fully intended (= definitely intended) to pay for the damage.

**intend somebody/something to do something** The writer clearly intends his readers to identify with the main character.

**intend doing something** I don't intend staying long.

**intend something** The company intends a slow-down in expansion.

**intend somebody something** He intended her no harm (= it was not his plan to harm her).

**it is intended that...** It is intended that production will start next month.

**intend that...** We intend that production will start next month.

**2 to plan that something should have a particular meaning**

**Synonym: mean**

**intend something (by something)** What exactly did you intend by that remark?

**intend something (as something)** He intended it as a joke.

**Interpret**

VERB

**1 interpret something to explain the meaning of something**

*The students were asked to interpret the poem.*

**2 to decide that something has a particular meaning and to understand it in this way**

**interpret something as something** I didn't know whether to interpret her silence as acceptance or refusal.

**interpret something** The data can be interpreted in many different ways.

compare misinterpret

3 interpret (for somebody) to translate one language into another as you hear it

*She couldn't speak much English so her children had to interpret for her.*

**4 interpret something to perform a piece of music, a role in a play, etc. in a way that shows your feelings about its meaning**

*He interpreted the role with a lot of humour.*

**interpretable: adjective**

*interpretable data*

**Intervene**

VERB

**1 to become involved in a situation in order to improve or help it**

*She might have been killed if the neighbours hadn't intervened.*

**intervene in something** The President intervened personally in the crisis.

**2 (+ speech) to interrupt somebody when they are speaking in order to say something**

*'But,' she intervened, 'what about the others?'*

**3 to happen in a way that delays something or prevents it from happening**

*They were planning to get married and then the war intervened.*

**4 to exist between two events or places**

*I saw nothing of her during the years that intervened.*

**intervention: noun**

**intervention (in something) calls for government intervention to save the steel industry**

*armed/military intervention*

*People resented his repeated interventions in the debate.*

**Intimacy**

NOUN

**1 the state of having a close personal relationship with somebody**

*The old intimacy between them had gone forever.*

**2 a thing that a person says or does to somebody that they know very well**

**3 sexual activity, especially an act of sexual intercourse**

**Intimate**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (of people) having a close and friendly relationship**

*intimate friends*

*We're not on intimate terms with our neighbours.*

**2 private and personal, often in a sexual way**

*The article revealed intimate details about his family life.*

*the most intimate parts of her body*

**3 (of a place or situation) encouraging close, friendly relationships, sometimes of a sexual nature**

*an intimate restaurant*

*He knew an intimate little bar where they would not be disturbed.*

**4 (of knowledge) very detailed and thorough**

*an intimate knowledge of the English countryside*

**5 (of a link between things) very close**

*an intimate connection between class and educational success*

**6 intimate (with somebody) (formal or law) having a sexual relationship with somebody**

**Intimately: adverb**

*intimately connected/linked/related*

*an area of the country that he knew intimately*

*She was intimately involved in the project.*

*They touched each other intimately (= in a sexual way).*

**Intrinsic**

ADJECTIVE

belonging to or part of the real nature of something/somebody

*the intrinsic value of education*

*These tasks were repetitive, lengthy and lacking any intrinsic interest.*

**intrinsic to something** Small local shops are intrinsic to the town's character.

**intrinsically: adverb**

*There is nothing intrinsically wrong with the idea (= it is good in itself but there may be outside circumstances which mean it is not suitable).*

### **Inventive**

NOUN

**1 able to think of new and interesting ideas**

**Synonym: imaginative**

*She has a highly inventive mind.*

**2 new and interesting**

*This is a courageous and inventive piece of film-making.*

**inventively: adverb**

**inventiveness: noun**

*the inventiveness of modern advertising*

### **Investigate**

VERB

**1 to carefully examine the facts of a situation, an event, a crime, etc. to find out the truth about it or how it happened**

*The FBI has been called in to investigate.*

*'What was that noise?' 'I'll go and investigate.'*

*'investigate something Police are investigating possible links between the murders.*

**investigate what, how, etc... Police are investigating what happened.**

**2 investigate somebody (for something) to try to find out information about somebody's character, activities, etc**

*This is not the first time he has been investigated by the police for fraud.*

**3 to find out information and facts about a subject or problem by study or research**

**investigate (something) Scientists are investigating the effects of diet on fighting cancer.**

**investigate how, what, etc... The research investigates how foreign speakers gain fluency.**

### **Invigorate**

VERB

**1 invigorate somebody to make somebody feel healthy and full of energy**

*The cold water invigorated him.*

*They felt refreshed and invigorated after the walk.*

**2 invigorate something to make a situation, an organization, etc. efficient and successful**

*They are looking into ways of invigorating the department.*

**invigorating: adjective**

*an invigorating walk/shower*

### **Isolate**

VERB

**1 to separate somebody/something physically or socially from other people or things**

**isolate somebody/yourself/something Patients with the disease should be isolated.**

**isolate somebody/yourself/something from somebody/something He was immediately isolated from the other prisoners.**

**This decision will isolate the country from the rest of Europe.**

**2 isolate something (from something) to separate a part of a situation, problem, idea, etc. so that you can see what it is and deal with it separately**

*It is possible to isolate a number of factors that contributed to her downfall.*

**3 isolate something (from something) to separate a single substance, cell, etc. from others so that you can study it**

*Researchers are still trying to isolate the gene that causes this abnormality.*

### **Itch**

VERB

**1 to have an uncomfortable feeling on your skin that makes you want to scratch; to make your skin feel like this**

*I itch all over.*

*Does the rash itch?*

*This sweater really itches.*

**2 (often used in the progressive tenses) to want to do something very much**

**itch for something The crowd was itching for a fight.**

**itch to do something He's itching to get back to work.**

**Itch**

NOUN

**1 an uncomfortable feeling on your skin that makes you want to scratch yourself***to get/have an itch***2 itch (to do something) a strong desire to do something***She has an itch to travel.**the creative itch***Jeopardize**

VERB

**jeopardize something/somebody (formal) to risk harming or destroying something/somebody****Synonym: endanger***He would never do anything to jeopardize his career.***Jeopardy**

NOUN

**in jeopardy**

in a dangerous position or situation and likely to be lost or harmed

*The civil war has put thousands of lives in jeopardy.**The future of the school and 50 jobs are in jeopardy.***Jolt**

VERB

**1 to move or to make somebody/something move suddenly and roughly****Synonym: jerk****(+ adverb/preposition) The truck jolted and rattled over the rough ground.****The bus jolted to a halt.****Her heart jolted when she saw him.****jolt somebody/something (+ adverb/preposition) He was jolted forwards as the bus moved off.****2 to give somebody a sudden shock, especially so that they start to take action or deal with a situation****jolt somebody/something (into something) His remark jolted her into action.****The sound jolted my memory, and I suddenly remembered what had happened.****jolt somebody/something (out of something) a method of jolting the economy out of recession****jolt somebody/something + adjective I was suddenly jolted awake.****Jurisprudence**

NOUN

the scientific study of law

*a professor of jurisprudence***Juvenile**

ADJECTIVE

**1 connected with young people who are not yet adults***juvenile crime/employment**juvenile offenders***2 silly and more typical of a child than an adult****Synonym: childish***juvenile behaviour**Don't be so juvenile!***Knuckle**

NOUN

**1 any of the joints in the fingers, especially those connecting the fingers to the rest of the hand****2 a piece of meat from the lower part of an animal's leg, especially a pig***knuckle of pork***Idioms****near the knuckle**

(of a remark, joke, etc.) concerned with sex in a way that is likely to offend people or make them feel embarrassed

*His act is too near the knuckle for me.*

**Labyrinth**

Noun

a complicated series of paths, which it is difficult to find your way through

*We lost our way in the labyrinth of streets.**a labyrinth of rules and regulations***labyrinthine: adjective***labyrinthine corridors**labyrinthine legislation***Lamentation**

Noun

an expression of great sadness or disappointment

*lamentations from the team's supporters about their failure***Lapse**

Noun

**1 a small mistake, especially one that is caused by forgetting something or by being careless***a lapse of concentration/memory**A momentary lapse in the final set cost her the match.***2 a period of time between two things that happen****Synonym: interval***After a lapse of six months we met up again.**He wrote to us after a considerable lapse of time.***3 an example or period of bad behaviour from somebody who normally behaves well****Lapse**

VERB

**1 (of a contract, an agreement, etc.) to be no longer valid because the period of time that it lasts has come to an end***She had allowed her membership to lapse.**The treaty lapsed in 1995.***2 to gradually become weaker or come to an end****Synonym: expire***His concentration lapsed after a few minutes.**This custom had lapsed over the years.***3 lapse (from something) to stop believing in or practising your religion***He lapsed from Judaism when he was a student.***lapsed: adjective***a lapsed subscription**lapsed faith**a lapsed Catholic***Phrasal verbs****lapse into something****1 to gradually pass into a worse or less active state or condition***to lapse into unconsciousness/a coma**She lapsed into silence again.***2 to start speaking or behaving in a different way, often one that is less acceptable***He soon lapsed back into his old ways.***Launch**

VERB

**1 launch something to start an activity, especially an organized one***to launch an appeal/an inquiry/an investigation/a campaign**to launch an attack/invasion***2 launch something to make a product available to the public for the first time***a party to launch his latest novel**The new model will be launched in July.***3 launch something to put a ship or boat into the water, especially one that has just been built***The Navy is to launch a new warship today.**The lifeboat was launched immediately.***4 launch something to send something such as a spacecraft, weapon, etc. into space, into the sky or through water**

*to launch a communications satellite*

*to launch a missile/rocket/torpedo*

**5 launch yourself at, from, etc. something| launch yourself forwards, etc. to jump forwards with a lot of force**

*Without warning he launched himself at me.*

*She launched herself on the rock world with a brilliant album.*

**6 launch something (computing) to start a computer program**

*You can launch programs and documents from your keyboard.*

*It's not the fastest way to launch an application.*

**Phrasal verbs**

**launch into something/launch yourself into something**

to begin something in an enthusiastic way, especially something that will take a long time

*He launched into a lengthy account of his career.*

**launch out**

to do something new in your career, especially something more exciting

*It's time I launched out on my own.*

**L a u n c h**

**NOUN**

**1 the action of launching something; an event at which something is launched**

*the successful launch of the Ariane rocket a product launch*

*The official launch date is in May.*

**2 a large boat with a motor**

**Lean**

**VERB**

**leaned, leaned/leant, leant**

**1 (+ adverb/preposition) to bend or move from a vertical position**

*I leaned back in my chair.*

*The tower is leaning dangerously.*

*A man was leaning out of the window.*

**2 to rest on or against something for support**

**lean against something** *A shovel was leaning against the wall.*

**lean on something** *She walked slowly, leaning on her son's arm.*

**3 lean something against/on something to make something rest against something in a sloping position**

*Can I lean my bike against the wall?*

**Idioms**

see bend/lean over backwards at backwards

Phrasal verbs

lean on somebody/something

1 to depend on somebody/something for help and support

**Synonym: rely on**

*He leans heavily on his family.*

**2 to try to influence somebody by threatening them**

*The government has been leaning on the TV company not to broadcast the show.*

**lean to/towards/toward something**

to have a tendency to prefer something, especially a particular opinion or interest

*The UK leant towards the US proposal.*

**Lean**

**ADJECTIVE**

**leaner, leanest**

**1 (usually approving) (of people, especially men, or animals) without much flesh; thin and fit**

*a lean, muscular body*

*He was tall, lean and handsome.*

**2 (of meat) containing little or no fat**

*a lean, tender piece of beef*

**3 (of a period of time) difficult and not producing much money, food, etc**

*a lean period/spell*

*The company recovered well after going through several lean years.*

*This is the leanest time of the year for the tourist industry.*



*Many animals have a lean time of it in winter.*

**4 (of organizations, etc.) strong and efficient because the number of employees has been reduced**  
*The changes made the company leaner and more competitive.*

**Leanness:noun**

*The dark clothes emphasized the leanness of her body.*

L e a n

NOUN

the part of meat that has little or no fat

**Legislation**

NOUN

**1 a law or a set of laws passed by a parliament**

*an important piece of legislation*

*New legislation on the sale of drugs will be introduced next year.*

*a call for legislation to ban smoking in public places*

**2 the process of making and passing laws**

*Legislation will be difficult and will take time.*

**L e g i s l a t i v e**

ADJECTIVE

connected with the act of making and passing laws

*a legislative assembly/body/council*

*legislative powers*

**Legitimate**

ADJECTIVE

**1 for which there is a fair and acceptable reason**

**Synonym:valid, justifiable**

*a legitimate grievance*

*It seemed a perfectly legitimate question.*

*Politicians are legitimate targets for satire.*

**2 allowed and acceptable according to the law**

**Synonym:legal**

*the legitimate government of the country*

*Is his business strictly legitimate?*

**Opposite:illegitimate**

**3 (of a child) born when its parents are legally married to each other**

**Opposite:illegitimate**

**legitimacy:noun**

*the dubious legitimacy of her argument*

*I intend to challenge the legitimacy of his claim.*

**Legitimately:adverb**

*She can now legitimately claim to be the best in the world.*

**Lest**

CONJUNCTION

**1 in order to prevent something from happening**

*He gripped his brother's arm lest he be trampled by the mob.*

*Lest anyone should doubt my story, I have brought documents to attest to its truth.*

**2 used to introduce the reason for the particular emotion mentioned**

**Synonym:in case**

*She was afraid lest she had revealed too much.*

**Lethal**

ADJECTIVE

**1 causing or able to cause death**

**Synonym:deadly, fatal**

*a lethal dose of poison*

*a lethal weapon*

*The closure of the factory dealt a lethal blow to the town.*

*The snake's venom is rarely lethal to humans.*

**2 causing or able to cause a lot of harm or damage**

*You and that car—it's a lethal combination!*

**Liberal**

ADJECTIVE

**respecting other opinions**

**1 willing to understand and respect other people's behaviour, opinions, etc, especially when they are different from your own;**

**believing people should be able to choose how they behave**

*liberal attitudes/views/opinions*

**politics**

**2 wanting or allowing a lot of political and economic freedom and supporting gradual social, political or religious change**

*Some politicians want more liberal trade relations with Europe.*

*liberal democracy*

*liberal theories*

*a liberal politician*

**3 Liberal connected with the British Liberal Party in the past, or of a Liberal Party in another country**

**generous**

**4 liberal (with something) generous; given in large amounts**

**Synonym:**lavish

*She is very liberal with her money.*

*I think Sam is too liberal with his criticism (= he criticizes people too much).*

*Divorced fathers should have liberal access to their children.*

*We ate cake with liberal amounts of whipped cream.*

**education**

**5 concerned with increasing somebody's general knowledge and experience rather than particular skills**

*a liberal education*

**not exact**

**6 not completely accurate or exact**

**Synonym:**free

*a liberal translation of the text*

*a liberal interpretation of the law*

**liberally: adverb**

*Apply the cream liberally.*

*The word 'original' is liberally interpreted in copyright law.*

**Liberate**

VERB

**1 liberate somebody/something (from somebody/something) to free a country or a person from the control of somebody else**

*The city was liberated by the advancing army.*

**2 liberate somebody (from something) to free somebody from something that restricts their enjoyment of life**

*Writing poetry liberated her from the routine of everyday life.*

**liberation: noun**

*a war of liberation*

*liberation from poverty*

*women's liberation*

**Liberty**

NOUN

**1 freedom to live as you choose without too many restrictions from government or authority**

*the fight for justice and liberty*

*The concept of individual liberty is enshrined in the constitution.*

**2 the state of not being a prisoner or a slave**

*He had to endure six months' loss of liberty.*

**3 the legal right and freedom to do something**

*The right to vote should be a liberty enjoyed by all.*

*People fear that security cameras could infringe personal liberties.*

**4 an act or a statement that may offend or annoy somebody, especially because it is done without permission or does not show respect**

*He took the liberty of reading my files while I was away.  
They've got a liberty, not even sending me a reply.*

### Idioms

#### at liberty

(of a prisoner or an animal) no longer in prison or in a cage

**Synonym:free**

#### at liberty to do something

having the right or freedom to do something

**Synonym:free**

*You are at liberty to say what you like.*

*I am not at liberty to discuss my client's case.*

### Likely

ADJECTIVE

likelier, likeliest

NOTE: more likely and most likely are the usual forms

1 probable or expected

*the most likely outcome*

**likely (to do something) Tickets are likely to be expensive.**

**likely (that...) It's more than likely that the thieves don't know how much it is worth.**

**They might refuse to let us do it, but it's hardly likely.**

2 seeming suitable for a purpose

Synonym: promising

*She seems the most likely candidate for the job.*

### Loath

ADJECTIVE

**loath to do something not willing to do something**

*He was loath to admit his mistake.*

### Loathsome

ADJECTIVE

extremely unpleasant; disgusting

**Synonym:repulsive**

*The police described it as one of the most loathsome crimes of recent years.*

### Lofty

ADJECTIVE

**1 very high and impressive**

*lofty ceilings/rooms/towers*

**2 (of a thought, an aim, etc.) deserving praise because of its high moral quality**

*lofty ambitions/ideals/principles*

**3 showing a belief that you are worth more than other people**

**Synonym:haughty**

*her lofty disdain for other people*

**loftily:adverb**

**loftiness:noun**

### Luminous

ADJECTIVE

**1 shining in the dark; giving out light**

*luminous paint*

*luminous hands on a clock*

*staring with huge luminous eyes*

*the luminous quality of the music*

**2 very bright in colour**

*They painted the door a luminous green.*

**luminously:adverb**

*Her eyes were large and luminously black.*

**Luminosity: noun**

*The moon was shining enough to give a ghostly luminosity to the buildings that crowded both sides of the narrow street.*

**Lurch**  
VERB

**1 (+ adverb/preposition) to make a sudden, unsteady movement forward or sideways**

**Synonym:** stagger, sway

*Suddenly the horse lurched to one side and the child fell off.*

*The man lurched drunkenly out of the pub.*

*Their relationship seems to lurch from one crisis to the next.*

**2 if your heart or stomach lurches, you have a sudden feeling of fear or excitement**

**Lure**  
VERB

**lure somebody (+ adverb/preposition) (disapproving) to persuade or trick somebody to go somewhere or to do something by promising them a reward**

**Synonym:** entice

*The child was lured into a car but managed to escape.*

*Young people are lured to the city by the prospect of a job and money.*

**Lust**  
NOUN

**1 lust (for something) very strong desire for something or enjoyment of something**

*to satisfy his lust for power*

*She has a real lust for life (= she really enjoys life).*

**2 lust (for somebody) very strong sexual desire, especially when love is not involved**

*Their affair was driven by pure lust.*

**Magnificent**  
ADJECTIVE

extremely attractive and impressive; deserving praise

**Synonym:** splendid

*The Taj Mahal is a magnificent building.*

*She looked magnificent in her wedding dress.*

*You've all done a magnificent job.*

**magnificence: noun**

*the magnificence of the scenery*

**magnificently: adverb**

*The public have responded magnificently to our appeal.*

*The city boasts a wealth of magnificently preserved temples and palaces.*

**Maiden**  
NOUN

**1 a young girl or woman who is not married**

*stories of knights and fair maidens*

**2 (also maiden over) (in cricket) an over in which no points are scored**

**Maintain**  
VERB

**1 maintain something to make something continue at the same level, standard, etc.**

**Synonym:** preserve

*to maintain law and order/standards/a balance*

*The two countries have always maintained close relations.*

*She maintained a dignified silence.*

*to maintain prices (= prevent them falling or rising)*

**2 maintain something to keep a building, a machine, etc. in good condition by checking or repairing it regularly**

*The house is large and difficult to maintain.*

**3 to keep stating that something is true, even though other people do not agree or do not believe it**

**Synonym:** insist

**maintain (that)...** *The men maintained (that) they were out of the country when the crime was committed.*

**maintain something** *She has always maintained her innocence.*

+ speech 'But I'm innocent!' she maintained.

**4 maintain somebody/something to support somebody/something over a long period of time by giving money, paying for food, etc.**

**Synonym: keep**

*Her income was barely enough to maintain one child, let alone three.*

### Maintenance

NOUN

**1 maintenance (of something) the act of keeping something in good condition by checking or repairing it regularly**

*The school pays for heating and the maintenance of the buildings. car maintenance*

**2 maintenance (of something) the act of making a state or situation continue**

*the maintenance of international peace*

**3 money that somebody must pay regularly to their former wife, husband or partner, especially when they have had children together**

*He has to pay maintenance to his ex-wife.*

*child maintenance*

*a maintenance order (= given by a court of law)*

### Malfunction

VERB

to fail to work correctly

*He was killed when his parachute malfunctioned.*

*malfunctioning body cells*

**malfunction: noun**

*The drug caused a malfunction in the brain.*

### Maple

NOUN

**1 (also maple tree) a tall tree with leaves that have five points and turn bright red or yellow in the autumn/fall. Maples grow in northern countries.**

**2 the wood of the maple tree**

### Marvelous

ADJECTIVE

extremely good; wonderful

**fantastic, splendid**

*This will be a marvellous opportunity for her.*

*The weather was marvellous.*

*It's marvellous what modern technology can do.*

**marvellously: adverb**

*This recipe is marvellously simple and quick.*

### Maxim

NOUN

a well-known phrase that expresses something that is usually true or that people think is a rule for sensible behaviour

### Mediocre

ADJECTIVE

not very good; of only average standard

*a mediocre musician/talent/performance*

*I thought the play was only mediocre.*

### Mediocrity

NOUN

**1 the quality of being average or not very good**

*His acting career started brilliantly, then sank into mediocrity.*

**2 a person who is not very good at something**

*a brilliant leader, surrounded by mediocrities*

### Mellifluous

## ADJECTIVE

sounding sweet and smooth; very pleasant to listen to  
*a softly mellifluous voice*

## Mention

### VERB

to write or speak about something/somebody, especially without giving much information  
**mention something/somebody (to somebody)** Nobody mentioned anything to me about it.  
**Sorry, I won't mention it again.**  
*Now that you mention it, she did seem to be in a strange mood.*  
**mention something/somebody as something/somebody** His name has been mentioned as a future MP.  
**mention where, why, etc...** Did she mention where she was going?  
**mention that...** You mentioned in your letter that you might be moving abroad.  
**He failed to mention that he was the one who started the fight.**  
**mention doing something** Did I mention going to see Vicky on Sunday?

## Merge

### VERB

**1 to combine or make two or more things combine to form a single thing**

*The banks are set to merge next year.*

*The two groups have merged to form a new party.*

**merge with something** His department will merge with mine.

**merge into something** The villages expanded and merged into one large town.

**merge (A and B) (together)** Fact and fiction merge together in his latest thriller.

**merge A with B** His department will be merged with mine.

**merge something** The company was formed by merging three smaller firms.

**2 merge (into something) if two things merge, or if one thing merges into another, the differences between them gradually disappear so that it is impossible to separate them**

*The hills merged into the dark sky behind them.*

## Metaphor

### NOUN

a word or phrase used to describe somebody/something else, in a way that is different from its normal use, in order to show that the two things have the same qualities and to make the description more powerful, for example She has a heart of stone; the use of such words and phrases

*a game of football used as a metaphor for the competitive struggle of life*

*the writer's striking use of metaphor*

## Moan

### VERB

**1 (of a person) to make a long deep sound, usually expressing unhappiness, suffering or sexual pleasure**

**Synonym:** groan

*The injured man was lying on the ground, moaning.*

**moan in/with something to moan in/with pain**

+ speech 'I might never see you again,' she moaned.

**2 moan (at somebody) to complain about something in a way that other people find annoying**

**Synonym:** grumble, whine

**moan (on) (about something) (to somebody)** What are you moaning on about now?

**moan (at somebody) (about something)** They're always moaning and groaning about how much they have to do.

**moan that...** Bella moaned that her feet were cold.

**3 to make a long deep sound**

*The wind was moaning through the trees.*

## Monarchy

### NOUN

**1 the monarchy a system of government by a king or a queen**

*plans to abolish the monarchy*

**2 a country that is ruled by a king or a queen**

*There are several constitutional monarchies in Europe.*

**3 the monarchy the king or queen of a country and their family**

**Monologue**

NOUN

**1 a long speech by one person during a conversation that stops other people from speaking or expressing an opinion***He went into a long monologue about life in America.***2 a long speech in a play, film/movie, etc. spoken by one actor, especially when alone****3 a dramatic story, especially in verse, told or performed by one person***a dramatic monologue*

compare soliloquy

**Monopoly**

NOUN

**1 monopoly (in/of/on something) the complete control of trade in particular goods or the supply of a particular service; a type of goods or a service that is controlled in this way***In the past central government had a monopoly on television broadcasting.**Electricity, gas and water were considered to be natural monopolies.***2 monopoly in/of/on something the complete control, possession or use of something; a thing that belongs only to one person or group and that other people cannot share***Managers do not have a monopoly on stress.**A good education should not be the monopoly of the rich.***3 Monopoly™ a board game in which players have to pretend to buy and sell land and houses, using pieces of paper that look like money****Mop**

NOUN

**1 a tool for washing floors that has a long handle with a bunch of thick strings or soft material at the end***a mop and bucket***2 a kitchen utensil (= a tool) for washing dishes, that has a short handle with soft material at one end****3 a mass of thick, often untidy, hair***a mop of curly red hair***Mop**

VERB

**1 mop something to clean something with a mop***She wiped all the surfaces and mopped the floor.***2 mop something (from something) to remove liquid from the surface of something using a cloth***He took out a handkerchief to mop his brow (= to remove the sweat).***Morbid**

ADJECTIVE

**1 having or expressing a strong interest in sad or unpleasant things, especially disease or death***He had a morbid fascination with blood.**'He might even die.' 'Don't be so morbid.'**'She watched with morbid curiosity.'**My mind was filled with morbid thoughts of death.***2 (medical) connected with disease****Morbidity:noun****Morbidly:adverb****Multifaceted**

ADJECTIVE

having many different aspects to be considered

*a complex and multifaceted problem***Mutter**

VERB

**1 to speak or say something in a quiet voice that is difficult to hear, especially because you are annoyed about something**  
+ speech **'How dare she,' he muttered under his breath.****mutter (something) (to somebody/yourself) (about something) She just sat there muttering to herself.****I muttered something about needing to get back to work.**

**mutter that... He muttered that he was sorry.**  
**2 mutter (about something) mutter that... to complain about something, without saying publicly what you think**  
**Synonym:grumble**  
*Workers continued to mutter about the management.*

**Navigate**  
VERB  
**1 to find your position or the position of your ship, plane, car etc. and the direction you need to go in, for example by using a map**  
*to navigate by the stars*  
*I'll drive, and you can navigate.*  
**navigate your way...How do you navigate your way through a forest?**  
**2 navigate something to sail along, over or through a sea, river etc**  
*The river became too narrow and shallow to navigate.*  
**3 navigate something to find the right way to deal with a difficult or complicated situation**  
*We next had to navigate a complex network of committees.*  
**4 navigate (something) (computing) to find your way around on the Internet or on a particular website**

**Navigation**  
NOUN  
**1 the skill or the process of planning a route for a ship or other vehicle and taking it there**  
*navigation systems*  
*an expert in navigation*  
**2 the movement of ships or aircraft**  
*the right of navigation through international waters*

**Negate**  
VERB  
**1 negate something to stop something from having any effect**  
**Synonym:nullify**  
*Alcohol negates the effects of the drug.*  
**2 negate something to state that something does not exist**

**Negotiate**  
VERB  
**1 negotiate (with somebody) (for/about something) to try to reach an agreement by formal discussion**  
*The government will not negotiate with terrorists.*  
*We have been negotiating for more pay.*  
*a strong negotiating position*  
*negotiating skills*  
**2 negotiate something to arrange or agree something by formal discussion**  
*to negotiate a deal/contract/treaty/settlement*  
*We successfully negotiated the release of the hostages.*  
**3 negotiate something to successfully get over or past a difficult part on a path or route**  
*The climbers had to negotiate a steep rock face.*

**Nepotism**  
NOUN  
giving unfair advantages to your own family if you are in a position of power, especially by giving them jobs

**Nevertheless**  
ADVERB  
despite something that you have just mentioned  
**Synonym:nonetheless**  
*There is little chance that we will succeed in changing the law.*  
*Nevertheless, it is important that we try.*  
*Our defeat was expected but it is disappointing nevertheless.*  
*The old system had its flaws, but nevertheless it was preferable to the new one.*

**Nominate**  
VERB



**1 to formally suggest that somebody should be chosen for an important role, prize, position, etc.**

**Synonym: propose**

**nominate somebody (for something)** She has been nominated for the presidency.

**nominate somebody (as) something| nominate somebody + noun** He was nominated (as) best actor.

**nominate somebody to do something** I nominated Paul to take on the role of treasurer.

**2 to choose somebody to do a particular job**

**Synonym: appoint**

**nominate somebody (to/as something)** I have been nominated to the committee.

**nominate somebody to do something** She was nominated to speak on our behalf.

**3 nominate something (as something) to choose a time, date or title for something**

**Synonym: select**

*1 December has been nominated as the day of the election.*

**Nostalgia**

**NOUN**

a feeling of sadness mixed with pleasure and affection when you think of happy times in the past

*a sense/wave/pang of nostalgia*

*She is filled with nostalgia for her own college days.*

**Novelty**

**NOUN**

**1 the quality of being new, different and interesting**

*It was fun working there at first but the novelty soon wore off (= it became boring).*

*There's a certain novelty value in this approach.*

*We must not mistake novelty for originality and quality.*

**2 a thing, person or situation that is interesting because it is new, unusual or has not been known before**

*Electric cars are still something of a novelty.*

**3 a small cheap object sold as a toy or a decorative object**

**Obligated**

**ADJECTIVE**

**obligated (to do something) having a moral or legal duty to do something**

**Synonym: obliged**

*He felt obligated to help.*

**Obligation**

**NOUN**

**1 obligation (to do something) the state of being forced to do something because it is your duty, or because of a law, etc**

*You are under no obligation to buy anything.*

*She did not feel under any obligation to tell him the truth.*

*I don't want people coming to see me out of a sense of obligation.*

*We will send you an estimate for the work without obligation (= you do not have to accept it).*

**2 something which you must do because you have promised, because of a law, etc.**

**Synonym: commitment**

*to fulfil your legal/professional/financial obligations*

*They reminded him of his contractual obligations.*

**obligation to do something** We have a moral obligation to protect the environment.

**Obligatory**

**ADJECTIVE**

**1 obligatory (for somebody) (to do something) (formal) that you must do because of the law, rules, etc.**

**Synonym: compulsory**

*It is obligatory for all employees to wear protective clothing.*

**Opposite: optional**

**2 (often humorous) that you do because you always do it, or other people in the same situation always do it**

*In the mid 60s he took the almost obligatory trip to India.*

**Oblige**

**VERB**

**1 oblige somebody to do something to force somebody to do something, by law, because it is a duty, etc**

*Parents are obliged by law to send their children to school.*

*I felt obliged to ask them to dinner.*

*He suffered a serious injury that obliged him to give up work.*

**2 to help somebody by doing what they ask or what you know they want**

*Call me if you need any help—I'd be happy to oblige.*

**oblige somebody (with something) Would you oblige me with some information?**

**oblige somebody (by doing something) Oblige me by keeping your suspicions to yourself.**

**Obscure**

ADJECTIVE

**1 not well known**

**Synonym: unknown**

*an obscure German poet*

*We went to see one of Shakespeare's more obscure plays.*

*He was born around 1650 but his origins remain obscure.*

**2 difficult to understand**

*I found her lecture very obscure.*

**For some obscure reason, he failed to turn up.**

**The meaning of his comment was obscure to everyone but himself.**

**obscurely: adverb**

*They were making her feel obscurely worried (= for reasons that were difficult to understand).*

**Obsess**

VERB

**1 obsess somebody to completely fill your mind so that you cannot think of anything else, in a way that is not normal**

*He's obsessed by computers.*

*She's completely obsessed with him.*

*The need to produce the most exciting newspaper story obsesses most journalists.*

**2 obsess (about something) to be always talking or worrying about a particular thing, especially when this annoys other people**

*I think you should try to stop obsessing about food.*

**Obsessive**

ADJECTIVE

thinking too much about one particular person or thing, in a way that is not normal

*He's becoming more and more obsessive about punctuality.*

*an obsessive attention to detail*

**obsessively: adverb**

*obsessively jealous*

*He worries obsessively about his appearance.*

**Offend**

VERB

**1 offend (somebody) to make somebody feel upset because of something you say or do that is rude or embarrassing**

*They'll be offended if you don't go to their wedding.*

*Neil did not mean to offend anybody with his joke.*

*She managed to offend her boyfriend's parents as soon as she opened her mouth.*

**2 offend somebody/something to seem unpleasant to somebody**

*The smell from the farm offended some people.*

*an ugly building that offends the eye*

**3 to commit a crime or crimes**

*He started offending at the age of 16.*

*What is the best way to stop someone who has offended from repeating the offence?*

**4 offend (against somebody/something) to be against what people believe is morally right**

*comments that offend against people's religious beliefs*

**offend: adjective**

*Alice looked rather offended.*

**Offence**

NOUN

**1 offence (against somebody/something) an illegal act**

**Synonym:crime**

*a criminal/serious/minor/sexual, etc. offence*

*a first offence (= the first time that somebody has been found guilty of a crime)a capital offence (= one for which somebody may be punished by death)He was not aware that he had committed an offence.*

*an offence against society/humanity/the state  
New legislation makes it an offence to carry guns.*

**2 the act of upsetting or insulting somebody**

*I'm sure he meant no offence when he said that.*

*The photo may cause offence to some people.*

*No one will take offence (= feel upset or insulted) if you leave early.*

*Don't be so quick to take offence.*

**Omnipotent**

ADJECTIVE

having total power; able to do anything

*an omnipotent God*

**omnipotence:noun**

*the omnipotence of God*

**Omniscient**

NOUN

knowing everything

*The novel has an omniscient narrator.*

**omniscience: noun**

**Onslaught**

NOUN

a strong or violent attack

**onslaught (against/on somebody/something) the enemy onslaught on our military forces**

**onslaught (of something) The town survives the onslaught of tourists every summer.**

**an onslaught of abuse**

**Operate**

VERB

**machine**

**1 + adverb/preposition to work in a particular way**

**Synonym:function**

*Most domestic freezers operate at below -18 °C.*

*Solar panels can only operate in sunlight.*

*Some people can only operate well under pressure.*

**2 operate something to use or control a machine or make it work**

*What skills are needed to operate this machinery?*

**system/process/service**

**3 to be used or working; to use something or make it work**

*A new late-night service is now operating.*

*The regulation operates in favour of married couples.*

**operate something The airline operates flights to 25 countries.**

**France operates a system of subsidized loans to dairy farmers.**

**of business/organization**

**4 + adverb/preposition to work in a particular way or from a particular place**

*They plan to operate from a new office in Edinburgh.*

*Illegal drinking clubs continue to operate in the city.*

**medical**

**5 to cut open somebody's body in order to remove a part that has a disease or to repair a part that is damaged**

*The doctors operated last night.*

**operate (on somebody) (for something) We will have to operate on his eyes.**

**to operate for suspected acute appendicitis**

**of soldiers**

**6 + adverb/preposition) to be involved in military activities in a place**

*Troops are operating from bases in the north.*

**Opine**  
VERB

**opine that... to express a particular opinion**

*He opined that Prague was the most beautiful city in Europe.*

**Oppose**  
VERB

**1 to disagree strongly with somebody's plan, policy, etc. and try to change it or prevent it from succeeding**

**oppose somebody/something** This party would bitterly oppose the re-introduction of the death penalty.

**He threw all those that opposed him into prison.**

**oppose (somebody/something) doing something** I would oppose changing the law.

**2 oppose somebody to compete with somebody in a contest**

*He intends to oppose the prime minister in the leadership election.*

**Oppress**  
VERB

**1 oppress somebody to treat somebody in a cruel and unfair way, especially by not giving them the same freedom, rights, etc. as other people**

*The regime is accused of oppressing religious minorities.*

**2 oppress somebody to make somebody only able to think about sad or worrying things**

*The gloomy atmosphere in the office oppressed her.*

**Synonym: weigh down**

**oppression: noun**

*victims of oppression*

**Opt**  
VERB

to choose to take or not to take a particular course of action

**opt for/against something** After graduating she opted for a career in music.

**After a lot of thought, I opted against buying a motorbike.**

**opt to do something** Many workers opted to leave their jobs rather than take a pay cut.

**Optimistic**  
ADJECTIVE

expecting good things to happen or something to be successful; showing this feeling

**Synonym: positive**

**optimistic (about something)** She's not very optimistic about the outcome of the talks.

**optimistic (that...)** They are cautiously optimistic that the reforms will take place.

**We are now taking a more optimistic view.**

**in an optimistic mood**

**I think you're being a little over-optimistic.**

**Opposite: pessimistic**

**Optimistically: adverb**

*He spoke optimistically about better relations between the two countries.*

**Opulent**  
ADJECTIVE

**1 made or decorated using expensive materials**

**Synonym: luxurious**

*opulent fabrics/surroundings*

**2 (of people) extremely rich**

**Synonym: wealthy**

*the opulent elite of Europe*

**opulence: noun**

**opulently: adverb**

**Ordain**  
VERB

**1 ordain somebody (as something)| ordain somebody + noun to make somebody a priest, minister or rabbi**

*He was ordained (as) a priest last year.*

**2 ordain something| ordain that...(of God, the law or fate) to order or command something; to decide something in advance**

*Fate had ordained that they would never meet again.*

### **Orient**

VERB

**1 orient somebody/something (to/towards somebody/something) to direct somebody/something towards something; to make or adapt somebody/something for a particular purpose**

*Our students are oriented towards science subjects.*

*policies oriented to the needs of working mothers*

*We run a commercially oriented operation.*

*profit-orientated organizations*

**2 orient yourself to find your position in relation to your surroundings**

*Neither of them is politically oriented (= interested in politics).*

*The mountaineers found it hard to orient themselves in the fog.*

**3 orient yourself to make yourself familiar with a new situation**

*It took him some time to orient himself in his new school.*

### **Orientation**

NOUN

**1 the type of aims or interests that a person or an organization has; the act of directing your aims towards a particular thing**

*The course is essentially theoretical in orientation.*

**orientation to/towards something** Companies have been forced into a greater orientation to the market.

**2 a person's basic beliefs or feelings about a particular subject**

*religious/political orientation*

*a person's sexual orientation (= whether they are attracted to men, women or both)*

**3 training or information that you are given before starting a new job, course, etc**

*an orientation course*

**4 the direction in which an object faces**

*The orientation of the planet's orbit is changing continuously.*

### **Originate**

VERB

**1 (+ adverb/preposition) to happen or appear for the first time in a particular place or situation**

*The disease is thought to have originated in the tropics.*

*The word originated as a marketing term.*

**2 originate something to create something new**

*Locke originated this theory in the 17th century.*

**originator:noun**

*Sir William James is thought to be the originator of fingerprinting as a means of identification.*

### **Overlook**

VERB

**1 overlook something to fail to see or notice something**

**Synonym:miss**

*He seems to have overlooked one important fact.*

*In my hurry to finish the exam I had overlooked part of one of the questions.*

**2 overlook something to see something wrong or bad but decide to ignore it**

**Synonym:turn a blind eye to**

*We could not afford to overlook such a serious offence.*

*He's so friendly people are prepared to overlook his faults.*

**3 overlook something if a building, etc. overlooks a place, you can see that place from the building**

*a restaurant overlooking the lake*

*Our back yard is overlooked by several houses.*

**4 overlook somebody (for something) to not consider somebody for a job or position, even though they might be suitable**

**Synonym:pass over**

*She's been overlooked for promotion several times.*

### **Overturn**

VERB

**1 if something overturns, or if somebody overturns it, it turns upside down or on its side**

*The car skidded and overturned.*

**overturn something** He stood up quickly, overturning his chair.

**2 overturn something to officially decide that a legal decision, etc. is not correct, and to make it no longer valid**

*to overturn a decision/conviction/verdict*

*His sentence was overturned by the appeal court.*

**Overwhelming**

ADJECTIVE

very great or very strong; so powerful that you cannot resist it or decide how to react

*The evidence against him was overwhelming.*

*The overwhelming majority of those present were in favour of the plan.*

*an overwhelming sense of loss*

*She had the almost overwhelming desire to tell him the truth.*

*You may find it somewhat overwhelming at first.*

*There was overwhelming support for our policies.*

**overwhelmingly:adverb**

*They voted overwhelmingly against the proposal.*

**Pact**

NOUN

**pact (between A and B)| pact (with somebody) (to do something) a formal agreement between two or more people, groups or countries, especially one in which they agree to help each other**

*a non-aggression pact*

*They have made a pact with each other not to speak about their differences in public.*

*a suicide pact (= an agreement by two or more people to kill themselves at the same time)*

*The two parties agreed an electoral pact.*

**Palliate**

VERB

**palliate something to make a disease or an illness less painful or unpleasant without curing it**

**Palliative**

NOUN

**1 (medical) a medicine or medical treatment that reduces pain without curing its cause**

*Aromatherapy can be used as a palliative.*

**2 an action, a decision, etc. that is designed to make a difficult situation seem better without actually solving the cause of the problems**

*Grants by themselves provide little more than a temporary palliative to ailing industries.*

*Palliative:adjective*

*palliative treatment*

*short-term palliative measures*

**Pamphlet**

NOUN

a very thin book with a paper cover, containing information about a particular subject

**Synonym:leaflet**

**Pang**

NOUN

a sudden strong feeling of physical or emotional pain

*hunger*

*pangs/pangs of hunger*

*a sudden pang of jealousy*

*She looked at Susan and saw with a pang how tired and frail she seemed.*

**Paramount**

ADJECTIVE

**1 more important than anything else**

*This matter is of paramount importance.*

*Safety is paramount.*

*The welfare of the child must always be the court's paramount consideration.*

**2 having the highest position or the greatest power**

*China's paramount leader*

**paramountcy:noun**

**Patron**

NOUN

**1 a person who gives money and support to artists and writers**

*Frederick the Great was the patron of many artists.*

**2 a famous person who supports an organization such as a charity and whose name is used in the advertisements, etc. for the organization**

**3 a person who uses a particular shop/store, restaurant, etc**

*Patrons are requested not to smoke.*

**Pattern**

NOUN

**1 the regular way in which something happens or is done**

*changing patterns of behaviour*

*an irregular sleeping pattern*

*The murders all seem to follow a (similar) pattern (= happen in the same way).*

**2 an excellent example to copy**

*This system sets the pattern for others to follow.*

**3 a regular arrangement of lines, shapes, colours, etc. as a design on material, carpets, etc**

*a pattern of diamonds and squares*

*a shirt with a floral pattern*

**4 a design, set of instructions or shape to cut around that you use in order to make something**

*a knitting pattern*

*She bought a dress pattern and some material.*

**5 a small piece of material, paper, etc. that helps you choose the design of something**

**Synonym:sample**

*wallpaper patterns*

**Pattern**

VERB

**1 pattern something to form a regular arrangement of lines or shapes on something**

*Frost patterned the window.*

*a landscape patterned by vineyards*

**2 pattern something to cause a particular type of behaviour to develop**

*Adult behaviour is often patterned by childhood experiences.*

**Pedigree**

NOUN

**1 knowledge of or an official record of the animals from which an animal has been bred**

*dogs with good pedigrees (= their ancestors are known and of the same breed)*

**2 a person's family history or the background of something, especially when this is impressive**

*She was proud of her long pedigree.*

*The product has a pedigree going back to the last century.*

**Pedigree**

ADJECTIVE

coming from a family of the same breed that has been officially recorded for a long time and is thought to be of a good quality

*pedigree sheep*

**Penetrate**

VERB

**1 to go into or through something**

**penetrate something** The knife had penetrated his chest.

The sun's radiation penetrates the skin.

The cold seemed to penetrate his bones.

*The war penetrates every area of the nation's life.*

**penetrate into/through/to something** These fine particles penetrate deep into the lungs.

**2 to succeed in entering or joining an organization, a group, etc. especially when this is difficult to do**  
**penetrate something** They had penetrated airport security.

The party has been penetrated by extremists.

This year the company has been trying to penetrate new markets (= to start selling their products there).  
**penetrate into something** The troops had penetrated deep into enemy lines.

**3 penetrate something to see or show a way into or through something**

*Our eyes could not penetrate the darkness.*

*The flashlights barely penetrated the gloom.*

*narrow alleys where the sun never penetrates*

**4 penetrate something to understand or discover something that is difficult to understand or is hidden**

*Science can penetrate many of nature's mysteries.*

*a style that is difficult to penetrate*

*No one could penetrate the meaning of the inscription.*

**5 to be understood or realized by somebody**

*I was at the door before his words penetrated.*

**penetrate something** None of my advice seems to have penetrated his thick skull (= he has not listened to any of it).

**6 penetrate somebody/something (of a man) to put the penis into the vagina or anus of a sexual partner**

### Perceive

VERB

**1 to notice or become aware of something**

**perceive something** I perceived a change in his behaviour.

**perceive that...** She perceived that all was not well.

**perceive somebody/something to be/have something** The patient was perceived to have difficulty in breathing.

**2 to understand or think of somebody/something in a particular way**

**Synonym: see**

**perceive somebody/something/yourself (as something)**

*This discovery was perceived as a major breakthrough.*

*She did not perceive herself as disabled.*

*A science degree and artistic interests are often perceived as incompatible.*

**perceive somebody/something to be/have something**

*They were widely perceived to have been unlucky.*

### Perish

VERB

**1 to die, especially in a sudden violent way**

*A family of four perished in the fire.*

*Thousands perished at the hands of the invading forces.*

**2 to be lost or destroyed**

*Early buildings were made of wood and have perished.*

**3 perish (something if a material such as rubber perishes or is perished, it becomes damaged, weaker or full of holes)**

### Perpetuate

VERB

**perpetuate something (formal) to make something such as a bad situation, a belief, etc. continue for a long time**

*to perpetuate injustice*

*This system perpetuated itself for several centuries.*

*Comics tend to perpetuate the myth that 'boys don't cry'.*

**perpetuation: noun**

### Prerequisite

NOUN

**prerequisite (for/of/to something) something that must exist or happen before something else can happen or be done**

**Synonym: precondition**

*A degree is an essential prerequisite for employment at this level.*

*Flexibility of approach is an important prerequisite to successful learning.*

Prerequisite: adjective

*prerequisite knowledge*



**Perquisite**

NOUN

**perquisite (of somebody)** something to which somebody has a special right because of their social position*Politics used to be the perquisite of the property-owning classes.***Personnel**

NOUN

**1 the people who work for an organization or one of the armed forces***skilled personnel**sales/technical/medical/security/military, etc. personnel***2 the department in a company that deals with employing and training people****Synonym:**human resources*the personnel department/manager**She works in personnel.**Personnel is/are currently reviewing pay scales.***Perturb**

VERB

**perturb somebody** to make somebody worried or anxious**Synonym:**alarm*Her sudden appearance did not seem to perturb him in the least.**I was perturbed by his lack of interest.***perturbed: adjective***a perturbed young man***perturbed at/about something** She didn't seem perturbed at the change of plan.**Pervade**

VERB

**pervade something (formal)** to spread through and be noticeable in every part of something**Synonym:**permeate*a pervading mood of fear**the sadness that pervades most of her novels**The entire house was pervaded by a sour smell.***Pervasive**

ADJECTIVE

existing in all parts of a place or thing; spreading gradually to affect all parts of a place or thing

*a pervasive smell of damp**Her influence is all-pervasive (= it affects everyone and everything).**A sense of social change is pervasive in her novels.***Pervert**

VERB

**1 pervert something** to change a system, process, etc. in a bad way so that it is not what it used to be or what it should be*Some scientific discoveries have been perverted to create weapons of destruction.***2 pervert somebody/something** to affect somebody in a way that makes them act or think in an immoral or unacceptable way**Synonym:**corrupt*Some people believe that television can pervert the minds of children.***Pessimistic**

ADJECTIVE

**pessimistic (about something)** expecting bad things to happen or something not to be successful; showing this*They appeared surprisingly pessimistic about their chances of winning.**a pessimistic view of life**I think you're being far too pessimistic.***Petition**

NOUN

**1 petition (against/for something)** a written document signed by a large number of people that asks somebody in a position of

authority to do or change something

*a petition against experiments on animals*

*The workers are getting up (= starting) a petition for tighter safety standards.*

*Councillors were presented with a petition calling for more money to be spent on policing the area.*

**2 (law) an official document asking a court to take a particular course of action**

*a bankruptcy petition*

*Her husband has already filed a petition for divorce.*

**3 a formal prayer to God or request to somebody in authority**

**Petition**

VERB

**1 to make a formal request to somebody in authority, especially by sending them a petition**

**petition for/against something** Local residents have successfully petitioned against the sitting of a prison in their area.

**petition somebody/something (for something)** The group intends to petition Parliament for reform of the law.

**petition somebody/something to do something** Parents petitioned the school to review its admission policy.

**2 petition (somebody) (for something) | petition somebody/something to do something to formally ask for something in court**

*to petition for divorce*

**Piety**

NOUN

the state of having or showing a deep respect for somebody/something, especially for God and religion; the state of being pious

**Pivotal**

ADJECTIVE

of great importance because other things depend on it

*a pivotal role in European affairs*

*Accountancy, law and economics are pivotal to a successful career in any financial services area.*

**Plaintive**

ADJECTIVE

sounding sad, especially in a weak complaining way

**Synonym: mournful**

*a plaintive cry/voice*

**plaintively: adverb**

*'What about me?' she asked plaintively.*

**Plea**

NOUN

**1 an urgent emotional request**

**plea (for something)** She made an impassioned plea for help.

**plea (to somebody) (to do something)** a plea to industries to stop pollution

**He refused to listen to her tearful pleas.**

**2 (law) a statement made by somebody or for somebody who is accused of a crime**

*a plea of guilty/not guilty*

*to enter a guilty plea*

**3 plea of something (law) a reason given to a court for doing or not doing something**

*He was charged with murder, but got off on a plea of insanity.*

**Pledge**

NOUN

**1 a serious promise**

**Synonym: commitment**

**pledge (of something) a pledge of support**

**pledge (to do something)** Will the government honour its election pledge not to raise taxes?

**pledge (that...)** Management has given a pledge that there will be no job losses this year.

**2 a sum of money or something valuable that you leave with somebody to prove that you will do something or pay back money that you owe**

**Plight**

NOUN

a difficult and sad situation

*the plight of the homeless**The African elephant is in a desperate plight.***Poise**

NOUN

**1 a calm and confident manner with control of your feelings or behaviour***His performance was full of maturity and poise.**She seemed embarrassed for a moment but quickly recovered her poise.***2 the ability to move or stand in an elegant way with good control of your body****Poise**

VERB

to be or hold something steady in a particular position, especially above something else

**+ adverb/preposition The hawk poised in mid-air ready to swoop.****poise something/yourself to do something He was poising himself to launch a final attack.****poise something/yourself + adverb/preposition She poised the javelin in her hand before the throw.****Pompous**

ADJECTIVE

showing that you think you are more important than other people, especially by using long and formal words

**Synonym:pretentious***a pompous official**His speech sounded very pompous and self-congratulatory.***pomposity:noun***The prince's manner was informal, without a trace of pomposity.***Pompously:adverb****Portent**

NOUN

a sign or warning of something that is going to happen in the future, especially when it is something unpleasant

*The event proved to be a portent of the disaster that was to come.**We shall try to reach an agreement but the portents are not good.***Portentous**

ADJECTIVE

**1 important as a sign or a warning of something that is going to happen in the future, especially when it is something unpleasant***a portentous sign***2 very serious and intended to impress people****Synonym:pompous***a portentous remark***portentously:adverb***She frowned portentously to add weight to her suggestion.***Portentiousness:noun****Portray**

VERB

**1 portray somebody/something to show somebody/something in a picture; to describe somebody/something in a piece of writing****Synonym:depict***The painting portrays the duke's third wife.**He was one of the first to portray animals from the New World.**His war poetry vividly portrays life in the trenches.***2 portray somebody/something (as somebody/something) to describe or show somebody/something in a particular way, especially when this does not give a complete or accurate impression of what they are like****Synonym:represent***Throughout the trial, he portrayed himself as the victim.*

**3 portray somebody/something to act a particular role in a film/movie or play**

**Synonym:play**

*Her father will be portrayed by Sean Connery.*

**Potency**

NOUN

**1 the power that somebody/something has to affect your body or mind**

*the potency of desire*

*If you keep a medicine too long, it may lose its potency.*

*a low potency drug*

**Pound**

VERB

**Hit**

**1 to hit something/somebody hard many times, especially in a way that makes a lot of noise**

**Synonym:hammer**

**pound at/against/on something** Heavy rain pounded on the roof.

All she could hear was the sound of waves pounding against the cliffs.

Someone was pounding at the door.

**pound away (at/against/on something)** The factory's machinery pounded away day and night.

**pound somebody/something (with something)** She pounded him with her fists.

**Walk noisily**

**2 + adverb/preposition to move with noisy steps**

*She pounded along the corridor after him.*

**Of heart/blood**

**3 to beat quickly and loudly**

*Her heart was pounding with excitement.*

*The blood was pounding (= making a beating noise) in his ears.*

*Her head began to pound.*

*a pounding headache*

**Break into pieces**

**4 pound something (to/into something) to hit something many times in order to break it into smaller pieces**

*The seeds were pounded to a fine powder.*

**Attack with bombs**

**5 pound something to attack an area with a large number of bombs over a period of time**

*The area is still being pounded by rebel guns.*

**Of music**

**6 pound (out) to be played loudly**

*Rock music was pounding out from the jukebox.*

**Pragmatic**

ADJECTIVE

solving problems in a practical and sensible way rather than by having fixed ideas or theories

**Synonym:realistic**

*a pragmatic approach to management problems*

**pragmatically:adverb**

*The company responded pragmatically to local conditions.*

**Preach**

VERB

**1 to give a religious talk in a public place, especially in a church during a service**

*She preached to the congregation about forgiveness.*

**preach something** The minister preached a sermon on the parable of the lost sheep.

**2 to tell people about a particular religion, way of life, system, etc. in order to persuade them to accept it**

**preach something to preach the word of God**

**He preached the virtues of capitalism to us.**

**preach (about something)** She preached about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

**3 to give somebody advice on moral standards, behaviour, etc, especially in a way that they find annoying or boring**

*I'm sorry, I didn't mean to preach.*

**preach at somebody** You're preaching at me again!

**Preamble**

NOUN

an introduction to a book or a written document; an introduction to something you say

*The aims of the treaty are stated in its preamble.**She gave him the bad news without preamble.***Precedent**

NOUN

**1 an official action or decision that has happened in the past and that is seen as an example or a rule to be followed in a similar situation later***The ruling set a precedent for future libel cases.***2 a similar action or event that happened earlier***historical precedents**There is no precedent for a disaster of this scale.**Such protests are without precedent in recent history.***3 the way that things have always been done****Synonym: tradition***to break with precedent (= to do something in a different way)***OPPOSITE: Unprecedented**

that has never happened, been done or been known before

*The situation is unprecedented in modern times.**There were unprecedented scenes of violence in the city's main square.***Predict**

VERB

to say that something will happen in the future

**Synonym: forecast****predict something a reliable method of predicting earthquakes****Nobody could predict the outcome.****The party is predicting a majority of 20 seats.****predict what, whether, etc... It is impossible to predict what will happen.****predict (that)... She predicted (that) the election result would be close.****He predicted (that) it would be a smash hit.****it is predicted that... It was predicted that inflation would continue to fall.****somebody/something is predicted to do something The trial is predicted to last for months.****This figure is predicted to rise to one billion by the year 2015.****Preservative**

NOUN

a substance used to prevent food or wood from decaying

*The juice contains no artificial preservatives.**wood preservative*

Preservative: adjective

*the preservative effects of freezing***P r e s e r v e**

VERB

**1 preserve something to keep a particular quality, feature, etc; to make sure that something is kept***He was anxious to preserve his reputation.**Efforts to preserve the peace have failed.**She managed to preserve her sense of humour under very trying circumstances.***2 to keep something in its original state in good condition****preserve something/somebody a perfectly preserved 14th century house***(humorous) Is he really 60? He's remarkably well preserved.***preserve something + adjective This vase has been preserved intact.****3 preserve something to prevent something, especially food, from decaying by treating it in a particular way***olives preserved in brine**Wax polish preserves wood and leather.***4 preserve somebody/something (from something) to keep somebody/something alive, or safe from harm or danger**

**Synonym:save**

*The society was set up to preserve endangered species from extinction.*

**Prevail**

VERB

**1 prevail (in/among something) to exist or be very common at a particular time or in a particular place**

*We were horrified at the conditions prevailing in local prisons.*

*Those beliefs still prevail among certain social groups.*

**2 prevail (against/over something) (of ideas, opinions, etc.) to be accepted, especially after a struggle or an argument**

**Synonym:triumph**

*Justice will prevail over tyranny.*

*Fortunately, common sense prevailed.*

**3 prevail (against/over somebody) to defeat an opponent, especially after a long struggle**

**Prime**

ADJECTIVE

**1 main; most important; basic**

*My prime concern is to protect my property.*

*Winning is not the prime objective in this sport.*

*The care of the environment is of prime importance.*

**2 of the best quality; excellent**

*He's the police's prime suspect in this case.*

*prime (cuts of) beef*

*The store has a prime position in the mall.*

**3 a prime example of something is one that is typical of it**

*The building is a prime example of 1960s architecture.*

**4 most likely to be chosen for something; most suitable**

*The house is isolated and a prime target for burglars.*

*He's a prime candidate for promotion.*

**Privilege**

NOUN

**1 a special right or advantage that a particular person or group of people has**

*Education should be a universal right and not a privilege.*

*You can enjoy all the benefits and privileges of club membership.*

*Try not to abuse the privilege of being allowed more freedom.*

**2 the rights and advantages that rich and powerful people in a society have**

*As a member of the nobility, his life had been one of wealth and privilege.*

**3 something that you are proud and lucky to have the opportunity to do**

**Synonym:honour**

*I hope to have the privilege of working with them again.*

*It was a great privilege to hear her sing.*

**4 a special right to do or say things without being punished**

*Parliamentary privilege (= the special right of members of parliament to say particular things without risking legal action)breach of privilege (= the breaking of rules about what a member of parliament can say and do)*

**Profess**

VERB

**1 to claim that something is true or correct, especially when it is not**

**profess something** *She still professes her innocence.*

**profess to be/have something** *I don't profess to be an expert in this subject.*

**2 to state openly that you have a particular belief, feeling, etc.**

**Synonym:declare**

**profess something** *He professed his admiration for their work.*

**profess yourself + adjective** *She professed herself satisfied with the progress so far.*

**3 profess something to belong to a particular religion**

*to profess Christianity/Islam/Judaism*

**Profound**

ADJECTIVE

**1 very great; felt or experienced very strongly**  
*profound changes in the earth's climate*  
*My father's death had a profound effect on us all.*  
*The news came as a profound shock.*  
*The report has profound implications for schools.*

**2 showing great knowledge or understanding**  
*Her sense of disappointment was profound.*

*profound insights*

*a profound book*

**3 needing a lot of study or thought**  
*profound questions about life and death*

**4 (medical) very serious; complete**  
*profound disability*

### **Proliferate**

VERB

to increase rapidly in number or amount

**Synonym: multiply**

*Books and articles on the subject have proliferated over the last year*

### **Proliferation**

NOUN

the sudden increase in the number or amount of something; a large number of a particular thing

*attempts to prevent cancer cell proliferation*

*a proliferation of personal computers*

### **Prolong**

VERB

**prolong something to make something last longer**

**Synonym: extend**

*The operation could prolong his life by two or three years.*

*Don't prolong the agony (= of not knowing something) —just tell us who won!*

### **Prominent**

ADJECTIVE

**1 important or well known**

*a prominent politician*

*He played a prominent part in the campaign.*

*She was prominent in the fashion industry.*

**2 easily seen**

**Synonym: noticeable**

*The church tower was a prominent feature in the landscape.*

*The story was given a prominent position on the front page.*

**3 sticking out from something**

*a prominent nose*

*prominent cheekbones*

**prominently :adverb**

*The photographs were prominently displayed on her desk.*

*Problems of family relationships feature prominently in her novels.*

### **Promote**

VERB

**1 promote something to help something to happen or develop**

**Synonym: encourage**

*policies to promote economic growth*

*a campaign to promote awareness of environmental issues*

**2 to help sell a product, service, etc. or make it more popular by advertising it or offering it at a special price**

**promote something** *The band has gone on tour to promote their new album.*

**promote something as something** *The area is being promoted as a tourist destination.*

**3 to move somebody to a higher rank or more senior job**

**promote somebody** She worked hard and was soon promoted.

**promote somebody (from something) (to something)** He has been promoted to sergeant.

**Opposite: demote**

**4 promote something (from something) (to something) to move a sports team from playing with one group of teams to playing in a better group**

*They were promoted to the First Division last season.*

**Opposite:relegate**

**Protest**

VERB

the expression of strong disagreement with or opposition to something; a statement or an action that shows this

*The director resigned in protest at the decision.*

*The announcement raised a storm of protest.*

*a protest march*

*She accepted the charge without protest.*

**protest (against something)** The workers staged a protest against the proposed changes in their contracts.

**The building work will go ahead, despite protests from local residents.**

**The riot began as a peaceful protest.**

**Provision**

NOUN

**1 the act of supplying somebody with something that they need or want; something that is supplied**

*housing provision*

*The government is responsible for the provision of health care.*

*There is no provision for anyone to sit down here.*

*The provision of specialist teachers is being increased.*

**2 provision for somebody/something preparations that you make for something that might or will happen in the future**

*He had already made provisions for (= planned for the financial future of) his wife and children before the accident.*

*You should make provision for things going wrong.*

*Small businesses are advised to make adequate provisions against bad debts.*

*The plans for developing the area include provision for both water and field sports.*

**3 provisions supplies of food and drink, especially for a long journey**

*We have enough provisions to last us two weeks.*

**4 a condition or an arrangement in a legal document**

*Under the provisions of the lease, the tenant is responsible for repairs.*

**Provision**

VERB

**provision somebody/something (with something) to supply somebody/something with enough of something, especially food, to last for a particular period of time**

**Provoke**

VERB

**1 provoke something to cause a particular reaction or have a particular effect**

*The announcement provoked a storm of protest.*

*The article was intended to provoke discussion.*

*Dairy products may provoke allergic reactions in some people.*

**2 provoke somebody (into something/into doing something)| provoke somebody to do something to say or do something that you know will annoy somebody so that they react in an angry way**

**Synonym: goad**

*The lawyer claimed his client was provoked into acts of violence by the defendant.*

*Be careful what you say—he's easily provoked.*

**Pursuit**

NOUN

**1 pursuit of something the act of looking for or trying to find something**

*the pursuit of happiness/knowledge/profit*

*She travelled the world in pursuit of her dreams.*

**2 the act of following or chasing somebody**

*We drove away with two police cars in pursuit (= following).*

*I galloped off on my horse with Rosie in hot pursuit (= following quickly behind).*



**3 something that you give your time and energy to, that you do as a hobby**

**Synonym:**hobby, pastime

*outdoor/leisure/artistic pursuits*

**Puzzle**

VERB

**puzzle somebody to make somebody feel confused because they do not understand something**

**Synonym:**baffle

*What puzzles me is why he left the country without telling anyone.*

**puzzling:adjective**

*one of the most puzzling aspects of the crime*

**Puzzle**

NOUN

**1 a game, etc. that you have to think about carefully in order to answer it or do it**

*a crossword puzzle*

*a book of puzzles for children*

**2 (especially North American English) = jigsaw**

**3 something that is difficult to understand or explain**

**Synonym:**mystery

*The deeper meaning of the poem remains a puzzle.*

*The detectives were beginning to solve the murder. All the pieces in the puzzle were falling neatly into place.*

**Queer**

ADJECTIVE

**queerer, queerest**

**1 strange or unusual**

**Synonym:**odd

*His face was a queer pink colour.*

*She had a queer feeling that she was being watched.*

**2 (taboo, slang) an offensive way of describing a homosexual, especially a man, which is, however, also used by some homosexuals about themselves**

**Rabid**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (of a type of person) having very strong feelings about something and acting in an unacceptable way**

*rabid right-wing fanatics*

*the rabid tabloid press*

**2 (of feelings or opinions) violent or extreme**

*rabid speculation*

**3 suffering from rabies**

*a rabid dog*

**rabidly:adverb**

*She is as rabidly anti-smoking as only a recently cured addict can be.*

**Radical**

ADJECTIVE

**1 concerning the most basic and important parts of something; thorough and complete**

**Synonym**

**far-reaching**

*the need for radical changes in education*

*demands for radical reform of the law*

*radical differences between the sexes*

**2 new, different and likely to have a great effect**

*radical ideas*

*a radical solution to the problem*

*radical proposals*

**3 in favour of thorough and complete political or social change**

*the radical wing of the party*

*radical politicians/students/writers*

**Rapport**

NOUN

**rapport (with somebody) | rapport (between A and B) a friendly relationship in which people understand each other very well***She understood the importance of establishing a close rapport with clients.**Honesty is essential if there is to be good rapport between patient and therapist.**There was little rapport between the two women.***Rare**

ADJECTIVE

**1 not done, seen, happening, etc. very often***a rare disease/occurrence/sight**This weekend, visitors will get a rare chance to visit the private apartments.***rare (for somebody/something to do something) It's extremely rare for it to be this hot in April.****rare (to do something) It is rare to find such loyalty these days.***On the rare occasions when they met he hardly even dared speak to her.**It was a rare (= very great) honour to be made a fellow of the college.***2 existing only in small numbers and therefore valuable or interesting***a rare book/coin/stamp**a rare breed/plant**This species is extremely rare.***Rational**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (of behaviour, ideas, etc.) based on reason rather than emotions***a rational argument/choice/decision**rational analysis/thought**There is no rational explanation for his actions.***2 (of a person) able to think clearly and make decisions based on reason rather than emotions****Synonym: reasonable***No rational person would ever behave like that.***Opposite: irrational****rationality: noun***the rationality of his argument***rationally: adverb***to act/behave/think rationally**She argued her case calmly and rationally.***Rationale**

NOUN

**rationale (behind/for/of something) (formal) the principles or reasons which explain a particular decision, course of action, belief, etc.****Synonym: reason***What is the rationale behind these new exams?***Realm**

NOUN

**1 an area of activity, interest, or knowledge***in the realm of literature**At the end of the speech he seemed to be moving into the realms of fantasy.***2 a country ruled by a king or queen****Synonym: kingdom***the defence of the realm***Rear**

NOUN

**1 (usually the rear) the back part of something***A trailer was attached to the rear of the truck.**There are toilets at both front and rear of the plane.**A high gate blocks the only entrance to the rear.*

**2 (also rear end) [countable, usually singular] (informal) the part of the body that you sit on**

**Synonym:bottom**

*a kick in the rear*

*He spends all day sitting on his rear end in front of a computer.*

**Rebel**

**NOUN**

**1 a person who fights against the government of their country**

*rebel forces*

*Armed rebels advanced towards the capital.*

*Some parts of the country fell into rebel hands.*

**2 a person who opposes somebody in authority over them within an organization, a political party, etc**

*A number of Tory rebels are planning to vote against the government.*

**3 a person who does not like to obey rules or who does not accept normal standards of behaviour, dress, etc**

*I've always been the rebel of the family.*

*He was a rebel in his teens but he's a respectable citizen these days.*

**Rebel**

**VERB**

**rebel (against somebody/something) to fight against or refuse to obey an authority, for example a government, a system, your parents, etc**

*He later rebelled against his strict religious upbringing.*

*Most teenagers find something to rebel against.*

**Rebuke**

**VERB**

**rebuke somebody (for something/for doing something) (formal) to speak severely to somebody because they have done something wrong**

**Synonym:reprimand**

*The company was publicly rebuked for having neglected safety procedures.*

*She rebuked herself for her stupidity.*

**Rebuke:noun**

*He was silenced by her stinging rebuke.*

*She answered with no hint of rebuke.*

**Recommend**

**VERB**

**1 to tell somebody that something is good or useful, or that somebody would be suitable for a particular job, etc**

**recommend somebody/something** Can you recommend a good hotel?

**recommend somebody/something (to somebody) (for/as something)** I recommend the book to all my students.

**She was recommended for the post by a colleague.**

**The hotel's new restaurant comes highly recommended (= a lot of people have praised it).**

**2 to advise a particular course of action; to advise somebody to do something**

**recommend something** The report recommended a 10% pay increase.

**It is dangerous to exceed the recommended dose.**

**a recommended price of \$50** **recommend (that)... I recommend (that) he see a lawyer.**

**I recommend (that) he should see a lawyer.**

**it is recommended that... It is strongly recommended that the machines should be checked every year.**

**recommend somebody to do something** We'd recommend you to book your flight early.

**recommend (somebody) doing something** He recommended reading the book before seeing the movie.

**recommend how, what, etc... Can you recommend how much we should charge?**

**3 recommend somebody/something (to somebody) to make somebody/something seem attractive or good**

**Synonym:commend**

*This system has much to recommend it.*

**Reconcile**

**VERB**

**1 reconcile something (with something) to find an acceptable way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that seem to be opposed to each other**

*an attempt to reconcile the need for industrial development with concern for the environment*

*It was hard to reconcile his career ambitions with the needs of his children.*

**2 to make people become friends again after an argument or a disagreement**

**reconcile somebody** The pair were reconciled after Jackson made a public apology.

**reconcile somebody with somebody** He has recently been reconciled with his wife.

**3 reconcile somebody/yourself (to something) to make somebody/yourself accept an unpleasant situation because it is not possible to change it**

**Synonym: resign yourself to**

*He could not reconcile himself to the prospect of losing her.*

**reconcilable: adjective**

### **Reconciliation**

**NOUN**

**1 reconciliation (between A and B) | reconciliation (with somebody)** an end to a disagreement and the start of a good relationship again

*Their change of policy brought about a reconciliation with Britain.*

**2 reconciliation (between A and B) | reconciliation (with something)** the process of making it possible for two different ideas, facts, etc. to exist together without being opposed to each other

*the reconciliation between environment and development*

### **Rectify**

**VERB**

**rectify something to put right something that is wrong**

**Synonym: correct**

*to rectify a fault*

*We must take steps to rectify the situation.*

**rectifiable: adjective**

*The damage will be easily rectifiable.*

**Rectification: noun**

### **Redemption**

**NOUN**

**1 the act of saving or state of being saved from the power of evil; the act of redeeming**

*the redemption of the world from sin*

**2 the act of exchanging shares for money (= of redeeming them)**

### **Reduce**

**VERB**

**1 to make something less or smaller in size, quantity, price, etc**

**reduce something** Reduce speed now (= on a sign).

**Giving up smoking reduces the risk of heart disease.**

**reduce something by something** Costs have been reduced by 20% over the past year.

**reduce something (from something) (to something)** The number of employees was reduced from 40 to 25.

**The skirt was reduced to £10 in the sale.**

**2 reduce (something) if you reduce** a liquid or a liquid reduces, you boil it so that it becomes less in quantity

**3 to lose weight by limiting the amount and type of food that you eat**

*a reducing plan*

**4] reduce something (chemistry) to add one or more electrons to a substance or to remove oxygen from a substance**

### **Regime**

**NOUN**

**1 a method or system of government, especially one that has not been elected in a fair way**

*a fascist/totalitarian/military, etc. regime*

*an oppressive/brutal regime*

**2 a method or system of organizing or managing something**

*Our tax regime is one of the most favourable in Europe.*

### **Rehabilitate**

**VERB**

**1 rehabilitate somebody to help somebody to have a normal, useful life again after they have been very ill/sick or in prison for a long time**

*a unit for rehabilitating drug addicts*

**2 rehabilitate somebody (as something) to begin to consider that somebody is good or acceptable after a long period during which they were considered bad or unacceptable**

*He played a major role in rehabilitating Magritte as an artist.*

**3 rehabilitate something to return a building or an area to its previous good condition**

*Billions of pounds are being spent on rehabilitating inner-city areas.*

**rehabilitation: noun**

*a drug rehabilitation centre*

*the rehabilitation of the steel industry*

**Relentless**

ADJECTIVE

1 not stopping or getting less strong

Synonym: unrelenting

*her relentless pursuit of perfection*

*The sun was relentless.*

2 refusing to give up or be less strict or severe

*a relentless enemy*

relentlessly: adverb

**Relic**

NOUN

**1 relic (of/from something) an object, a tradition, a system, etc. that has survived from the past**

*The building stands as the last remaining relic of the town's cotton industry.*

*Videotapes may already seem like relics of a bygone era.*

*The pictures on the walls were relics from the days before her marriage.*

*Our transportation system is a relic of the past.*

**2 a part of the body or clothing of a holy person, or something that they owned, that is kept after their death and respected as a religious object**

*holy relics*

**Relieve**

VERB

**1 relieve something to remove or reduce an unpleasant feeling or pain**

*to relieve the symptoms of a cold*

*to relieve anxiety/guilt/stress*

*Being able to tell the truth at last seemed to relieve her.*

**2 relieve something to make a problem less serious**

Synonym: alleviate

*efforts to relieve poverty*

*to relieve traffic congestion*

**3 relieve something to make something less boring, especially by introducing something different**

*We played cards to relieve the boredom of the long wait.*

*The black and white pattern is relieved by tiny coloured flowers.*

**4 relieve somebody to replace somebody who is on duty**

*to relieve a sentry*

*You'll be relieved at six o'clock.* 5 **relieve something to free a town, etc. from an enemy army that has surrounded it**

**6 relieve yourself a polite way of referring to going to the toilet**

*I had to relieve myself behind a bush.*

**Relish**

VERB

to get great pleasure from something; to want very much to do or have something

Synonym: enjoy

**relish something to relish a fight/challenge/debate**

**to relish the idea/thought of something**

**I don't relish the prospect of getting up early tomorrow.**

**relish (somebody/something) doing something Nobody relishes cleaning the oven.**

**Rely**

VERB

**1 to need or depend on somebody/something**

*As babies, we rely entirely on others for food.*

**rely to do something** These days we rely heavily on computers to organize our work.

**rely doing something** The industry relies on the price of raw materials remaining low.

**2 to trust or have faith in somebody/something**

*You should rely on your own judgement.*

**rely to do something** You can rely on me to keep your secret.

**He can't be relied on to tell the truth.**

**Remedy**

NOUN

plural remedies **1** a way of dealing with or improving an unpleasant or difficult situation

**Synonym:solution**

**remedy (for something)** There is no simple remedy for unemployment.

**remedy (to something)** There are a number of possible remedies to this problem.

**2 a treatment or medicine to cure a disease or reduce pain that is not very serious**

*a herbal remedy*

**remedy for something** an excellent home remedy for sore throats

**3 remedy (against something) (law)** a way of dealing with a problem, using the processes of the law

**Synonym:redress**

*Holding copyright provides the only legal remedy against unauthorized copying.*

*What's my remedy in law in this case?*

**Remedy**

VERB

remedies, remedying, remedied, remedied

**remedy something to correct or improve something**

**Synonym:put right**

*to remedy a problem*

*This situation is easily remedied.*

**Renaissance**

NOUN

**1 the Renaissance** the period in Europe during the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries when people became interested in the ideas and culture of ancient Greece and Rome and used these influences in their own art, literature, etc

*Renaissance art*

**2 a situation when there is new interest in a particular subject, form of art, etc. after a period when it was not very popular**

**Synonym:revival**

*The British film industry is currently enjoying something of a renaissance.*

*to experience a renaissance*

**Render**

VERB

**cause somebody/something to be something**

**1 render somebody/something + adjective to cause somebody/something to be in a particular state or condition**

**Synonym:make**

*to render something harmless/useless/ineffective*

*Hundreds of people were rendered homeless by the earthquake.*

**give help**

**2 to give somebody something, especially in return for something or because it is expected**

**render something to somebody/something** They rendered assistance to the disaster victims.

**to render a service to somebody**

**render somebody something to render somebody a service**

**render something** It was payment for services rendered.

**present something**

**3 render something to present something, especially when it is done officially**

**Synonym:furnish**

*The committee was asked to render a report on the housing situation.*

**express/perform**

**4 render something (formal) to express or perform something**

*He stood up and rendered a beautiful version of 'Summertime'.*

*The artist has rendered the stormy sea in dark greens and browns.*

**translate**

**5 to express something in a different language**

**Synonym:translate**

**render something (as something)** The Italian phrase can be rendered as 'I did my best'.

**render something (into something)** It's a concept that is difficult to render into English.

**wall**

**6 render something (British English, technical) to cover a wall with a layer of plaster or cement**

**melt**

**7 render something (down) to make fat liquid by heating it; to melt something**

**Repatriate**

VERB

**1 repatriate somebody to send or bring somebody back to their own country**

*The refugees were forcibly repatriated.*

*The insurance will cover the costs of repatriating you and your family in the case of an accident.*

**2 repatriate something (business) to send money or profits back to your own country**

*An agreement between the countries enables companies to repatriate their profits freely.*

**repatriation:noun**

*the repatriation of immigrants/profits*

*a voluntary repatriation programme*

**Repudiate**

VERB

**1 repudiate something to refuse to accept something**

**Synonym:reject**

*to repudiate a suggestion*

*Socialism had been repudiated at the polls.*

**2 repudiate something to say officially and/or publicly that something is not true**

**Synonym:deny**

*to repudiate a report*

**3 repudiate somebody to refuse to be connected with somebody any longer**

**Synonym:disown**

*He repudiated his first wife and married her sister.*

**repudiation:noun**

*the repudiation of a claim*

**Repulse**

VERB

**1 repulse somebody to make somebody feel disgust or strong dislike**

**Synonym:repel**

*I was repulsed by the horrible smell.*

**2 repulse somebody/something to fight somebody who is attacking you and drive them away**

**Synonym:repel**

*to repulse an attack/invasion/offensive*

**3 repulse somebody/something to refuse to accept somebody's help, attempts to be friendly, etc.**

**Synonym:reject**

*Each time I tried to help I was repulsed.*

*She repulsed his advances.*

**Resign**

VERB

to officially tell somebody that you are leaving your job, an organization, etc

**resign (as something)** He resigned as manager after eight years.

**resign (from something)** Two members resigned from the board in protest.

**resign something** My father resigned his directorship last year.

## Resolution

NOUN

**1 a formal statement of an opinion agreed on by a committee or a council, especially by means of a vote**

*to pass/adopt/carry a resolution*

*The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling for a halt to hostilities.*

**2 the act of solving or settling a problem, disagreement, etc.**

**Synonym: settlement**

*The government is pressing for an early resolution of the dispute.*

**3 the quality of being resolute or determined**

**Synonym: resolve**

*The reforms owe a great deal to the resolution of one man.*

*Her resolution never faltered.*

**4 resolution (to do something) a firm decision to do or not to do something**

*She made a resolution to visit her relatives more often.*

*Have you made any New Year's resolutions (= for example, to give up smoking from 1 January)?*

**5 the power of a computer screen, printer, etc. to give a clear image, depending on the size of the dots that make up the image**

*high-resolution graphics*

## Resolve

NOUN

strong determination to achieve something

**Synonym: resolution**

*The difficulties in her way merely strengthened her resolve.*

*It was a test of his stamina and resolve.*

*She did not weaken in her resolve.*

**resolve to do something** The government reiterated its resolve to uncover the truth.

## Resolve

VERB

**1 resolve something/itself to find an acceptable solution to a problem or difficulty**

**Synonym: settle**

*to resolve an issue/a dispute/a conflict/a crisis*

*Attempts are being made to resolve the problem of security in schools.*

*Both sides met in order to try to resolve their differences.*

*Be patient and the situation may resolve itself.*

**2 to make a firm decision to do something**

**resolve to do something** He resolved not to tell her the truth.

**resolve (that)...** She resolved (that) she would never see him again.

**resolve on something/on doing something** We had resolved on making an early start.

**3 (of a committee, meeting, etc.) to reach a decision by means of a formal vote**

**it is resolved that...** It was resolved that the matter be referred to a higher authority.

**resolve that...** They resolved that the matter be referred to a higher authority.

**resolve to do something** The Supreme Council resolved to resume control over the national press.

## Resonance

NOUN

**1 (of sound) the quality of being resonant**

*Her voice had a strange and thrilling resonance.*

**2 the sound or other vibration produced in an object by sound or vibrations of a similar frequency from another object**

**3 (in a piece of writing, music, etc.) the power to bring images, feelings, etc. into the mind of the person reading or listening; the images, etc. produced in this way**

## Resonate

VERB

**1 (of a voice, an instrument, etc.) to make a deep, clear sound that continues for a long time**

*Her voice resonated through the theatre.*

**2 (of a place) to be filled with sound; to make a sound continue longer**

**Synonym: resound**

*a resonating chamber*



**resonate with something** The room resonated with the chatter of 100 people.

**3 resonate (with somebody/something) to remind somebody of something; to be similar to what somebody thinks or believes**

*These issues resonated with the voters.*

*His speech resonated with the fears and suspicions of his audience.*

## Resort

VERB

**1 a place where a lot of people go on holiday/vacation**

*seaside/ski/mountain, etc. resorts*

*a popular holiday resort*

*the resort town of Byron Bay*

**2 resort to something the act of using something, especially something bad or unpleasant, because nothing else is possible**

**Synonym:recourse**

*There are hopes that the conflict can be resolved without resort to violence.*

**3 the first/last/final resort the first or last course of action that you should or can take in a particular situation**

*Strike action should be regarded as a last resort, when all attempts to negotiate have failed.*

*In the last resort (= in the end) everyone must decide for themselves.*

## Resort

VERB

**resort to something**

to make use of something, especially something bad, as a means of achieving something, often because there is no other possible solution

**Synonym:have recourse to**

*They felt obliged to resort to violence.*

**resort doing something** We may have to resort to using untrained staff.

## Restraint

NOUN

**1 restraint (on somebody/something) a rule, a fact, an idea, etc. that limits or controls what people can do**

*The government has imposed export restraints on some products.*

*social restraints on drinking alcohol*

**2 the act of controlling or limiting something because it is necessary or sensible to do so**

*wage restraint*

*They said that they would fight without restraint (= completely freely) for what they wanted.*

**3 the quality of behaving calmly and with control**

**Synonym:self-control**

*The police appealed to the crowd for restraint.*

*He exercised considerable restraint in ignoring the insults.*

**4 the use of physical force to control somebody who is behaving in a violent way**

*the physical restraint of prisoners*

**5 a type of seat belt or safety device**

*Children must use an approved child restraint or adult seat belt.*

## Retain

VERB

**1 retain something to keep something; to continue to have something**

**Synonym:preserve**

*to retain your independence*

*He struggled to retain control of the situation.*

*The house retains much of its original charm.*

*She retained her tennis title for the third year.*

**2 retain something to continue to hold or contain something**

*a soil that retains moisture*

*This information is no longer retained within the computer's main memory.*

*She has a good memory and finds it easy to retain facts.*

**3 retain somebody/something (law) if a member of the public retains somebody such as a lawyer, he or she pays money regularly or in advance so the lawyer, etc. will do work for him or her**

*a retaining fee*

*to retain the services of a lawyer*

**Retrench**

VERB

**1 (of a business, government, etc.) to spend less money; to reduce costs****2 retrench somebody to tell somebody that they cannot continue working for you****retrenchment: noun***a period of retrenchment***Reveal**

Verb

**1 to make something known to somebody****Synonym: disclose**

reveal something (to somebody) to reveal a secret

Details of the murder were revealed by the local paper.

The doctors did not reveal the truth to him.

Salted peanuts were recently revealed as the nation's favourite snack.

~~Her expression revealed nothing.~~ reveal (that)... The report reveals (that) the company made a loss of £20 million last year.

it is revealed that... It was revealed that important evidence had been suppressed.

reveal how, what, etc... Officers could not reveal how he died.

reveal somebody/something to be/have something Salted peanuts were recently revealed to be the nation's favourite snack.

**2 to show something that previously could not be seen****Synonym: display**

reveal something He laughed, revealing a line of white teeth.

The door opened to reveal a cosy little room.

X-rays revealed a fracture.

reveal yourself She crouched in the dark, too frightened to reveal herself.

**Revert**

VERB

**(+ adverb/preposition) to reply***Excellent openings—kindly revert with your updated CV.**We request you to kindly revert back if you have any further requirements.***Phrasal verbs****revert to somebody/something (of property, rights, etc.) to return to the original owner again see also reversion****revert to something****1 to return to a former state; to start doing something again that you used to do in the past***After her divorce she reverted to her maiden name.**His manner seems to have reverted to normal.**Try not to revert to your old eating habits.**He reverted to his native language (= started using it again).**The house was a school for a while, but has reverted to being a private house.**The area has reverted back to a wilderness.***2 to return to an earlier topic or subject** ~~For a while the children behaved well but they soon reverted to type (= returned to their usual ways).~~*So, to revert to your earlier question...**The conversation kept reverting to the events of March 6th***Revive**

VERB

**1 to become, or to make somebody/something become, conscious or healthy and strong again***The flowers soon revived in water.**The economy is beginning to revive*

revive somebody/something The paramedics couldn't revive her.

This movie is intended to revive her flagging career.

Attempts to revive him failed.

**2 revive something to make something start being used or done again***This quaint custom should be revived.**She has been trying to revive the debate over equal pay.*

*The poor trade figures have revived fears of higher interest rates.*

**3 revive something to produce again a play, etc. that has not been performed for some time**

*This 1930s musical is being revived at the National Theatre.*

### **Revolt**

NOUN

a protest against authority, especially that of a government, often involving violence; the action of protesting against authority

**Synonym: uprising**

*the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 to lead/stage a revolt*

*The army quickly crushed the revolt.*

*the biggest back-bench revolt this government has ever seen*

*Attempts to negotiate peace ended in armed revolt. (formal) The people rose in revolt.*

### **Revolt**

VERB

**1 to take violent action against the people in power**

**Synonym: rebel, rise up**

*The peasants threatened to revolt.*

**revolt against somebody/something Finally the people revolted against the military dictatorship.**

**2 revolt (against something) to behave in a way that is the opposite of what somebody expects of you, especially in protest**

**Synonym: rebel**

*Teenagers often revolt against parental discipline.*

**3 revolt somebody to make you feel horror or disgust**

**Synonym: disgust**

*All the violence in the movie revolted me.*

*The way he ate his food revolted me.*

### **Righteous**

ADJECTIVE

**1 morally right and good**

*a righteous God*

**2 that you think is morally acceptable or fair**

*righteous anger/indignation, etc.*

**righteously: adverb**

**righteousness: noun**

### **Rival**

NOUN

**rival (to somebody/something) (for something) a person, company, or thing that competes with another in sport, business, etc**

*The two teams have always been rivals.*

*The Japanese are our biggest economic rivals.*

*This latest design has no rivals (= it is easily the best design available).*

**Rival: adjective**

*a rival bid/claim/offer*

*fighting between rival groups*

*He was shot by a member of a rival gang.*

### **Rock**

NOUN

**hard material**

**1 the hard solid material that forms part of the surface of the earth and some other planets**

*They drilled through several layers of rock to reach the oil.*

*a cave with striking rock formations (= shapes made naturally from rock)*

*The tunnel was blasted out of solid rock.*

*volcanic/igneous/sedimentary, etc. rocks*

**2 a mass of rock standing above the earth's surface or in the sea/ocean**

*the Rock of Gibraltar*

*The ship crashed into the infamous Sker*

*Point rocks and broke into three pieces.*

**3 a large single piece of rock**

*They clambered over the rocks at the foot of the cliff.*

*The sign said 'Danger: falling rocks'.*

**stone**

**4 a small stone**

*Protesters pelted the soldiers with rocks.*

**music**

**5 (also rock music) a type of loud popular music, developed in the 1960s, with a strong beat played on electric guitars and drums**

*punk rock*

*a rock band/star*

**sweet/candy**

**6 a type of hard sweet/candy made in long sticks, often sold in places where people go on holiday/vacation by the sea/ocean**

*a stick of Brighton rock*

**jewel**

**7 a precious stone, especially a diamond**

**person**

**8 a person who is emotionally strong and who you can rely on**

*He is my rock.*

**Idioms**

(caught/stuck) between a rock and a hard place

in a situation where you have to choose between two things, both of which are unpleasant

get your rocks off

**1 to have an orgasm** **2 to do something that you really enjoy**

*He gets his rocks off listening to rap.*

on the rocks

**1 a relationship or business that is on the rocks is having difficulties and is likely to fail soon**

*Sue's marriage is on the rocks.* **2 (of drinks) served with pieces of ice but no water**

*Scotch on the rocks*

**Rock**

**VERB**

**move gently**

**1 to move gently backwards and forwards or from side to side; to make somebody/something move in this way**

(+ adverb/preposition) **The boat rocked from side to side in the waves.**

**She was rocking backwards and forwards in her seat.**

**rock somebody/something (+ adverb/preposition) He rocked the baby gently in his arms.**

**shock**

**2 rock somebody/something to shock somebody/something very much or make them afraid**

*The country was rocked by a series of political scandals.*

*The news rocked the world.*

**shake**

**3 to shake or to make something shake violently**

*The house rocked when the bomb exploded.*

**rock something The town was rocked by an earthquake.**

**The scandal rocked the government (= made the situation difficult for it).**

**dance**

**5 to dance to rock music**

**be good**

**5 something rocks used to say that something is very good**

*Her new movie rocks!*

**Idioms**

rock the boat

to do something that upsets a situation and causes problems

*She was told to keep her mouth shut and not rock the boat.*

**Rut**

**NOUN**

**1 a deep track that a wheel makes in soft ground**

*It was difficult to walk in the muddy ruts left by the tractor.*

**2 a boring way of life that does not change**

*I gave up my job because I felt I was stuck in a rut.*

*If you don't go out and meet new people, it's easy to get into a rut.*

**3 (also the rut) the time of year when male animals, especially deer, become sexually active**

*stags fighting during the rut*

**Ruthless**

ADJECTIVE

(of people or their behaviour) hard and cruel; determined to get what you want and not caring if you hurt other people  
*a ruthless dictator*

*The way she behaved towards him was utterly ruthless.*

*He has a ruthless determination to succeed.*

*We'll have to be ruthless if we want to make this company more efficient.*

**ruthlessly: adverb**

*I have to be ruthlessly honest with you.*

**Ruthlessness: noun**

**Salient**

ADJECTIVE

most important or noticeable

*She pointed out the salient features of the new design.*

*He summarized the salient points.*

**Salutary**

NOUN

having a good effect on somebody/something, though often seeming unpleasant  
*a salutary lesson/experience/warning*

*The accident was a salutary reminder of the dangers of climbing.*

*This would have a salutary effect upon the health of the family.*

**Salute**

VERB

**1 to touch the side of your head with the fingers of your right hand to show respect, especially in the armed forces**

*The sergeant stood to attention and saluted.*

**salute somebody/something to salute the flag/an officer**

**2 salute somebody/something (formal) to express respect and admiration for somebody/something**

**Synonym: acknowledge**

*The players saluted the fans before leaving the field.*

*The president saluted the courage of those who had fought for their country.*

**Salute**

NOUN

**1 the action of raising your right hand to the side of your head as a sign of respect, especially between soldiers and officers**

*He returned the salute as he passed the line of guards.*

**2 a thing that you say or do to show your admiration or respect for somebody/something or to welcome somebody**

*He raised his hat as a friendly salute.*

*His first words were a salute to the people of South Africa.*

*They all raised their glasses in salute.*

*The occasion was organized as a salute to a century of change.*

**3 an official occasion when guns are fired into the air to show respect for an important person**

*a 21-gun salute*

**Sanctimonious**

ADJECTIVE

giving the impression that you feel you are better and more moral than other people

**Synonym: self-righteous**

*a sanctimonious voice*

*I wish she'd stop being so sanctimonious.*

**sanctimoniously: adverb**

*his sanctimoniously paternal style*

**sanctimoniousness: noun**

**Satire**

NOUN

a way of criticizing a person, an idea or an institution in which you use humour to show their faults or weaknesses; a piece of writing that uses this type of criticism

**political/social satire**

*a work full of savage/biting satire*

*The novel is a stinging satire on American politics.*

### **Savior**

NOUN

(SAVIOR/SAVIOUR)

**1 a person who rescues somebody/something from a dangerous or difficult situation**

*The new manager has been hailed as the saviour of the club.*

**2 the Saviour used in the Christian religion as another name for Jesus Christ**

### **Scaffold**

NOUN

**1 a platform used when executing criminals by cutting off their heads or hanging them from a rope**

*to die on the scaffold*

*to be sent to the scaffold*

**2 a structure made of scaffolding, for workers to stand on when they are working on a building**

### **Scarcity**

NOUN

if there is a scarcity of something, there is not enough of it and it is difficult to obtain it

**Synonym:shortage**

*a time of scarcity*

*a scarcity of resources*

### **Scenario**

NOUN

**1 a description of how things might happen in the future**

*Let me suggest a possible scenario.*

*The worst-case scenario (= the worst possible thing that could happen) would be for the factory to be closed down.*

*a nightmare scenario*

**2 a written outline of what happens in a film/movie or play**

### **Scold**

VERB

**scold somebody (for something/for doing something) | (+ speech) (formal) to speak angrily to somebody, especially a child, because they have done something wrong**

**Synonym:rebuke**

*He scolded them for arriving late.*

**scolding:noun**

*I got a scolding from my mother.*

### **Scrupulous**

ADJECTIVE

**1 careful about paying attention to every detail**

**Synonym:meticulous**

*You must be scrupulous about hygiene when you're preparing a baby's feed.*

*scrupulous attention to detail*

**2 scrupulous (in something/in doing something) careful to be honest and do what is right**

*He was scrupulous in all his business dealings.*

**Opposite:unscrupulous**

**scrupulously: adverb**

*Her house is scrupulously clean.*

*to be scrupulously honest*

**scrupulousness: noun**

### **Self-deception**

NOUN

the act of making yourself believe something that you know is not true

**Self-reliance**

NOUN

able to do or decide things by yourself, rather than depending on other people for help

**Semantic**

ADJECTIVE

connected with the meaning of words and sentences

*semantic analysis*

**semantically: adverb**

*semantically related words*

**Sentiment**

NOUN

**1 a feeling or an opinion, especially one based on emotions**

*the spread of nationalist sentiments*

*This is a sentiment I wholeheartedly agree with.*

*Public sentiment is against any change to the law.*

*My sentiments exactly! (= I agree)*

**2 feelings of pity, romantic love, sadness, etc. which may be too strong or not appropriate**

*There was no fatherly affection, no display of sentiment.*

*There is no room for sentiment in business.*

**Sentimental**

ADJECTIVE

**1 connected with your emotions, rather than reason**

*He has a strong sentimental attachment to the place.*

*She kept the letters for sentimental reasons.*

*The ring wasn't worth very much but it had great sentimental value.2 (often disapproving) producing emotions such as pity, romantic love or sadness, which may be too strong or not appropriate; feeling these emotions too much*  
*a slushy, sentimental love story*

*Her book is honest without being sentimental.*

*He's not the sort of man who gets sentimental about old friendships.*

**Opposite:unsentimental**

**sentimentally: adverb**

**Serf**

NOUN

(in the past) a person who was forced to live and work on land that belonged to a landowner whom they had to obey

**Serfdom**

NOUN

the system under which crops were grown by serfs; the state of being a serf

*the abolition of serfdom in Russia in 1861*

**Severe**

ADJECTIVE

**severer, severest**

very bad

**1 extremely bad or serious**

*a severe handicap*

*His injuries are severe.*

*severe weather conditions*

*a severe winter (= one during which the weather conditions are extremely bad)*

*The party suffered severe losses during the last election.*

*a severe shortage of qualified staff*

*severe learning difficulties*

*The victim suffered severe brain damage.*

*a severe case of woodworm*

*Strikes are causing severe disruption to all train services.*

**punishment**

**2 severe (on/with somebody) punishing somebody in an extreme way when they break a particular set of rules**

**Synonym:harsh**

*The courts are becoming more severe on young offenders.*

*a severe punishment/sentence*

**not kind**

**3 not kind or sympathetic and showing disapproval of somebody/something**

**Synonym:stern**

*a severe expression*

*She was a severe woman who seldom smiled.*

**very difficult**

**4 extremely difficult and requiring a lot of skill or ability**

**Synonym:stiff**

*The marathon is a severe test of stamina.*

**style/appearance/clothing**

**5 extremely plain and lacking any decoration**

*Modern furniture is a little too severe for my taste.*

*Her hair was short and severe.*

**severely: adverb**

*severely disabled*

*areas severely affected by unemployment*

*Anyone breaking the law will be severely punished.*

*a severely critical report*

**Severity: noun**  
*Her hair was tied severely in a bun.*

*A prison sentence should match the severity of the crime.*

*The chances of a full recovery will depend on the severity of her injuries.*

*the severity of the problem*

*He frowned with mock severity.*

*The elaborate facade contrasts strongly with the severity of the interior.*

**Shaman**

**NOUN**

a person in some religions and societies who is believed to be able to contact good and evil spirits and cure people of illnesses

**shamanic:adjective**

**Shamble**

**VERB**

**(+ adverb/preposition) to walk in an awkward or lazy way, dragging your feet along the ground**

*The old porter shambled along behind her.*

*He shambled off into the house.*

*a shambling gait*

**Shambles**

**NOUN**

**1 a situation in which there is a lot of confusion**

**Synonym:mess**

*The press conference was a complete shambles.*

*What a shambles!*

*The existing system of education is in shambles.*

*The government is in a shambles over Europe.*

*He's made an absolute shambles of his career.*

**2 a place which is dirty or untidy**

**Synonym:mess**

*The house was a shambles.*

**Sheer**

**VERB**

sheer away/off (from something)



to change direction suddenly, especially in order to avoid hitting something

*The car sheered away, just missing the bike. (figurative) Her mind sheered away from images she did not wish to dwell on.*

### Sheer

ADVERB

straight up or down

*The cliffs rise sheer from the beach.*

*The ground dropped sheer away at our feet.*

### Sheer

ADJECTIVE

**1 [only before noun] used to emphasize the size, degree or amount of something**

*The area is under threat from the sheer number of tourists using it.*

*We were impressed by the sheer size of the cathedral.*

**2 [only before noun] complete and not mixed with anything else**

**Synonym: utter**

*The concert was sheer delight.*

*I only agreed out of sheer desperation.*

**3 very steep**

*sheer cliffs/slopes*

*Outside there was a sheer drop down to the sea below.*

**4 (of cloth, etc.) thin, light and almost transparent**

*sheer nylon*

### Shudder

VERB

**1 to shake because you are cold or frightened, or because of a strong feeling**

*Just thinking about the accident makes me shudder.*

**shudder with something** *Alone in the car, she shuddered with fear.*

**shudder at something** *I shuddered at the thought of all the trouble I'd caused.*

**shudder to do something** *I shudder to think how much this is all going to cost (= I don't want to think about it)*

**2 (of a vehicle, machine, etc.) to shake very hard**

*because it is too unpleasant.*  
*The bus shuddered to a halt.*

*The floor was shuddering beneath us.*

### Shudder

NOUN

**1 a shaking movement you make because you are cold, frightened or disgusted**

*a shudder of fear*

*She gave an involuntary shudder.*

*A cold shudder ran through him.*

**2 a strong shaking movement**

*The elevator rose with a shudder.*

### Sibling

NOUN

a brother or sister

*squabbles between siblings*

*sibling rivalry (= competition between brothers and sisters)*

### Sigh

VERB

**1 to take and then let out a long deep breath that can be heard, to show that you are disappointed, sad, tired, etc**

*He sighed deeply at the thought.*

**sigh with something** *She sighed with relief that it was all over.*

**2 + speech to say something with a sigh**

*'Oh well, better luck next time,' she sighed.*

**3 (especially of the wind) to make a long sound like a sigh**

*the sighing of the wind through the trees*  
*branches sighing in the wind*

**S** **i** **g** **h**  
NOUN

an act or the sound of sighing  
*to give/heave/let out a sigh*  
*a deep sigh*  
*'I'll wait,' he said with a sigh.*  
*We all breathed a sigh of relief when it was over.*

**Slang**  
NOUN

very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language, especially used by a particular group of people, for example, children, criminals, soldiers, etc  
*teenage slang*  
*a slang word/expression/term*

**Slaughter**  
VERB

**1 slaughter something to kill an animal, usually for its meat**

**Synonym:**butcher

*The lambs are taken to the local abattoir to be slaughtered.*

**2 slaughter somebody/something to kill a large number of people or animals violently**

**Synonym:**massacre

*Men, women and children were slaughtered and villages destroyed.*

**3 slaughter somebody/something (informal) to defeat somebody/something by a large number of points in a sports game, competition, etc**

*We were slaughtered 10–1 by the home team.*

**Slaughter**  
NOUN

**1 the killing of animals for their meat**

*cows taken for slaughter*

**2 the cruel killing of large numbers of people at one time, especially in a war**

**Synonym:**massacre

*the wholesale slaughter of innocent people*

**Sleek**  
VERB

**sleek something (back/down) to make something, especially hair, smooth and shiny**

*His glossy hair was sleeked back over his ears.*

**Sleek**  
ADJECTIVE

*sleeker, sleekest*

**1 smooth and shiny**

**Synonym:**glossy

*sleek black hair*

*the sleek dark head of a seal*

**2 having an elegant smooth shape**

*a sleek yacht*

*the sleek lines of the new car*

**3 (of a person) looking rich, and dressed in elegant and expensive clothes**

*a sleek and ambitious politician*

*sleek businessmen*

**sleekly: adverb**

*sleekly groomed*

**sleekness:noun**

## Slight

ADJECTIVE

**slighter, slightest**

**1 very small in degree**

*a slight increase/change/delay/difference*

*I woke up with a slight headache.*

*The damage was slight.*

*She takes offence at the slightest thing (= is very easily offended).*

*There was not the slightest hint of trouble.*

*He is, without the slightest doubt, the greatest living novelist.*

*He never had the slightest intention of agreeing to it.*

*The picture was at a slight angle.*

**2 small and thin in size**

*a slight breeze was blowing.*

*a slight woman*

*He was of slight build.*

*She was smaller and slighter than I had imagined.*

**3 not deserving serious attention**

*This is a very slight novel.*

## Slight

NOUN

**slight (on somebody/something) an act or a remark that criticizes something or offends somebody**

**Synonym:insult**

*Nick took her comment as a slight on his abilities as a manager.*

## S l i g h t

VERB

**slight somebody to treat somebody rudely or without respect**

**Synonym:insult**

*She felt slighted because she hadn't been invited.*

**slighting: adjective**

*slighting remarks*

## Slightly

ADVERB

**1 a little**

*a slightly different version*

*We took a slightly more direct route.*

*I knew her slightly.*

*'Are you worried?' 'Only slightly.'*

**2 a slightly built person is small and thin**

## Slogan

NOUN

a word or phrase that is easy to remember, used for example by a political party or in advertising to attract people's attention or to suggest an idea quickly

*an advertising slogan*

*a campaign slogan*

*The crowd began chanting anti-government slogans.*

## Snap

VERB

**BREAK**

**1 to break something suddenly with a sharp noise; to be broken in this way**

**snap something** The wind had snapped the tree in two.

**snap something off (something)** He snapped a twig off a bush.

**snap (off)** Suddenly, the rope snapped.

The branch she was standing on must have snapped off.

**OPEN/CLOSE/MOVE INTO POSITION**

**2 to move, or to move something, into a particular position quickly, especially with a sudden sharp noise**  
+ adjective **The lid snapped shut.**

**His eyes snapped open.**

+ adverb/preposition **He snapped to attention and saluted.**

**snap something + adjective She snapped the bag shut.**

#### **SPEAK IMPATIENTLY**

**3 to speak or say something in an impatient, usually angry, voice+ speech 'Don't just stand there,' she snapped.**

**snap (at somebody) I was tempted to snap back angrily at him.**

**snap something He snapped a reply.**

#### **OF ANIMAL**

**4 snap (at somebody/something) to try to bite somebody/something**

**Synonym:nip**

*The dogs snarled and snapped at our heels.*

#### **TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH**

**5 to take a photograph**

**snap something A passing tourist snapped the incident.**

**snap (away) She seemed oblivious to the crowds of photographers snapping away.**

#### **LOOSE CONTROL**

**6 to suddenly be unable to control your feelings any longer because the situation has become too difficult**

*My patience finally snapped.*

*When he said that, something snapped inside her.*

*And that did it, I snapped.*

#### **FASTEN SOMETHING**

**7 snap (something) to fasten a piece of clothing with a snap**

#### **Idioms**

**snap your fingers**

to make a sharp noise by moving your second or third finger quickly against your thumb, to attract somebody's attention, or to mark the beat of music, for example

*He snapped his fingers for the waiter to bring more wine.*

**snap out of it/something|snap somebody out of it/something**

to make an effort to stop feeling unhappy or depressed; to help somebody to stop feeling unhappy

*You've been depressed for weeks. It's time you snapped out of it.*

**snap to it**

used, especially in orders, to tell somebody to start working harder or more quickly

more at bite/snap somebody's head off at head

#### **Phrasal verbs**

**snap something↔out**

to say something in a sharp unpleasant way

*The sergeant snapped out an order.*

**snap something↔up**

to buy or obtain something quickly because it is cheap or you want it very much

*All the best bargains were snapped up within hours.*

*She's been snapped up by Hollywood to star in two major movies.*

#### **Sneer**

**VERB**

to show that you have no respect for somebody by the expression on your face or by the way you speak

**Synonym:mock**

**sneer (at somebody/something) He sneered at people who liked pop music.**

**a sneering comment**

+ speech **'You? A writer?' she sneered.**

**sneeringly: adverb**

**S**

**n**

**e**

**e**

**r**

**NOUN**

an unpleasant look, smile or comment that shows you do not respect somebody/something

*'And who are you, then?' he asked with a sneer in his voice.*

*A faint sneer of satisfaction crossed her face.*

**Solace**  
NOUN

a feeling of emotional comfort when you are sad or disappointed; a person or thing that makes you feel better or happier when you are sad or disappointed

**Synonym: comfort**

*He sought solace in the whisky bottle.*

*She turned to Rob for solace.*

*His grandchildren were a solace in his old age.*

**solace: verb**

**solace somebody** She smiled, as though solaced by the memory.

**Sole**

ADJECTIVE

**1 only; single**

*the sole surviving member of the family*

*My sole reason for coming here was to see you.*

*This is the sole means of access to the building.*

**2 belonging to one person or group; not shared**

*She has sole responsibility for the project.*

*the sole owner*

**Sole**

VERB

**sole something to repair a shoe by replacing the sole**

**Sole**

NOUN

**1 the bottom surface of the foot**

*The hot sand burned the soles of their feet.*

**2 the bottom part of a shoe or sock, not including the heel**

*leather soles*

**3 -soled (in adjectives) having the type of soles mentioned**

*rubber-soled shoes*

**4 plural sole a flat sea fish that is used for food**

**Solely**

ADVERB

only; not involving somebody/something else

*She was motivated solely by self-interest.*

*Selection is based solely on merit.*

*He became solely responsible for the firm.*

**Solidarity**

NOUN

support by one person or group of people for another because they share feelings, opinions, aims, etc  
*community solidarity*

**solidarity with somebody to express/show solidarity with somebody**

**Demonstrations were held as a gesture of solidarity with the hunger strikers.**

**Solitude**

NOUN

the state of being alone, especially when you find this pleasant

**Synonym: privacy**

*She longed for peace and solitude.*

*I returned to the solitude of my room.*

*He shut himself away to pray in solitude.*

**Sordid**

ADJECTIVE

**1 immoral or dishonest**

*It was a shock to discover the truth about his sordid past.*

*I didn't want to hear the sordid details of their relationship.*

**2 very dirty and unpleasant**

**Synonym:**squalid

*people living in sordid conditions*

**Sovereign**

NOUN

**1 a king or queen**

**2 an old British gold coin worth one pound**

**Sovereign**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (of a country or state) free to govern itself; completely independent**

**Synonym**

**autonomous**

*a sovereign state*

*to be given sovereign rights*

**2 having complete power or the greatest power in the country**

*a sovereign ruler*

*Parliament must always remain sovereign.*

**Sovereignty**

NOUN

**1 sovereignty (over something) complete power to govern a country**

*The country claimed sovereignty over the island.*

*the sovereignty of Parliament*

*the idea of consumer sovereignty*

**2 the state of being a country with freedom to govern itself**

*The declaration proclaimed the full sovereignty of the republic.*

**Spade**

NOUN

**1 a garden tool with a broad metal blade and a long handle, used for digging**

*Turn the soil over with a spade.*

*The children took their buckets and spades to the beach.*

**2 spades one of the four sets of cards (called suits) in a pack/deck of cards. The cards have a black design shaped like pointed leaves with short stems**

*the five/queen/ace of spades*

**3 a card from the set of spades**

*You must play a spade if you have one.*

**4 (taboo, slang) an offensive word for a black person**

**Spatial**

ADJECTIVE

(also spacial)

relating to space and the position, size, shape, etc. of things in it

*changes taking place in the spatial distribution of the population*

*the development of a child's spatial awareness (= the ability to judge the positions and sizes of objects)*

**spatially:adverb**

**Sphere**

NOUN

**1 a solid figure that is completely round, with every point on its surface at an equal distance from the centre**

**2 any object that is completely round, for example a ball**

**3 an area of activity, influence or interest; a particular section of society**

**Synonym:**domain

*the political sphere*

*This area was formerly within the sphere of influence of the US.*

*He and I moved in totally different social spheres.*

**4 -sphere (in nouns) a region that surrounds a planet, especially the earth**

*ionosphere*

*atmosphere*

**Splash**

VERB

**1 + adverb/preposition (of liquid) to fall noisily onto a surface**

*Water splashed onto the floor.*

*Rain splashed against the windows.*

*Big tears ran down her cheeks and splashed onto the paper.*

**2 to make somebody/something wet by making water, mud, etc. fall on them/it**

**splash something on/onto/over somebody/something** *He splashed cold water on his face.*

**splash somebody/something with something** *He splashed his face with cold water.*

*My clothes were splashed with mud.*

**splash somebody/something** *Stop splashing me!*

*Try not to splash the leaves when you water the plant.*

**3 (+ adverb/preposition) to move through water making drops fly everywhere**

*The kids were splashing through the puddles.*

*People were having fun in the pool, swimming or just splashing around.*

**4 splash something with something to decorate something with areas of bright colour, not in a regular pattern**

*The walls were splashed with patches of blue and purple.*

**Splendid**

ADJECTIVE

**1 excellent; very good**

**Synonym:great**

*What a splendid idea!*

*We've all had a splendid time.*

*It will be a splendid opportunity to practise your Spanish.*

*The meal was simply splendid.*

**2 very impressive; very beautiful**

*splendid scenery*

*The hotel stands in splendid isolation, surrounded by moorland.*

**splendidly:adverb**

*You all played splendidly.*

*The guests were splendidly dressed.*

**Sponsor**

NOUN

**1 a person or company that pays for a radio or television programme, or for a concert or sporting event, usually in return for advertising**

*The race organizers are trying to attract sponsors.*

*The first episode of the new programme attracted the number of viewers that the sponsors had been guaranteed.*

**2 a person who agrees to give somebody money for a charity if that person succeeds in completing a particular activity**

*I'm collecting sponsors for next week's charity run.*

**3 a person or company that supports somebody by paying for their training or education**

*Unless he can find a sponsor he'll be forced to retire from athletics.*

**4 a person who introduces and supports a proposal for a new law, etc**

*the sponsor of the new immigration bill*

**5 a person who agrees to be officially responsible for another person**

**6 a person who presents a child for Christian baptism or confirmation**

**Sponsor**

VERB

**1 sponsor something (of a company, etc.) to pay the costs of a particular event, programme, etc. as a way of advertising**

*sports events sponsored by the tobacco industry*

**2 sponsor something to arrange for something official to take place**

*The US is sponsoring negotiations between the two sides.*

**3 sponsor somebody (for something/to do something) to agree to give somebody money for a charity if they complete a particular task**  
*Will you sponsor me for a charity walk I'm doing?  
a sponsored swim*

**4 sponsor somebody (through something) to support somebody by paying for their training or education**  
*She found a company to sponsor her through college.*

**5 sponsor something to introduce a proposal for a new law, etc**  
*The bill was sponsored by a Labour MP.*

**Spurn**  
VERB

**spurn somebody/something to reject or refuse somebody/something, especially in a proud way**

**Synonym:shun**

*Eve spurned Mark's invitation.*

*a spurned lover*

*The president spurned the tight security surrounding him and adopted a more intimate style of campaigning.*

**Stagnation**

VERB

**1 to stop developing or making progress**

*Profits have stagnated.*

*I feel I'm stagnating in this job.*

*Businesses must adapt to change or stagnate.*

**2 to be or become stagnant**

*The water in the pond was stagnating.*

**stagnation: noun**

*a period of economic stagnation*

**Stake**

NOUN

**1 a wooden or metal post that is pointed at one end and pushed into the ground in order to support something, mark a particular place, etc**

*Tall plants can be secured by tying them to stakes.*

**2 the stake a wooden post that somebody could be tied to in former times before being burnt to death (= killed by fire) as a punishment**

*Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake.*

**3 money that somebody invests in a company**

*a 20% stake in the business*

*a controlling/majority/minority stake*

**4 stake in something an important part or share in a business, plan, etc. that is important to you and that you want to be successful**

*She has a personal stake in the success of the play.*

*Many young people no longer feel they have a stake in society.*

**5 something that you risk losing, especially money, when you try to predict the result of a race, game, etc, or when you are involved in an activity that can succeed or fail**

*How much was the stake (= how much did you bet)?*

*They were playing cards for high stakes (= a lot of money). With only two points separating the top five players, the stakes are high as they enter the final round.*

**6 stakes the money that is paid to the winners in horse racing**

**7 stakes used in the names of some horse races**

**Stake**

VERB

**1 stake something (on something) to risk money or something important on the result of something**

**Synonym:bet**

*He staked £25 on the favourite (= for example, in horse racing).*

*She staked her political career on tax reform, and lost.*

*That's him over there—I'd stake my life on it (= I am completely confident).*

**2 stake something (up) to support something with a stake (1)to stake newly planted trees**



## Stance

NOUN

**1 stance (on something) the opinions that somebody has about something and expresses publicly**

**Synonym: position**

*What is the newspaper's stance on the war?*

*He is known for his anti-abortion stance.*

*Judges are increasingly taking a tougher stance on rape.*

**2 the way in which somebody stands, especially when playing a sport**

*Widen your stance (= move your feet wider apart) for greater stability when hitting the ball.*

## Statute

NOUN

**1 a law that is passed by a parliament, council, etc. and formally written down**

*Penalties are laid down in the statute.*

*Corporal punishment was banned by statute in 1987.*

*The wording of the statute is ambiguous.*

**2 a formal rule of an organization or institution**

*Under the statutes of the university they had no power to dismiss him.*

## Statutory

ADJECTIVE

fixed by law; that must be done by law

*The authority failed to carry out its statutory duties.*

*When you buy foods you have certain statutory rights.*

**statutorily: adverb**

*The broadcasting media are statutorily required to be impartial.*

## Stereotype

NOUN

a fixed idea or image that many people have of a particular type of person or thing, but which is often not true in reality

***cultural/gender/racial stereotypes***

*He doesn't conform to the usual stereotype of the businessman with a dark suit and briefcase.*

**stereotypical: adjective**

*the stereotypical image of feminine behaviour*

**stereotypically: adverb**

## S t e r e o t y p e

VERB

to form a fixed idea about a person or thing which may not really be true

**stereotype somebody** *Children from certain backgrounds tend to be stereotyped by their teachers.*

**stereotype somebody as something** *Why are professors stereotyped as absent-minded?*

**stereotyped: adjective**

*a play full of stereotyped characters*

**stereotyping: noun**

*sexual stereotyping*

## Stipend

ADJECTIVE

**1 (old-fashioned) excellent; very good**

**Synonym: great**

*What a splendid idea!*

*We've all had a splendid time.*

*It will be a splendid opportunity to practise your Spanish.*

*The meal was simply splendid.*

**2 very impressive; very beautiful**

*splendid scenery*

*The hotel stands in splendid isolation, surrounded by moorland.*

**splendidly: adverb**

*You all played splendidly.*

*The guests were splendidly dressed.*

**Strategy**

NOUN

**1 a plan that is intended to achieve a particular purpose***the government's economic strategy***strategy for doing something to develop a strategy for dealing with unemployment****strategy to do something** It's all part of an overall strategy to gain promotion.**2 the process of planning something or putting a plan into operation in a skilful way***marketing strategy***3 the skill of planning the movements of armies in a battle or war; an example of doing this***military strategy**defence strategies***Strengthen**

VERB

to become stronger; to make somebody/something stronger

*Her position in the party has strengthened in recent weeks.**Yesterday the pound strengthened against the dollar.**The wind had strengthened overnight.**The fall in unemployment is a sign of a strengthening economy.***strengthen somebody/something** Repairs are necessary to strengthen the bridge.**The exercises are designed to strengthen your stomach muscles.****The move is clearly intended to strengthen the President's position as head of state.****The new manager has strengthened the side by bringing in several younger players.****Their attitude only strengthened his resolve to fight on.****The new evidence will strengthen their case.****The experience of bereavement can strengthen family ties.**

Opposite: weaken

**Stringent**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (of a law, rule, regulation, etc.) very strict and that must be obeyed***stringent air quality regulations**Licences are only granted under the most stringent conditions.***2 (of financial conditions) difficult and very strictly controlled because there is not much money***the government's stringent economic policies***stringency: noun***a period of financial stringency***stringently: adverb***The rules are stringently enforced.***Stun**

VERB

**1 stun somebody/something to make a person or an animal unconscious for a short time, especially by hitting them on the head****Synonym: knock out***The fall stunned me for a moment.**The animals are stunned before slaughter.***2 stun somebody to surprise or shock somebody so much that they cannot think clearly or speak****Synonym: astound***Her words stunned me—I had no idea she felt that way.***3 stun somebody to impress somebody very much****Synonym: amaze***They were stunned by the view from the summit.***stunned adjective***She was too stunned to speak.**There was a stunned silence when I told them the news.***Sturdy**

ADJECTIVE

*sturdier, sturdiest*

**1 (of an object) strong and not easily damaged**

**Synonym: robust**

*a sturdy pair of boots*

*a sturdy table*

*The vehicle is sturdy enough to withstand rough terrain.*

**2 (of people and animals, or their bodies) physically strong and healthy**

*a man of sturdy build*

*sturdy legs*

*a sturdy breed of cattle*

**3 not easily influenced or changed by other people**

**Synonym: firm, determined**

*The village has always maintained a sturdy independence.*

*a sturdy defence of the government's position*

**sturdily: adverb**

*The boat was sturdily made.*

*a sturdily built young man*

*a sturdily independent community*

**sturdiness: noun**

**Subjugate**

VERB

**subjugate somebody/something to defeat somebody/something; to gain control over somebody/something**

*a subjugated race*

*Her personal ambitions had been subjugated to (= considered less important than) the needs of her family.*

**subjugation: noun**

*the subjugation of Ireland by England*

**Sublime**

ADJECTIVE

**1 of very high quality and causing great admiration**

*sublime beauty*

*a sublime combination of flavours*

*The location of the hotel is sublime.*

**2 (of a person's behaviour or attitudes) extreme, especially in a way that shows they are not aware of what they are doing or are**

**not concerned about what happens because of it**

*the sublime confidence of youth*

*He battled on, in the sublime conviction that he was in the right.*

**sublimely: adverb**

*sublimely beautiful*

*She was sublimely unaware of the trouble she had caused.*

*He dances sublimely.*

**Sublimity: noun**

**Sublime**

NOUN

**the sublime [singular] something that is sublime**

*He transforms the most ordinary subject into the sublime.*

**Subordinate**

ADJECTIVE

**1 subordinate (to somebody) having less power or authority than somebody else in a group or an organization**

*In many societies women are subordinate to men.*

**2 subordinate (to something) less important than something else**

**Synonym: secondary**

*All other issues are subordinate to this one.*

**Subordinate**

NOUN

a person who has a position with less authority and power than somebody else in an organization

**Synonym: inferior**

*the relationship between subordinates and superiors*  
*He always confers with his subordinates before making decisions.*

### **Subordinate**

VERB

**subordinate somebody/something (to somebody/something) to treat somebody/something as less important than somebody/something else**

*Safety considerations were subordinated to commercial interests.*

**subordination:noun**

### **Subservience**

ADJECTIVE

**1 subservient (to somebody/something) too willing to obey other people**

*The press was accused of being subservient to the government.*

*She did not wish to leave him, but she could not accept her subservient role.*

**2 subservient (to something) less important than something else**

*The needs of individuals were subservient to those of the group as a whole.*

*Every consideration was subservient to the overriding need to cut costs.*

**subservience:noun**

*his subservience to his brother*

### **Subsidy**

NOUN

money that is paid by a government or an organization to reduce the costs of services or of producing goods so that their prices can be kept low

*agricultural subsidies*

*to reduce the level of subsidy*

### **Subsidise-ize**

VERB

**subsidize somebody/something to give money to somebody or an organization to help pay for something; to give a subsidy**

**Synonym: fund**

*The housing projects are subsidized by the government.*

*She's not prepared to subsidize his gambling any longer.*

**subsidization, -isation: noun**

### **Substantial**

ADJECTIVE

**1 large in amount, value or importance**

**Synonym: considerable**

*substantial sums of money*

*a substantial change*

*Substantial numbers of people support the reforms.*

*He ate a substantial breakfast.*

*There are substantial differences between the two groups.*

*Their share of the software market is substantial.*

**2 large and solid; strongly built**

*a substantial house*

*a street of substantial Victorian villas*

### **Substitute**

NOUN

**1 a person or thing that you use or have instead of the one you normally use or have**

*a meat substitute*

*a substitute family*

**substitute for somebody/something Paul's father only saw him as a substitute for his dead brother.**

**The course teaches you the theory but there's no substitute for practical experience.**

**The local bus service was a poor substitute for their car.**

**2 (also informal sub) a player who replaces another player in a sports game**

*He was brought on as (a) substitute after half-time.*

## Substitute

VERB

to take the place of somebody/something else; to use somebody/something instead of somebody/something else

**substitute for somebody/something** Nothing can substitute for the advice your doctor is able to give you.

**substitute A for B** Margarine can be substituted for butter in this recipe.

**substitute B with/by A** Butter can be substituted with margarine in this recipe.

**substitute somebody/something** Beckham was substituted in the second half after a knee injury (= somebody else played instead of Beckham in the second half).

**Help:** When for, with or by are not used, as in the last example, it can be difficult to tell whether the person or thing mentioned is being used, or has been replaced by somebody or something else. The context will usually make this clear.

*Can you find someone to substitute for you at the meeting?*

**substitution:** noun

*the substitution of low-fat spreads for butter*

*Two substitutions were made during the game.*

## Subtle

ADJECTIVE

**1 not very noticeable or obvious**

*subtle colours/flavours/smells, etc.*

*There are subtle differences between the two versions.*

*The fragrance is a subtle blend of jasmine and sandalwood.*

*She's been dropping subtle hints about what she'd like as a present.*

**2 (of a person or their behaviour) behaving in a clever way, and using indirect methods, in order to achieve something**

*I decided to try a more subtle approach.*

**3 organized in a clever way**

*a subtle plan*

*a subtle use of lighting in the play*

**4 good at noticing and understanding things**

*The job required a subtle mind.*

**subtly:** adverb

*Her version of events is subtly different from what actually happened.*

*Not very subtly, he raised the subject of money.*

*Government policy has already shifted subtly.*

## Suburb

NOUN

an area where people live that is outside the centre of a city

*a suburb of London*

*a London suburb*

*They live in the suburbs.*

## Suffer

VERB

**1 to be badly affected by a disease, pain, sadness, a lack of something, etc**

*I hate to see animals suffering.*

**suffer from something** He suffers from asthma.

**road accident victims suffering from shock**

**Many companies are suffering from a shortage of skilled staff.**

**suffer for something** He made a rash decision and now he is suffering for it.

**2 suffer something to experience something unpleasant, such as injury, defeat or loss**

*He suffered a massive heart attack.*

*The party suffered a humiliating defeat in the general election.*

*The company suffered huge losses in the last financial year.*

**3 to become worse**

*His school work is suffering because of family problems.*

## Suffocate

VERB

**1 to die because there is no air to breathe; to kill somebody by not letting them breathe air**

*Many dogs have suffocated in hot cars.*

**suffocate somebody/something** The couple were suffocated by fumes from a faulty gas fire.

**He put the pillow over her face and suffocated her.**

**She felt suffocated by all the rules and regulations.**

**2 be suffocating if it is suffocating, it is very hot and there is little fresh air**

*Can I open a window? It's suffocating in here!*

**suffocation: noun**

*to die of suffocation*

**Superb**

ADJECTIVE

excellent; of very good quality

*a superb player*

*The car's in superb condition.*

*His performance was absolutely superb.*

*You look superb.*

**superbly: adverb**

*a superbly illustrated book*

*She plays superbly.*

**Superior**

ADJECTIVE

**1 superior (to somebody/something) better in quality than somebody/something else; greater than somebody/something else**

*vastly superior*

*superior intelligence*

*This model is technically superior to its competitors.*

*Liverpool were clearly the superior team.*

*The enemy won because of their superior numbers (= there were more of them).*

**Opposite: inferior**

**2 superior (to somebody) higher in rank, importance or position**

*my superior officer*

*superior status*

*a superior court of law*

**Opposite: inferior**

**3 showing by your behaviour that you think you are better than others**

**Synonym: arrogant**

*a superior manner*

*He always looks so superior.*

**4 (used especially in advertisements) of very good quality; better than other similar things**

*superior apartments*

**Superior**

NOUN

**1 a person of higher rank, status or position**

*your social superiors*

*He's my immediate superior (= the person directly above me). I'm going to complain to your superiors.*

**Opposite: inferior**

**2 used in titles for the head of a religious community**

*Mother Superior*

**Supervise**

VERB

to be in charge of somebody/something and make sure that everything is done correctly, safely, etc

**supervise (somebody/something) to supervise building work**

**supervise somebody doing something** She supervised the children playing near the pool.

**supervision: noun**

*Very young children should not be left to play without supervision.*

*The drug should only be used under medical supervision.*

*I have weekly supervisions (= meetings with a tutor or supervisor).*

## Suppress

VERB

**1 suppress something (of a government, ruler, etc.) to put an end, often by force, to a group or an activity that is believed to threaten authority**

**Synonym:quash**

*The rebellion was brutally suppressed.*

**2 suppress something to prevent something from being published or made known**

*The police were accused of suppressing vital evidence.*

**3 suppress something to prevent yourself from having or expressing a feeling or an emotion**

*to suppress a smile*

*She was unable to suppress her anger.*

*He had suppressed the painful memories of his childhood.*

**4 suppress something to prevent something from growing, developing or continuing**

*drugs that suppress the appetite*

## Surrender

VERB

**1 to admit that you have been defeated and want to stop fighting; to allow yourself to be caught, taken prisoner, etc.**

**Synonym:give in**

**surrender (to somebody)** The rebel soldiers were forced to surrender.

**surrender yourself (to somebody)** The hijackers eventually surrendered themselves to the police.

**2 to give up something/somebody when you are forced to**

**Synonym:relinquish**

**surrender something/somebody to somebody** He agreed to surrender all claims to the property.

**They surrendered their guns to the police.**

**surrender something/somebody** The defendant was released to await trial but had to surrender her passport.

## Surrender

NOUN

**1 surrender (to somebody/something) an act of admitting that you have been defeated and want to stop fighting**

*They demanded (an) unconditional surrender.*

*He raised his hands in surrender.*

**2 the fact of allowing yourself to be controlled by something**

*They accused the government of a surrender to business interests.*

**3 surrender of something (to somebody) an act of giving something to somebody else even though you do not want to,**

**especially after a battle, etc** *They insisted on the immediate surrender of all weapons.*

## Suspect

VERB

**1 to have an idea that something is probably true or likely to happen, especially something bad, but without having definite proof**  
**suspect (something)** If you suspect a gas leak, do not strike a match or even turn on an electric light.

**Suspecting nothing, he walked right into the trap.**

**I didn't want the neighbours suspecting anything.**

**As I had suspected all along, he was not a real policeman.**

**suspect (that)... I began to suspect (that) they were trying to get rid of me.**

**I suspect (that) she might be lying.**

**it is suspected that... It was suspected that the drugs had been brought into the country by boat.**

**suspect somebody/something to be/have something** She suspected him to be an impostor.

**2 to have an idea that somebody is guilty of something, without having definite proof**

**suspect somebody/something of something** He resigned after being suspected of theft.

**suspect somebody/something of doing something** I suspected her of damaging the equipment.

**The drug is suspected of causing over 200 deaths.**

**suspect somebody/something** Whom do the police suspect?

**3 suspect something to be suspicious about something; to not trust something**

*I suspected her motives in offering to help.*

**Suspected;adjective**

*a suspected broken arm*

*suspected tax evasion*

*suspected terrorists*

## Suspected

NOUN

**1 that may be false and that cannot be relied on**

**Synonym:questionable**

*Some of the evidence they produced was highly suspect. 2 that you suspect to be dangerous or illegal*

**Synonym:suspicious**

*a suspect package (= one that may contain drugs, a bomb, etc.)*

*a controlled explosion of a suspect device (= a bomb)*

## Suspicion

NOUN

**1 a feeling that somebody has done something wrong, illegal or dishonest, even though you have no proof**

*They drove away slowly to avoid arousing suspicion.*

*He was arrested on suspicion of murder.*

**suspicion (that...) I have a sneaking suspicion that she's not telling the truth.**

**My suspicions were confirmed when police raided the property.**

**She was reluctant to voice her suspicions.**

**His resignation seemed only to fuel suspicions.**

**2 suspicion (that...) a feeling or belief that something is true, even though you have no proof**

*I have a horrible suspicion that we've come to the wrong station.*

**3 the feeling that you cannot trust somebody/something**

*Their offer was greeted with some suspicion.*

*Water from shallow wells should be regarded with suspicion, as it may be contaminated.*

**4 suspicion of something a small amount of something**

**Synonym:hint**

*His mouth quivered in the suspicion of a smile.*

*Wasn't there even a suspicion of truth in what he said?*

## Sustain

VERB

**1 sustain somebody/something to provide enough of what somebody/something needs in order to live or exist**

*Which planets can sustain life?*

*I only had a little chocolate to sustain me on my walk.*

*The love and support of his family sustained him during his time in prison.*

*When she lost her job they could no longer sustain their expensive lifestyle.*

**2 sustain something to make something continue for some time without becoming less**

**Synonym:maintain**

*a period of sustained economic growth*

*a sustained attack*

*She managed to sustain everyone's interest until the end of her speech.*

*Kangaroos can sustain high speeds over long distances.*

**3 sustain something to experience something bad**

*the sustaining pedal of a piano (= that allows a note to continue sounding for a long time)*

**Synonym:suffer**

*to sustain damage/an injury/a defeat*

*The company sustained losses of millions of dollars.*

**4 sustain something to provide evidence to support an opinion, a theory, etc.**

**Synonym:uphold**

*The evidence is not detailed enough to sustain his argument.*

**5 sustain something to support a weight without breaking or falling**

**Synonym:bear**

*The ice will not sustain your weight.*

**6 sustain something (law) to decide that a claim, etc. is valid**

**Synonym:uphold**

*The court sustained his claim that the contract was illegal.*

*Objection sustained! (= said by a judge when a lawyer makes an objection in court)*

## Sustainable



**ADJECTIVE**

**1 involving the use of natural products and energy in a way that does not harm the environment**

*sustainable forest management*

*an environmentally sustainable society*

**2 that can continue or be continued for a long time**

*sustainable economic growth*

*Unfortunately, this level of output is not sustainable.*

**Opposite: unsustainable**

**sustainability** :noun

**sustainably**:adverb

**Sustenance**

**NOUN**

**1 the food and drink that people, animals and plants need to live and stay healthy**

*There's not much sustenance in a bowl of soup.*

*Arguing would only give further sustenance to his allegations.*

**2 sustenance (of something) the process of making something continue to exist**

*Elections are essential for the sustenance of parliamentary democracy.*

**Swirl**

**VERB**

to move around quickly in a circle; to make something do this

**(+ adverb/preposition) The water swirled down the drain.**

**A long skirt swirled around her ankles.**

**swirling mists**

**swirl something (+ adverb/preposition) He took a mouthful of water and swirled it around his mouth.**

**Swirl**

**NOUN**

**1 the movement of something that twists and turns in different directions and at different speeds**

*The dancers left the stage in a swirl of skirts.*

**2 a pattern or an object that twists in circles**

*The material is yellow with blue swirls on it.*

*The cakes were topped with swirls of cream.*

**Symposium**

**NOUN**

**symposium (on something) a meeting at which experts have discussions about a particular subject; a small conference**

**Synchronize**

**VERB**

to happen at the same time or to move at the same speed as something; to make something do this

**synchronize (with something) The sound track did not synchronize with the action.**

**synchronize something (with something) Let's synchronize our watches (= make them show exactly the same time).**

**synchronization, -isation: (also informal sync) noun**

**Tackle**

**VERB**

**1 tackle something to make a determined effort to deal with a difficult problem or situation**

*The government is determined to tackle inflation.*

*I think I'll tackle the repairs next weekend.*

*Firefighters tackled a blaze in a garage last night.*

**2 tackle somebody (about something) to speak to somebody about a problem or difficult situation**

**Synonym: confront**

*I tackled him about the money he owed me.*

**3 tackle (somebody) (in football (soccer), hockey, etc.) to try and take the ball from an opponent**

*He was tackled just outside the penalty area.*

**4 tackle (somebody) (in rugby or American football) to make an opponent fall to the ground in order to stop them running**

**5 tackle somebody to deal with somebody who is violent or threatening you**

*He tackled a masked intruder at his home.*

## Tag

### NOUN

**1 (often in compounds) a small piece of paper, cloth, plastic, etc. attached to something to identify it or give information about it**

*He put name tags on all his shirts.*

*a gift tag (= tied to a present)*

*The police use electronic tags to monitor the whereabouts of young offenders on probation.*

**2 a name or phrase that is used to describe a person or thing in some way**

*They are finally ready to drop the tag 'the new Beatles*

*'.The 'lucky' tag stuck for years.*

**3 a word or phrase that is added to a sentence for emphasis, for example I do in Yes, I do**

**4 (computing) a set of letters or symbols that are put before and after a piece of text or data in order to identify it or show that it is to be treated in a particular way**

**5 a short quotation or saying in a foreign language**

*the Latin tag 'Si vis pacem, para bellum.' (= if you want peace, prepare for war)*

**6 (British English also tig) a children's game in which one child chases the others and tries to touch one of them**

**7 a symbol or name used by a graffiti writer and painted in a public place**

## Tag

### VERB

**1 tag something/somebody to fasten a tag onto something/somebody**

*Each animal was tagged with a number for identification.*

*The containers were tagged with colour-coded labels.*

**2 tag somebody/something as something to give somebody/something a name that describes what they are or do**

**Synonym:label**

*The country no longer wanted to be tagged as a Third World nation.*

**3 tag something (computing) to add a set of letters or symbols to a piece of text or data in order to identify it or show that it is to be treated in a particular way**

## Tariff

### NOUN

**1 a tax that is paid on goods coming into or going out of a country**

*A general tariff was imposed on foreign imports.*

**2 a list of fixed prices that are charged by a hotel or restaurant for rooms, meals, etc, or by a company for a particular service**

**3 a level of punishment for somebody who has been found guilty of a crime**

## Tempt

### VERB

**1 to attract somebody or make somebody want to do or have something, even if they know it is wrong**

**tempt somebody (into something/into doing something)** *I was tempted by the dessert menu.*

**Don't tempt thieves by leaving valuables clearly visible.**

**tempt somebody to do something** *I was tempted to take the day off.*

**2 to persuade or try to persuade somebody to do something that you want them to do, for example by offering them something**

**tempt somebody (into something/into doing something)** *How can we tempt young people into engineering?*

**tempt somebody to do something** *Nothing would tempt me to live here.*

## Tenet

### NOUN

one of the principles or beliefs that a theory or larger set of beliefs is based on

*one of the basic/central tenets of Christianity*

## Tentative

### ADJECTIVE

**1 (of an arrangement, agreement, etc.) not definite or certain because you may want to change it later**

*We made a tentative arrangement to meet on Friday.*

*tentative conclusions*

**2 not behaving or done with confidence**

**Synonym:hesitant**

*a tentative greeting*

*Her English is correct but tentative.*

*I'm taking the first tentative steps towards fitness.*

**tentatively: adverb**

*They have tentatively agreed to our proposal.*

*She smiled tentatively.*

**Tentativeness : noun**

**Terminate**

VERB

**1 to end; to make something end**

*Your contract of employment terminates in December.*

**terminate something The agreement was terminated immediately.**

**to terminate a pregnancy (= to perform or have an abortion )**

**2 (of a bus or train) to end a journey/trip**

*This train terminates at London Victoria.*

**Terminus**

NOUN

the last station at the end of a railway/railroad line or the last stop on a bus route

**Terribly**

ADJECTIVE

**1 very**

*I'm terribly sorry—did I hurt you?*

*It's terribly important for parents to be consistent.*

*I'm not terribly interested in politics.*

**2 very much; very badly**

*I miss him terribly.*

*They suffered terribly when their son was killed.*

*The experiment went terribly wrong.*

*Would you mind terribly if I didn't come today?*

**Terrify**

VERB

**terrify somebody to make somebody feel extremely frightened**

*Flying terrifies her.*

**terrifying:adjective**

*It was a terrifying experience.*

**Terrifyingly: adverb**

*The mountain roads are terrifyingly steep.*

**Throb**

VERB

**1 throb (with something) (of a part of the body) to feel a series of regular painful movements**

*His head throbbed painfully.*

*My feet were throbbing after the long walk home.*

**2 to beat or sound with a strong, regular rhythm**

**Synonym:pulsate**

*The ship's engines throbbed quietly.*

*a throbbing drumbeat*

*The blood was throbbing in my veins.*

*The club was throbbing to the beat of the music.*

**throb with something His voice was throbbing with emotion.**

**Throb**

NOUN

a strong regular beat; a feeling of pain that you experience as a series of strong beats

*the throb of the machines*

*My headache faded to a dull throbbing.*

**Tilt**

VERB

**1** [intransitive, transitive] to move, or make something move, into a position with one side or end higher than the other

**Synonym:**tip

(+ adverb/preposition) Suddenly the boat tilted to one side

The seat tilts forward, when you press this lever.

**tilt something** (+ adverb/preposition) His hat was tilted slightly at an angle.

She tilted her head back and looked up at me with a smile.

**2 tilt** (something/somebody) (in favour of/away from something/somebody) to make something/somebody change slightly so that one particular opinion, person, etc. is preferred or more likely to succeed than another; to change in this way

*The conditions may tilt the balance in favour of the Kenyan runners.*

*Popular opinion has tilted in favour of the socialists.*

T

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NOUN

**1** a position in which one end or side of something is higher than the other; an act of tilting something to one side

*The table is at a slight tilt.*

*He answered with a tilt of his head.*

**2** an attempt to win something or defeat somebody

*She aims to have a tilt at the world championship next year.*

**Tiresome**

ADJECTIVE

making you feel annoyed

**Synonym:**annoying

*Buying a house can be a very tiresome business.*

*The children were being very tiresome.*

*I developed a tiresome cough that kept me awake all night.*

**tiresomely:**adverb

**Toil**

VERB

**1** to work very hard and/or for a long time, usually doing hard physical work

**Synonym:**slave away

*Hundreds of men toiled for years at building the pyramid.*

*She toils tirelessly for various charities.*

**2** + adverb/preposition to move slowly and with difficulty

**Synonym:**slog

*They toiled up the hill in the blazing sun.*

**toiler:**noun

**Toil**

NOUN

hard unpleasant work that makes you very tired

*a life of hardship and toil*

**Tonic**

NOUN

**1** (also tonic water) a clear fizzy drink (= with bubbles in it) with a slightly bitter taste, that is often mixed with a strong

alcoholic drink, especially gin or vodka

**2** a medicine that makes you feel stronger and healthier, taken especially when you feel tired

*herbal tonics*

**3** a liquid that you put on your hair or skin in order to make it healthier

*skin tonic*

**4** anything that makes people feel healthier or happier

*The weekend break was just the tonic I needed.*

**5** (music) the first note of a scale of eight notes

**6** (also tonic syllable) (phonetics) the syllable in a tone unit on which a change in pitch takes place

**Toss**

VERB

throw

**1 to throw something lightly or carelessly**

**toss something + adverb/preposition** I tossed the book aside and got up.

**toss something to somebody** He tossed the ball to Anna.

**toss somebody something** He tossed Anna the ball.

**your head**

**2 toss something to move your head suddenly upwards, especially to show that you are annoyed or impatient**

*She just tossed her head and walked off.*

**side to side/up and down**

**3 to move or make somebody/something move from side to side or up and down**

*Branches were tossing in the wind.*

*I couldn't sleep but kept tossing and turning in bed all night.*

**toss somebody/something** Our boat was being tossed by the huge waves.

**in cooking**

**4 toss something to shake or turn food in order to cover it with oil, butter, etc**

*Drain the pasta and toss it in melted butter.*

*Pour the vinaigrette over the salad and toss well.*

**5 toss a pancake to throw a pancake upwards so that it turns over in the air and you can fry the other side**

**coin**

**6 to throw a coin in the air in order to decide something, especially by guessing which side is facing upwards when it lands**

**Synonym: flip**

**toss something** Let's toss a coin.

**toss (somebody) for something** There's only one ticket left—I'll toss you for it.

**toss up (for something)** We tossed up to see who went first.

**toss up between A and B)** He had to toss up between (= decide between) paying the rent or buying food.

**Phrasal verbs**

**toss off| toss somebody/yourself off**

to give yourself sexual pleasure by rubbing your sex organs; to give somebody sexual pleasure by rubbing their sex organs

**Synonym: masturbate**

**toss something ↔ off**

(British English) to produce something quickly and without much thought or effort

*I tossed off my article in half an hour.*

**Toss**

NOUN

**of coin**

**1 an act of throwing a coin in the air in order to decide something**

*The final result was decided on/by the toss of a coin.*

*to win/lose the toss (= to guess correctly/wrongly which side of a coin will face upwards when it lands on the ground after it has been thrown in the air)*

**of head**

**2 toss of your head an act of moving your head suddenly upwards, especially to show that you are annoyed or impatient**

*She dismissed the question with a toss of her head.*

**throw**

**3 an act of throwing something, especially in a competition or game**

*a toss of 10 metres*

**Tragic**

ADJECTIVE

**1 making you feel very sad, usually because somebody has died or suffered a lot**

*He was killed in a tragic accident at the age of 24. Cuts in the health service could have tragic consequences for patients.*

*It would be tragic if her talent remained unrecognized.*

**2 connected with tragedy (= the style of literature)**

*a tragic actor/herotragically:adverb*

*Tragically, his wife was killed in a car accident.*

*He died tragically young.*

**Trait**

NOUN

a particular quality in your personality

*personality traits*

*Awareness of class is a typically British trait.*

**Traitor**

NOUN

**traitor (to somebody/something) a person who gives away secrets about their friends, their country, etc**

*He was seen as a traitor to the socialist cause.*

*She denied that she had turned traitor (= become a traitor ).*

**Trance**

NOUN

**1 a state in which somebody seems to be asleep but is aware of what is said to them, for example if they are hypnotized**

*to go/fall into a trance*

**2 a state in which you are thinking so much about something that you do not notice what is happening around you**

**Synonym:daze**

**3 (also trance music) a type of electronic dance music with hypnotic rhythms and sounds**

**Transcend**

NOUN

**transcend something to be or go beyond the usual limits of something**

**Synonym:exceed**

**Transient**

ADJECTIVE

**1 continuing for only a short time**

**Synonym:fleeting, temporary**

*the transient nature of speech*

**2 staying or working in a place for only a short time, before moving on**

*a city with a large transient population (= of students, temporary workers, etc.)*

**transience:noun**

*the transience of human life*

**Treachery**

NOUN

behaviour that involves not being loyal to somebody who trusts you; an example of this

*an act of treachery*

*He was punished for his treacheries.*

**Tremendous**

ADJECTIVE

**1 very great**

**Synonym:huge**

*a tremendous explosion*

*A tremendous amount of work has gone into the project.*

**2 extremely good**

**Synonym:remarkable**

*It was a tremendous experience.*

**tremendously:adverb**

*tremendously exciting*

*People vary tremendously in their individual dietary requirements.*

**Trivial**

## ADJECTIVE

not important or serious; not worth considering

*a trivial detail*

*I know it sounds trivial, but I'm worried about it.*

*I'll try to fix it — but it's not trivial (= it may be difficult to fix).*

**trivially:adverb**

## Turmoil

### NOUN

a state of great anxiety and confusion

**Synonym:confusion**

*emotional/mental/political turmoil*

*His statement threw the court into turmoil.*

*Her mind was in (a) turmoil.*

*She felt much calmer after the turmoil of recent weeks.*

## Tyranny

### NOUN

**1 unfair or cruel use of power or authority**

*a victim of oppression and tyranny*

*The children had no protection against the tyranny of their father.*

*the tyrannies of Nazi rule*

*These days it seems we must all submit to the tyranny of the motor car.*

**2 the rule of a tyrant; a country under this rule**

**Synonym:dictatorship**

*Any political system refusing to allow dissent becomes a tyranny.*

## Unbiased

### ADJECTIVE

fair and not influenced by your own or somebody else's opinions, desires, etc.

**Synonym:impartial**

*unbiased advice an unbiased judge*

**Opposite:biased**

## Uncertainty

### NOUN

**1 the state of being uncertain**

*There is considerable uncertainty about the company's future.*

*He had an air of uncertainty about him.*

**2 something that you cannot be sure about; a situation that causes you to be or feel uncertain**

*life's uncertainties*

*the uncertainties of war*

## Underlie

### VERB

**underlie something to be the basis or cause of something**

*These ideas underlie much of his work.*

*It is a principle that underlies all the party's policies.*

## Underlying

### ADJECTIVE

**1 important in a situation but not always easily noticed or stated clearly**

*The underlying assumption is that the amount of money available is limited.*

*Unemployment may be an underlying cause of the rising crime rate.*

**2 existing under the surface of something else**

*the underlying rock formation*

## Undermine

### VERB

**1 undermine something to make something, especially somebody's confidence or authority, gradually weaker or less effective**

*Our confidence in the team has been seriously undermined by their recent defeats.*

*This crisis has undermined his position.*

*Recent changes have undermined teachers' morale.*

**2 undermine something to make something weaker at the base, for example by digging under it**

### **Undue**

ADJECTIVE

more than you think is reasonable or necessary

**Synonym:excessive**

*They are taking undue advantage of the situation.*

*The work should be carried out without undue delay.*

*We did not want to put any undue pressure on them.*

*Repayments can be made over a long period, without putting undue strain on your finances.*

### **Unprecedented**

ADJECTIVE

that has never happened, been done or been known before

*The situation is unprecedented in modern times.*

*There were unprecedented scenes of violence in the city's main square.*

**unprecedentedly:adverb**

*a period of unprecedentedly high food prices*

### **Urinate**

VERB

to get rid of urine from the body

**urination: noun**

### **Utter**

VERB

**utter something (formal) to make a sound with your voice; to say something**

*to utter a cry*

*She did not utter a word during lunch (= said nothing).*

### **Utter**

ADJECTIVE

used to emphasize how complete something is

*That's complete and utter nonsense!*

*To my utter amazement she agreed.*

*He felt an utter fool.*

**utterly:adverb**

*We're so utterly different from each other.*

*She utterly failed to convince them.*

### **Vacillate**

VERB

to keep changing your opinion or thoughts about something, especially in a way that annoys other people

**Synonym:waver**

*The country's leaders are still vacillating between confrontation and compromise.*

**vacillation:noun**

### **Vague**

ADJECTIVE

**1 not clear in a person's mind**

*to have a vague impression/memory/recollection of something*

*They had only a vague idea where the place was.*

**2 vague (about something) not having or giving enough information or details about something**

*She's a little vague about her plans for next year.*

*The politicians made vague promises about tax cuts.*

*He was accused of being deliberately vague.*

*We had only a vague description of the attacker.*



*He outlined the policy in vague terms.*

**3 (of a person's behaviour) suggesting a lack of clear thought or attention**

**Synonym:absent-minded**

*His vague manner concealed a brilliant mind.*

**4 not having a clear shape**

**Synonym:indistinct**

*In the darkness they could see the vague outline of a church.*

**vagueness:noun**

**Vanish**

VERB

**1 to disappear suddenly and/or in a way that you cannot explain**

*He turned around and vanished into the house.*

*The magician vanished in a puff of smoke.*

*My glasses seem to have vanished.*

*He vanished without trace.*

**2 to stop existing**

*the vanishing woodlands of Europe*

*All hopes of a peaceful settlement had now vanished.*

*All thoughts of leaving vanished from his mind.*

**Veil**

NOUN

**1 a covering of very thin transparent material worn, especially by women, to protect or hide the face, or as part of a hat, etc**

*a bridal veil*

**2 a piece of cloth worn by nuns over the head and shoulders**

**3 something that stops you from learning the truth about a situation**

*Their work is carried out behind a veil of secrecy.*

*It would be better to draw a veil over what happened next (= not talk about it).*

**4 a thin layer that stops you from seeing something**

*The mountain tops were hidden beneath a veil of mist.*

V

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VERB

**1 veil something/yourself to cover your face with a veil**

**2 veil something to cover something with something that hides it partly or completely**

**Synonym:shroud**

*A fine drizzle began to veil the hills.*

**Venerate**

VERB

**venerate somebody/something (as something) to have and show a lot of respect for somebody/something, especially somebody/something that is considered to be holy or very important**

**Synonym:revere**

*The monk was subsequently venerated as a saint.*

*a leader venerated by generations of revolutionaries*

**veneration: noun**

*The relics were objects of veneration.*

**Vent**

NOUN

**1 an opening that allows air, gas or liquid to pass out of or into a room, building, container, etc**

*air/heating vents*

**2 the opening in the body of a bird, fish, reptile or other small animal, through which waste matter is passed out**

**3 a long thin opening at the bottom of the back or side of a coat or jacket**

**Idioms**

**give (full) vent to something**

to express a feeling, especially anger, strongly

*Children give vent to their anger in various ways.*

*She gave full vent to her feelings in a violent outburst.*

V e n t

VERB

**vent something (on somebody) (formal) to express feelings, especially anger, strongly**

*He vented his anger on the referee.*

**Verge**

NOUN

**on/to the verge of something/of doing something**

very near to the moment when somebody does something or something happens

*He was on the verge of tears.*

*They are on the verge of signing a new contract.*

*These measures brought the republic to the verge of economic collapse.*

**Verge**

VERB

**verge on something**

to be very close to an extreme state or condition

Synonym: border on something

*Some of his suggestions verged on the outrageous.*

*a dislike verging on contempt*

*The fabric is very dark blue, verging on black.*

**Verily**

ADJECTIVE

really; truly

**Vest**

NOUN

**1 (undershirt) a piece of underwear worn under a shirt, etc. next to the skin**

*a cotton vest*

**2 a special piece of clothing that covers the upper part of the body**

*a bullet-proof vest*

*a running vest*

**3 (waistcoat) a short piece of clothing with buttons down the front but no sleeves, usually worn over a shirt and under a jacket, often forming part of a man's suit**

V e s t

VERB

**vest in somebody/something**

(law) (of power, property, etc.) to belong to somebody/something legally

*In the case of bankruptcy, the property shall vest in the trustee.*

**vest something in somebody|vest somebody with something**

**1 to give somebody the legal right or power to do something**

*Overall authority is vested in the Supreme Council.*

*The Supreme Council is vested with overall authority.*

**2 to make somebody the legal owner of land or property**

**Vigil**

NOUN

a period of time when people stay awake, especially at night, in order to watch a sick person, say prayers, protest, etc

*His parents kept a round-the-clock vigil at his bedside.*

*Students held a candlelit vigil against the war.*

**Vigilance**

ADJECTIVE

very careful to notice any signs of danger or trouble

Synonym: alert, watchful

*A pilot must remain vigilant at all times.*

*The thief was spotted by vigilant neighbours.*

**vigilance: noun**

**Synonym: watchfulness**

*She stressed the need for constant vigilance.*

**Vigilantly: adverb**

**Vigor**

NOUN

(Sometimes: vigour) energy, force or enthusiasm

**Synonym: vitality**

*He worked with renewed vigour and determination.*

**Vigorous**

ADJECTIVE

**1 very active, determined or full of energy**

**Synonym: energetic**

*a vigorous campaign against tax fraud*

*a vigorous opponent of the government*

*Take vigorous exercise for several hours a week.*

**2 strong and healthy**

*a vigorous young man*

*This plant is a vigorous grower.*

**vigorously: adverb**

*She shook her head vigorously.*

*The accusation was vigorously denied.*

**Violate**

VERB

**1 violate something to go against or refuse to obey a law, an agreement, etc.**

**Synonym: flout**

*to violate international law*

**2 violate something to disturb or not respect somebody's peace, privacy, etc**

*She accused the press photographers of violating her privacy.*

**3 violate something to damage or destroy a holy or special place**

**Synonym: desecrate**

*to violate a grave*

**4 violate somebody to force somebody to have sex**

**Synonym: rape**

**violation: noun**

*They were in open violation of the treaty.*

*gross violations of human rights*

**violation: noun**

**Virtue**

NOUN

**1 behaviour or attitudes that show high moral standards**

*He led a life of virtue.*

*She was certainly no paragon of virtue!*

**2 a particular good quality or habit**

*Patience is not one of her virtues, I'm afraid.*

*As a politician, he always emphasized the virtues of compromise and conciliation.*

**3 an attractive or useful quality**

**Synonym: advantage**

*The plan has the virtue of simplicity.*

*He was extolling the virtues of the Internet.*

*They could see no virtue in discussing it further.*

**Idioms**

**by/in virtue of something**

by means of or because of something

*She got the job by virtue of her greater experience.*

**make a virtue of necessity**

to manage to gain an advantage from something that you have to do and cannot avoid

*She decided to make a virtue of necessity and combined a business trip to Paris with a visit to her cousins there.*

**virtue is its own reward**

(saying) the reward for acting in a moral or correct way is the knowledge that you have done so, and you should not expect more than this, for example praise from other people or payment

**Vista**

NOUN

**1 a beautiful view, for example, of the countryside, a city, etc.**

**Synonym:panorama**

**2 a range of things that might happen in the future**

**Synonym:prospect**

*This new job could open up whole new vistas for her.*

**Vitiate**

VERB

**vitiate something to spoil or reduce the effect of something**

*The 'yes' vote was vitiated by the low turnout in the election.*

**Vocational**

ADJECTIVE

connected with the skills, knowledge, etc. that you need to have in order to do a particular job

**vocational education/qualifications/training**

**Voluminous**

ADJECTIVE

**1 (of clothing) very large; having a lot of cloth**

**Synonym:ample**

*a voluminous skirt*

**2 (of a piece of writing, a book, etc.) very long and detailed**

*There is voluminous literature on modernism and post-modernism.*

**3 (of a container, piece of furniture, etc.) very large**

*I sank down into a voluminous armchair.*

*From one of his voluminous pockets he produced a bottle of whisky.*

**voluminously: adverb**

**Wage**

NOUN

a regular amount of money that you earn, usually every week, for work or services

*wages of £200 a week*

*a weekly wage of £200 wage cuts a wage increase of 3%*

*a wage rise of 3% wage demands/claims/settlements*

*Wages are paid on Fridays.*

*There are extra benefits for people on low wages.*

*Tax and insurance are deducted from your wages.*

*The staff have agreed to a voluntary wage freeze (= a situation in which wages are not increased for a time).*

W

a

g

e

VERB

to begin and continue a war, a battle, etc

**wage something The rebels have waged a guerrilla war since 2007.**

**wage something against/on somebody/something He alleged that a press campaign was being waged against him.**

**Wander**

VERB

**1 to walk slowly around or to a place, often without any particular sense of purpose or direction**

**+ adverb/preposition She wandered aimlessly around the streets.**

**We wandered back towards the car.**

**wander something The child was found wandering the streets alone.**

**2 to move away from the place where you ought to be or the people you are with**

**Synonymstray**

**wander away/off** The child wandered off and got lost.  
**wander from/off something** They had wandered from the path into the woods.  
**3 (of a person's mind or thoughts) to stop being directed on something and to move without much control to other ideas, subjects, etc.**

**Synonym: drift**

*It's easy to be distracted and let your attention wander.*

*Try not to let your mind wander.*

**wander away, back, to, etc. something** Her thoughts wandered back to her youth.

**Don't wander off the subject—keep to the point.**

**4 (of a person's eyes) to move slowly from looking at one thing to looking at another thing or in other directions**

*She let her gaze wander.+ adverb/preposition His eyes wandered towards the photographs on the wall.*

**5 (+ adverb/preposition) (of a road or river) to curve instead of following a straight course**

*The road wanders along through the hills.*

**Wander**

NOUN

a short walk in or around a place, usually with no special purpose

*I went to the park and had a wander around.*

**Warfare**

NOUN

**1 the activity of fighting a war, especially using particular weapons or methods**

*air/naval/guerrilla, etc. warfare*

*countries engaged in warfare*

**2 the activity of competing in an aggressive way with another group, company, etc**

*class/gang warfare*

*The debate soon degenerated into open warfare.*

**Widespread**

ADJECTIVE

existing or happening over a large area or among many people

*widespread damage*

*The plan received widespread support throughout the country.*

**Wince**

VERB

**wince (at something) to suddenly make an expression with your face that shows that you are feeling pain or embarrassment**

*He winced as a sharp pain shot through his left leg.*

*I still wince when I think about that stupid thing I said.*

**Wince:noun**

*a wince of pain*

**Wit**

NOUN

**1 the ability to say or write things that are both clever and amusing**

*to have a quick/sharp/dry/ready wit*

*a woman of wit and intelligence*

*a book full of the wit and wisdom of his 30 years in politics*

**2 a person who has the ability to say or write things that are both clever and amusing**

*a well-known wit and raconteur*

**3 wits your ability to think quickly and clearly and to make good decisions**

*He needed all his wits to find his way out.*

*The game was a long battle of wits.*

*Kate paused and gathered her wits.a chance to pit your wits against (= compete with, using your intelligence) our*

**4 -witted (in adjectives) having the type of intelligence mentioned**

*a quick-witted group of students*

**5 wit to do something the intelligence or good sense to know what is the right thing to do**

*At least you had the wit to ask for help.*

*It should not be beyond the wit of man to resolve this dispute.*

**Witty**  
NOUN

able to say or write clever, amusing things

*a witty speaker*

*a witty remark*

**Withdraw**

VERB

**1 to move back or away from a place or situation; to make somebody/something do this**

**Synonym:**pull out

*Government troops were forced to withdraw.*

**withdraw (somebody/something) (from something) Both powers withdrew their forces from the region.**

**She withdrew her hand from his.**

**2 to stop giving or offering something to somebody**

**withdraw something** Workers have threatened to withdraw their labour (= go on strike).

**He withdrew his support for our campaign.**

**Unless you return the form within seven days, the offer will be withdrawn.**

**withdraw something from something** The drug was withdrawn from sale after a number of people suffered serious side effects.

**3 to stop taking part in an activity or being a member of an organization; to stop somebody/something from doing these things**

**withdraw (from something)** There have been calls for Britain to withdraw from the EU.

**He was forced to withdraw from the competition because of injury.**

**withdraw somebody/something (from something)** The horse had been withdrawn from the race.

**4 withdraw something (from something) to take money out of a bank account**

*I'd like to withdraw £250 please.*

**5 withdraw something to say that you no longer believe that something you previously said is true**

**Synonym:**retract

*The newspaper withdrew the allegations the next day.*

**6 withdraw (from something) (into something/yourself) to become quieter and spend less time with other people**

*She's beginning to withdraw into herself.*

**Wonder**

VERB

**1 to think about something and try to decide what is true, what will happen, what you should do, etc**

**wonder who, where, etc...** I wonder who she is.

**I wonder why he left his job.**

**I was just beginning to wonder where you were.**

**wonder (about something)** 'Why do you want to know?' 'No particular reason. I was just wondering.'

'We were wondering about next April for the wedding.'

**+ speech** 'What should I do now?' she wondered.

**2 wonder if, whether...** used as a polite way of asking a question or asking somebody to do something

*I wonder if you can help me.*

*I was wondering whether you'd like to come to a party.*

**3 to be very surprised by something**

**wonder (at something)** She wondered at her own stupidity.

**He's gone and left us to do all the work, I shouldn't wonder (= I wouldn't be surprised if he had).**

**wonder (that)...** I wonder (that) he didn't hurt himself jumping over that wall.

*I don't wonder you're tired. You've had a busy day.*

**Wonder**

NOUN

**1 a feeling of surprise and admiration that you have when you see or experience something beautiful, unusual or unexpected**

**Synonym:**awe

*He retained a childlike sense of wonder.*

*She gazed down in wonder at the city spread below her.*

**2 something that fills you with surprise and admiration**

**Synonym:**marvel

*The Grand Canyon is one of the natural wonders of the world.*

*the wonders of modern technology*

*That's the wonder of poetry—you're always discovering something new.*

*the Seven Wonders of the World (= the seven most impressive structures of the ancient world)*

**3 a person who is very clever at doing something; a person or thing that seems very good or effective**

*Dita, you're a wonder! I would never have thought of doing that.*

*Have you seen the boy wonder play yet?*

*a new wonder drug*

### **Worsen**

VERB

to become or make something worse than it was before

**Synonym:**deteriorate

*The political situation is steadily worsening.*

*Her health has worsened considerably since we last saw her.*

**worsen something** Staff shortages were worsened by the flu epidemic.

**worsening:**noun

*a worsening of the international debt crisis*

**worsening:**adjective

*worsening weather conditions*

### **Wriggle**

VERB

**1 to twist and turn your body or part of it with quick short movements**

**Synonym:**wiggle

**wriggle (about/around)** The baby was wriggling around on my lap.

**wriggle something** She wriggled her toes.

**2 to move somewhere by twisting and turning your body or part of it**

**Synonym:**squirm

**(+ adverb/preposition)** The fish wriggled out of my fingers.

**+ adjective** She managed to wriggle free.

**wriggle your way/yourself + adverb/preposition**

*They wriggled their way through the tunnel.*

*He wriggled himself into a comfortable position.*

**Phrasal verbs**

**wriggle out of something/out of doing something**

to avoid doing something that you should do, especially by thinking of clever excuses

*He tried desperately to wriggle out of giving a clear answer.*

### **Wriggle**

NOUN

an act of wriggling

### **Yearn**

VERB

to want something very much, especially when it is very difficult to get

**Synonym:**long

**yearn (for something/somebody)** The people yearned for peace.

**There was a yearning look in his eyes.**

**yearn to do something** She yearned to escape from her office job.

### **Yearning**

NOUN

a strong and emotional desire

**Synonym:**longing

**yearning (for somebody/something)** a yearning for a quiet life

**yearning (to do something)** She had no great yearning to go back.

**yearningly:**adverb

### **Yell**

VERB

to shout loudly, for example because you are angry, excited, frightened or in pain

**yell (at somebody/something)** He yelled at the other driver.  
**yell at somebody to do something** She yelled at the child to get down from the wall.  
**yell with something** They yelled with excitement.  
**yell out (in something)** She yelled out in pain.+ speech 'Be careful!' he yelled.  
**yell something (at somebody/something)** The crowd yelled encouragement at the players.  
**yell out something** He yelled out her name.

**Yell**  
NOUN

**1 a loud cry of pain, excitement, etc**  
*to let out/give a yell*  
*a yell of delight*

**Yore**  
NOUN

**of yore**  
long ago

*in days of yore*

**Zap**  
VERB

**1 to destroy, kill or hit somebody/something suddenly and with force**

**zap somebody/something** The monster got zapped by a flying saucer (= in a computer game).It's vital to zap stress fast.

**zap somebody/something with something** He jumped like a man who'd been zapped with 1000 volts.

**2 + adverb/preposition to do something very fast**

*I'm zapping through (= reading very fast) some modern novels at the moment.*

**3 zap (something) to use the remote control to change television channels quickly**

**4 zap (somebody/something) + adverb/preposition to move, or make somebody/something move, very fast in the direction mentioned**

**Synonym:zip**

*The racing cars zapped past us.*

**Zealous**

ADJECTIVE

showing great energy and enthusiasm for something, especially because you feel strongly about it  
*a zealous reformer*

**zealously:adverb**